THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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730,340	2330,956
880,990	2431,300
931,110	25
10	3631,296
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GEORG	JE B. TZSCHUCK.
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Happy New Year to you all.

Ring out the old, ring in the new.

For Emperor William's benefit it may be stated that West Indian coaling stations are not on the market.

f December, A. l B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

At least it is better to have the old year die with a holocaust than to have the new year begin with one.

Perhaps Japan and Russia do not realize that this is the season for swearing off on fighting and other bad habits.

The press cables tell of a "temporary lull" in Japan's activity. But Russia isn't taking anything for granted just

Paris green is a trifle less healthy strictest accountability. than the ingredlents of cheap candy, but not much-so why this fuss about that Ithaca episode. '

At the fair ten years ago Germany learned of Uncle Sam in the science of government is that we shall pay damrapid transit. Now the pupil is said to be coming to teach the tutor.

Pending adjustment of the differences between Russia and Japan, both the

The French interests in the Panama canal are still willing to take our

money for conveyance of the property to Uncle Sam. How good of those clever Eremchmen. Let the people of Chicago insist that

those good promises now being made by architects, electricians and theater managers are redeemed when the excitement has subsided. Nebraska is not the only state which

is being diverted by teachers' convenare pulling off simultaneous programs of by it went to the benefit of that departwire pulling.

and misery than the year that has gone human achievement.

records. But the 1903 population of the United States is also greater than ever before, so that the percentage of newcomers is by no means alarming.

papers that proclaimed Platt the leader of all New York leaders at a time when neighboring republics. they expected him to do differently.

representation of the southern states in public of Panama can well afford to be the electoral college the democrats liberal with Colombia and as we have would not even dream of the possibility heretofore urged the United States govof a successful campaign for the presi- ernment should use its good offices to insolid south wielding twice the number erous course. The proffer of the sum vestment for some of our twentieth of votes that belong to . them that named by the representative of Panama century multi-millionaire syndicates. democracy manages to stay on the map is not liberal. The new republic should

dealing cruption has there been carried with it and Panama ought to be willing for advertising purposes only. The genoff in one fell swoop such a mass of to give liberally for the preservation of eral public has long suspected that the frightful Chicago theater calamity, the burden would necessarily fall upon on fictitious capital. When they fall victims to na- might be required to spend many times ture's upheavals or unsignaled acci- what it is to pay Panama for the canal dents, they have no chance to avoid the blow. Man's utter belplesaness to control his own destinies can never be more government should pay something to forcefully impressed upon him-

OUR ANSUAL STATISTICAL REVIEW. The Bee in this issue presents its aumal statistical review of the public and private business for the year just closed. matter with a reasonable degree of lib-It is made up of an array of cold yet erallty, imposing figures, which tell their own story and will well repay careful study by all interested in the growth and welfare of Omaha. To summarize the showing here would be largely repetition, as the tables are so made up as to deal with aggregates rather than details.

On the whole, Omaha's business balance is both gratifying and creditable. By all the yardsticks used to measure industrial activity and municipal advancement the city has made substantial strides forward and will surely stand favorably in comparison with other cities of similar size, population, resources and location. The year has had some obstacles to encounter in the path of progress, and the exhibit of new buildings and construction work is not all that could be wished or was expected. The extension of our public street improvements has also been slower than it ought to have been, owing to impending complications. The bank clearings and the postoffice receipts, however, reflect healthy conditions and expanding business volume. Another great railroad has been added during the year to complete Omaha's unsurpassed transportation facilities, and a decidedly better feeling prevails in every stratum of the business community. This spirit of determined loyalty is in evidence in the support accorded projects of public or semi-public character -Ak-Sar-Ben, the projected grain market, the Auditorium and various other

With this record for 1903, the outlook for 1904 is certainly promising and inspiring to all engaged in promoting Omaha's material foundation at home and its prestige abroad. Omaha has a right to look into the new year with courage and confidence.

enterprises.

THE CHICAGO CALAMITY.

There is nothing to be said regarding the terrible calamity at Chicago that has not come to the mind of everyone who has read the graphic account of the awful catastrophe. Language fails to adequately describe its appalling character and the imagination is incapable of conceiving the terrors of that fearful struggle of hundreds of people to escape from the seething flames that swept over them. The story of this calamity is one of the most pathetic and heartrending ever recorded and there is a universal feeling of profound sympathy for those who are bereaved.

The fire does not appear to have been due to any carelessness. It seems that it must be classed with those misfortunes that baffle human foresight. But a thorough investigation will be made by the authorities and if it be found that the calamity was due to carelessness and the lack of proper precautions' those responsible should be held to the

AS TO PAYING COLOMBIA.

It is understood that one of the re quests contained in the communication of the special envoy of Colombia to our ages to that country for the loss of territory, the amount to be fixed through arbitration. The representative of the Republic of Panama has stated that his country is willing to pay her proportionsublime porte and the apostle senator ate share of the foreign debt of Colomfrom Utah are securing a much needed bia, which would amount to about \$1, 000,000. It is intimated that from the outset it has been the view in Washington that Colombia should be paid some sort of compensation or indemnity and that this should come out of the mone which the United States will may

Panama for the canal concessions. It is to be inferred from the statement of Panama's representative at Washington that the question of indemnity has been carefully considered, with the result noted, but it is very doubtful if this will prove-satisfactory to Colombia. While it must be admitted that that country has no valid claim upon Pantions. Almost all the state associations ama, since none of the debt contracted entertainment, instruction and political ment, still in the luterest of peace it is manifestly expedient that a more liberal disposition be shown toward the country Here's hoping that the year 1904 will whose loss of territory is really a very bring mankind less of disaster, crime serious matter for it. With Panama taken away from it Colombia can hope before. May it measure up in human for no great advancement in the future happiness as high as it surely will in The isthmus was its great asset, out of which it could have achieved, had the opportunity been taken advantage of. The 1903 figures of immigration into wealth, prosperity and power. In their the United States break all previous blind greed the politicians of Colombia rejected the opportunity and they are now bitterly regretting their folly. The brilliant promise that was held out to their country has gone and the outlook gives no assurance of advancement. On In an interview Senator Platt em- the contrary, it is more than probable phatically states that all the repub. that revolutions will arise and that other lican leaders of New York state are provinces or departments will secede, for Roosevelt's renomination-which is until what is now the state of Colombia very embarrassing for those democratic will in the not remote future be broken into fragments and become the prey of

But in considering what may be fair and equitable we are not called upon to If it were not for the overweighted think of future possibilities. The Re-It is only by reason of the duce the new republic to adopt a genbe willing to pay at least three times that amount. Our government has Prosecutor Folk's name in connection Not since Mount Pelee's terrible death- shown a generous disposition in dealing with the Jacksonian club biowout was finocent humanity as by the latest peace knowing that in the event of war organization does most of its business When men die in battle, they court the United States and that this country

It has been suggested that our own

There will be no necessity for this if Panama, in whose interest and welfare everything is being done, will act in the

THE LEGISLATIVE MILLS. The legislatures of many states will begin their sessions in the coming week. Most of them will organize next Monday and it will not be many days thereafter before the people will begin to hear of the doings of their supposed servants. An eastern contemporary remarks that in late years it seems as if the people had very little to say regarding matters of legislation, this being kindly taken out of their hands by a coterie of politicians who presume to run the states for their individual ends. It is too true that such is the case and has been for many years, but there is reason to at least hope that the future will bring a change and that the voice of the people will receive more attention from those who are chosen to represent them in the halls of legislation.

The state legislatures are really nearer to the people than is congress, as they have to do with the domestic interests and welfare of the individual commonwealths, and it goes without saying that the men elected to them should be thoroughly representative and responsible, possessing both high ability and character. In some of the states these requirements are recognized, but it is unfortunately true that in a number of them men are elected to the legislature that are utterly un fitted for law makers and are not incapable of being corrupted. This has been so repeatedly shown and especially during the past year as to warrant a doubt whether it is possible to secure a state legislature entirely free from bossism and corrupting influences and which will have in view only the interests and welfare of the people rather than those of the politicians and the corporations.

The state legislatures soon to convene will have important matters to consider relating to the interests of the people that have chosen them and if they shall address themselves wholly to these questions, ignoring political issues with which properly they have nothing to do, good results are to be expected from them, but the probability is that most of them will pursue the usual course and give more attention to politics than to business. A serious fault of state legislatures generally is in enacting laws many of which are impracticable and cannot be enforced. Although this has been repeatedly pointed out, it goes on from year to year and doubtless the legislatures of the present year will be no exception. Indeed it is hardly possible that there will ever be any substantial reform in this respect, since nearly every member of a legislature feels that he has the only remedy for ills in the body politic. It is to be hoped that the state legislatures of 1904 will carefully devote their attention to those things which are of primary concern to the people and eschew those matters which are of a peculiarly political character, the jail. The city police were unable to If they will do this there may be legislation of a practical and useful kind.

The action of the Beatrice school board in refusing to accept proffered resignations of teachers or to release them from their contracts when difficulty in securing successors threatens to impair the efficiency of the schools will be watched with interest in and out of school circles. As a rule, school boards are only too anxious to accept resignations in the teaching force, in order to accommodate the numerous applicants clamoring for recognition, and the teacher's contract itself-is generally a jughandled affair, binding the school district to continue the employment subject to a judgment for unearned salary in the event of unwarranted dismissal, while the termination of the contract by the teacher seldom inflicts any penalty What can the Beatrice school board do their places in the school room? The mandatory injunction will hardly lie and a suit for damages would be doubtful of results. When it comes down to hardpan, moral suasion and the teacher's sense of duty to the children whose education she has assumed are the only effective remedies at the command of the school boards, and it is extremely questionable whether even these can combat successfully with alluring prospects of higher salaries or matrimonial en-

No danger that any litigant in a prithe United States into court as a witness in any case. That has been decided long ago, otherwise public business would seldom secure proper attention owing to the constant interruption of court subpoenas. The lawyer who pretends he will enforce the attendance of the president on the witness stand is either playing to the galleries or too densely ignorant to know what he is

international department store that would keep warships, military stores, ammunition and equipment for quick delivery to nations seized with the war fever might prove a paying in-

It turns out that the use of Circuit

Wind and Water. Springfield Republican.

plants are included in the consolidation of the American Sheet Steel and American Tin Plate companies, whose Colombia as a "consolation indemnity." gives one a faint idea of the tremendous country.

size of the United States Steel corporation. for the consolidating companies are only two of quite a number of similar constituent combinations in the corporation.

Walt and Watch.

Chicago News. Omaha school teachers are marrying off faster than the board can discover new ones. What will happen out there during Leup year?

Looking at the Unattainable. Washington Star.

The portrait of George Washington on th postage stamp wears the expression of a man who is still hoping that all employes of the Postoffice department will finally attain his ideals of veracity.

Will the Turks Get Busy?

Chicago Record-Herald. If England, France and Germany gemixed up in the Asiatic war the sultan will hardly neglect the opportunity to dispose of the rest of the Christians that he happens to have available for massacreing pur

Where is the Villain?

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The western packers indignantly deny any knowledge of a combine to boost the price of meat. Some audacious miscreant must have started this vile rumor with the malicious intent of casting odium upon our most benevolent trust.

Orders Promptly Filled.

Chicago Inter Ocean. No sympathies or prejudices which we may entertain in relation to the combatants will prevent us, of course, from supplying the nations involved in the Oriental difficulty with such little commodities in our line as they may require.

Concerning Good Resolutions.

Chicago Chronicle. Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, preach ing last Sunday in New York, ridiculed and condemned in advance the new resolutions with which some people will begin the new year, on the ground that they would be broken by January 15. But it is clearly better for a man to leave off his bad habits for two weeks than not to leave them off at all. Besides, there have been people whose new year's vows were kept some good resolutions on Friday.

Playing on One String.

Boston Transcript. That Canada is henceforth going to sup ply France with more wheat than the United States, as an eminent British authority has lately asserted, is not perhaps and unmixed evil for us. There are indeed grounds for believing that the quickest way to impoverish a country is to ship its fat soil away in erdlers car loads in exchange for the products of the skill of other lands; and that is about what wheat cultivation and exportation amounts to. Nations like France, which export mainly the creations of their wits, have their wits left; but a land that exports the chemicals | he found the jug unbroken and contents of its soil is presently left with only an impoverished earth.

WHAT A REAL LEADER CAN DO.

Calming a Threatening Mob Around the Council Bluffs Jail.

Chicago Inter Ocean. respectable women of Council Bluffs, Ia., were brutally assaulted on Christmas night. Two negroes were arrested, were identified on Monday by the victims and were put in fail to await the action of the grand jury next week. There was no delay of justice and no prospect of the escape of the accused from legal pun-

Nevertheless, owing to the intense indignation that the crime naturally aroused late Monday night a mob gathered about disperse the mob, which had begun to break into the jail. The troops had been summoned and there was every prospect of either an unlawful execution or a bloody

Then Walter I. Smith, for eight year circuit judge and now congressman of the district, mounted the court house steps faced the mob and showed what a real

leader of men can do. First he induced the husband of one the victims to go home and let the law take its course. Then he pleaded with the mob to follow the example set by a man most vitally interested in the proper punishment of the crime and urged nothing be done to bring disgrace upon

the city and state. Congressman Smith is known as a worker than a talker in public life, judged by results, few men have talked more effectively than he did in that wintry midnight hour. It was one man against an angry thousand and the one

Council Bluffs, the state of Iowa and all right-thinking men throughout the nation owe a debt of gratitude to the Walter I. Smith. Against great odds and if the teachers whose resignations have, in the face of the natural impulse to sumaccepted refuse to maintain mary vengeance which such a crime inessfully those orderly processes of the law which are the corner stone of civil-

THANKS ARE DUE THE FARMERS.

Year's Contribution ' to the Wealth of the Country.

Chicago Tribune. The farm value of the crops of corr wheat, rye, oats, hay, barley, potatoes, flax seed, buckwheat, and tobacco raised this year is estimated at \$2,500,000,000 by the bureau of statistics of the Department of Agriculture. To that great sum may properly be added about \$700,000,000 for the value of the cotton crop. This is an amazvate law suit will haul the president of ing aggregation of "quick assets," which can be turned into money whenever it is needed. It is a gigantic pile of commodities which are needed abroad as well as at home. If America is still in debt to Europe the means with which to pay the debt are at hand, thanks to a generous sol and to unwearled cultivators.

The mills and factories are not so busy as they were a year ago. The regret reflection that the farmers have been active to such excellent purpose. The United States is fortunate in that it has more than one string to its bow. It has managed to secure diversity of industries. It is not dependent on agriculture alone, as it was a century ago. It does not have to rely on manufactures alone for prosperity, as Grea-Britain does. It is more nearly self-sufficing than any other country under the sun When the resources of its tropical possessions are fully developed it will be in still better position to dictate commercial

terms to nations which must have some of its surplus products. One would like to know about how much year. The manufacturer can figure out his are depositing in local banks more money

STRANGE DOINGS IN 1903.

The bite of a mosquito sent a Chicago man to the cemetery in a regulation hearse. A woman in Worcester, Mass., reached the age of 465 without the aid of whisky or tobacco.

Believing that two heads were better than one, Ed Cabbage of Carthage, Mo., took unto himself a wife.

A Syracuse (N. Y.) woman who brooded over the age of Ann became as crary as the author of the chaundrum.

The Jacksonian club of Omaha tendered kilded halos to those of its members who tied the can on the canine in 1890. A resident of Princeton, N. J., insisted

that he would rather fish with regulation balt than cut ple in the White House, An Omaha woman who persisted in talking at her husband during the short hours of morning was enjoined by the courts,

A scientist of local repute discovered

that the industrial atmosphere of South

A Detroit man who looted a bank for \$1,460,000 served sixteen months of a fifteenyear sentence, equal to a net earning of \$87,000 a month.

Omaha was a genuine flesh producer.

An eastern court decided that to eat in modern quick lunch restaurant with one's hat on did not imperil the dignity of Amertean institutions.

A Chicago school teacher, male, charged with the inability to smile, confounded his accusers by taking the jury around the corner and smiling with them.

An eastern woman asked for a divorce on the ground that the persistent refusal of her husband to "talk back" was "the refinement of cruelty." A St. Louis man obtained a divorce from

one to congratulate him on his good fortune was the woman from whom he was divorced. A bill was introduced in the Nebraska legislature making it unlawful for members

his wife in a St. Louis court and the first

to flirt with female clerks of committees without first showing their annual passes on the railroads. A Chicago professor announced that the bathtub was a menace to the health and

happiness of mankind, and warned his hearers aginst taking water, even in small A Kansas man was tried on the charge of using knockout drops in whisky. The jury

returned a verdict of acquittal on ground that knockout drops impugned the efficacy of the fluid. A millionaire in Indiana left \$500,000 to

be used in prosecuting to a finish the inventor of the planola on the constitutional charge of "cruel and unusual punishment" inflicted on mankind. A St. Louis woman, fearing her stocking would not be proof against a court judg-

ment, placed the money in a mysterious inside pocket and successfully defied the minions of the law to do their worst. During the high wind in Omaha Christmas day a jug rusher dropped his jug and dashed after his hat, which the wind whisked a block or two. Returning,

undiminished. An Omaha woman, to fulfil a wager, on Christmas day disposed of a dish of los cream in the usual way out on the family lawn, the wind blowing forty miles an hour and the mercury hugging the zero mark.

A small bunch of Missourians, whose consciences were stirred in some mysterious way, paid into the city treasury of St. Louis sums aggregating \$2,000, a fraction of the millions for which the city was

A distinguished vendor of various kinds of oil drew a quarterly dividend of \$4,480,000, boosted the price of the article and delivcred an elequent address on "He that doeth the poor giveth to the Lord," illustrated by

Mayor Collins of Boston refused a permit for a convention of roosters and hens in Fancull hall. The cradle of Liberty is now a market house and odors of beef bologna, sauer kraut and cheese is the limit for Boston's nostrils.

A Washington society woman, while ex amining Christmas cards, asked the dealer why he didn't get some with up-to-date mottoes-"something catchy or a little risque, if you like," she explained. "These are all stale-hackneyed, in fact." The card she discarded bore this motto: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men.

JOHN L. WEBSTER'S CANDIDACY.

Its Relation to the Nomination of President Roosevelt. Lincoln Star (rep.).

The friends of Hon. John L. Webster of Omaha are taking special steps on his behalf as an aspirant for the vice presidency, and to order in the most favorable way the preliminaries for presenting him to the attention of the republican party at the coming national convention.

The republican state convention last ummer by formal resolution endorsed Mr. Webster. No other aspirant for the same office has up to this time been certified in this manner. In newspaper discussion many public men have been considered or mentioned, but Mr. Webster was the first to have his name proposed in a formal way and he is today practically the only one so proposed.

While the second place on the ticket is of great importance, it must be clear to all that so long as the first place is the subject of rumor and discussion, the vice presidency will be pushed back to a subsidiary place in the public interest. The constant exploitation of newspaper theories of possible opposition and plots against Roosevelt has tended to enforce this result. But the friends of Mr. Webster can assume this as a fact-that in Nebraska, as in other western states, whether the conventions be held early or late, the ominant point of republican interest will be to make absolutely sure of the attitude of the delegates as to President Roose veit's nomination. It will certainly commend itself to Mr. Webster's friends as wise to adjust themselves to this fact beyond a peradventure.

It is a familiar fact that for three puarters of a century and more the selection of a vice presidential candidate has been almost entirely a matter of practical expediency, to be disposed of in ences largely after the national convention has met, and almost invariably after the first place on the ticket has been in fact or virtually decided. There is no reason to anticipate that 1904 will be an exception to this rule.

An aspirant will of course desire to be presented to the party's attention in the nost favorable light by his state or section, but it is expedient that insistence and manner of presentation should be measured with a view to all the conditions one of the chief of which is, as already indicated, that the vice presidency wi'l be decided in quiet and serious conferences It cost to raise the farm products of this after sweeping the whole political horizon from the standpoint of Chicago on or about June 21. If any future event is certain it where he stands. The average farmer does is that the central thought of Nehraska not imitate the manufacturer in this re- will be to stand with the forces that are spect, or if he does his balance sheet is not for President Roosevelt, without variablemade public. If one can judge from the ness or shadow of turning, and foreclosing prosperity prevailing in the agricultural any possibility of any slip in its delegation. districts of the west, where the farmers |It was on that basis that the last Ne braska convention certified Mr. Webster than the banks can find employment for for association with the president on the at home, the sgricultural producers have ticket in 1964. It may be assumed that it been richly repaid for their labor and ex- is on the same basis that his friends will penditures in 1903. They have done ex- now shape their plans with reference to joint capitalization will be \$100,000,000. This tremely well for themselves and for the the coming convention which will choose delegates to the national convention.



A Happy New Year

Not only for you today, but for your loved ones who will live after you.

It can be accomplished by taking out a policy in the

Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States.

Do It Today

H. D. NEELY, Manager, Merchants National Bank Building.

"STRONGEST IN THE WORLD"



LAST YEAR'S LAUGHS.

Mrs. Gaddie—Mrs. De Tropp wasn't invited to Mrs. Swellman's tea at all, but she came. When she entered the room, the silence was positively painful.

Mr. Gaddie—Naturally. Silence is always painful among women.—Philadelphia Press.

Teacher—You notice that boy who stands at the foot of the class? Well, last summer he was the brightest boy in the school. Committeeman—He is now. I notice the foot of the class is the nearest the stove!—

Doggerel—The editor was good enough to glance over my poem, so I hastened to assure him it was entirely original.

Friend—And what did he say?
Doggerel—He said he knew that at once.
He didn't suppose I had ever seen it in print anywhere.—Chicago News. "It would be funny if, as the poet suggests, we could 'see ourselves as others see us."
"Yes, but it wouldn't seem at all funny if we knew as much about ourselves as some of our neighbors know about us."—Detroit Free Press.

He gives her lots of pin money, I under

"Yes," but he's careful to see that she doesn't spend it foolishly. He makes her account for every cent of it."
"O, then you might call it 'safety-pin money," eh?"—Chicago Tribune. Father—So you took dinner at Willie Stout's house today. I hope when it came

wore.

We had not met in all this world before,
And yet he came with gifts to me, he
said.

Then handed me a parcel overspread
With many wrappings and with cords galore.

So busily I labored to untie
The threads which held my gift away
from me.
That he was gone, unnoticed by my eye.
This way or that I wholly failed to see.
And when unbound I saw the casket lie
I could but weep, for he had kept the key! January 1, 1904.

to extra helpings you had manners enough to say "No," Tommy—Oh, yes, sir, I said "No" several

Father—You did, ch?
Tommy—Yes, sir; Mrs. Stout kept askin'
me if I had enough—Philadelphis Press.

Dear girl, she's ten feet tall, I guess, Her waist six inches round; A shoe about one and a half, Supports her on the ground.

Her winter hat must weigh a ton;
Her throat, I calculate,
Won't measure quite three inches, but
She's just a fashion plate.
—Indianapolis Journal.

THE NEW YEAR.

Last night a stranger came into my deor.
All dressed in white, a crown upon his head.

His locks were silk, a shining golden red His hand was hid beneath the cloak h

To My Many Friends in Omaha:

A HAPPY NEW YEAR. Yours Sincerely, F. W. FOSTER.

A LIFE ANNUITY

Is the Best Protection for Your Wife or Child. The

Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co. Furuishes It Read the following from Mr. I. W. Carpenter, of Omaha:

Carpenter Paper Company, Omaha, Neb., December 1903.

F. W. Foster, Special Agent, Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co., 522 Bee Building, City. Dear Sir:-Referring to the "Continuous Life Annulty Policy," which I took of you recently, I will say: I felt by taking this policy of you, and providing my wife with a regular income to be paid annually during her life-time, I might be rendering her more protection than by any other investment which had been brought to my attention. Thanking you again for calling my atten-I. W. CARPENTER. tion to it, I am yours truly,

The best business men recognize this as the best possible protection. You had better write me, or 'phone me today, and I will send proposition to you

F. W. FOSTER,

522 Bee Building. Phones: 1817 and F-3205

The Store of the Town

Extends greeting and a Happy New Year to their many patrons who have helped them to one of the most prosperous year's business of their half century of making and selling the finest clothing in the world.

"NO CLOTHING FITS LIKE OURS."

Browning King & @

R. S. WILCOX. Manager Store closed all day New Years.



From "Hobo" to "Banker"

Decatur Lasts are original-fitting men's feet as men's feet should be fitted.

From Maker to You.

\$3.50 and \$5

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