

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 20th day of November, 1904. (Seal) M. B. HUNGBATE, Notary Public.

Another red letter water primer is over-due.

Omaha still maintains its high rank among clearing house cities.

Parents should hang the skates out of the reach of children until the ice is thick enough for use.

It is to be hoped that Mrs. Chadwick's performances will not change Mr. Carnegie's idea on the subject of drying rich.

The fire fund limit prescribed by the charter was boosted \$25,000 by the last legislature. That ought to do for a few years to come.

The council is not the only public body that finds no difficulty in spending all and more money than comes regularly into its control.

Now that we know how Mrs. Chadwick buoyed the bankers, it would be interesting to have a diagram to show where the money went.

General Stoessel's bulletins as to the progress of the siege at Port Arthur come in form of demands upon Tokio for more troops to help General Nogai.

And now it is rumored that Mrs. Chadwick is insane. If this proves true the men who have advanced her more than \$500,000 must have been on the borderland.

Andrew D. White will have to present a type of that "race of tougher fiber" before Americans will show much fear of being superseded at the head of the procession.

Victims of professional gamblers are not the only ones to play the long odds if one is to judge by the "confessions" of President Beckwith of the defunct Oberlin bank.

The state labor commissioner wants the fire escape law amended so as to provide for the compulsory erection of fire escapes on all two-story business houses as well as those of greater height. The makers of fire escape equipment would gladly make it worth while to get such a law enacted.

The present problem of the Auditorium board is to finish the building and make current revenue pay interest on indebtedness and defray running expenses. The stockholders will be quite willing to wait for their dividends if they only know that the institution is not falling deeper into debt.

The road between South Omaha and Fort Crook is again to be paved by resolution. A place somewhere in the center of the earth is presumed to be paved with good intentions. People who have been patiently waiting for the building of that road hope to see it macadamized or paved with more durable material.

President Harper of the University of Chicago has expressed himself in favor of college games without any admittance fee. The abandonment of the gate receipts, however, would also have to be followed by the abolition of the professional trainers and coaches, and as most of the college athletes look forward to serving as coaches later, the plan would be sure to meet with opposition from the student body.

Adjutant General Culver has it all figured out that there are just 116,755 men in the state of Nebraska who are eligible to service in the militia, of which Douglas county furnishes 9,234, and the percentage of military eligibles in Douglas county is more than twice the average throughout the state. It would be interesting to know, if possible, just how these figures were compiled and what makes the standard in this city and county so much higher than the standard outside of it.

INSURANCE SUPERVISION.

The recommendation in the president's message that congress carefully consider whether the power of the bureau of corporations can constitutionally be extended to cover interstate transactions in insurance is commanding attention in interested quarters. The president said that the business of insurance is national and not local in its application and involves a multitude of transactions among the people of the different states and between American companies and foreign governments.

How vast this business is the fact that policies in force in the United States approximate \$50,000,000,000 shows. This is a sum fifty times as large as the capitalization of the national banks and twenty times the total money circulation of the country. The immense resources of the insurance companies, which are steadily increasing, enable them to exert a great influence in financial, commercial and industrial affairs. They own banks and trust corporations and make investments in all directions where capital may be securely and profitably employed. In view of this widespread activity of the insurance companies there seems to be warrant for the suggestion of federal supervision and it is said that some of the larger companies would not object to this.

It is pointed out that the great companies do what is called an interstate business are subjected to many vexatious and must live consistently within what are inconsistent laws in the sense that they differ in different states. If they were brought directly under federal legislative authority it is thought their business would be simplified and probably greater confidence would be given to them. At all events the president's suggestion merits the careful consideration of congress as a matter which concerns a very large portion of our people.

WHERE THE LINE MUST BE DRAWN.

There is a broad line of demarcation between the powers and duties of the mayor and the police commission in the enforcement of law and order. As chief magistrate of the city the mayor is expressly clothed with clearly defined powers of supervision of all departments of municipal government. In times of riot and public disturbance the chief of police and his subordinates are placed by the charter under the direct orders of the mayor. In ordinary times, however, the mayor has no authority to instruct or discipline police officers or members of the police force without the concurrence of the fire and police commission, although the mayor is, ex-officio, chairman of that body.

Having the power to make and enforce regulations for the conduct and discipline of the police, and being furthermore expressly empowered to make all appointments and removals of police officers the police board as a co-ordinate branch of municipal government is placed in position to set in motion and control the machinery by which order is maintained within the city limits. Very properly it devolves upon the police commission to adopt and enforce such regulations as will insure not only efficiency in police government, but will maintain a high standard of integrity among the rank and file of the police force.

While our police force may be inadequate in numbers to afford protection to every man, woman and child in this community wherever they reside, there is a wide field for police reform without imposing serious hardships upon any member of the force. There is also an opportunity for the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to lighten the task of policing Omaha by the closing of all disreputable and disorderly saloons and especially those located within the prescribed district. On that score there can be no two legal opinions. The law leaves the police commission in absolute power to refuse license to any notorious resort without remonstrance or protest from any quarter, and this is not merely a privilege, but a duty that should be discharged fearlessly. Public sentiment in Omaha demands this reform and public sentiment should be heeded when it is right.

MERIT SYSTEM DISCUSSED.

There was an interesting debate in the house of representatives last Thursday on the merit system, the effect of which was to show that the civil service reform policy is stronger than ever before. Not the least important feature of the discussion was the statement by the democratic leader of the house, Mr. Williams of Mississippi, that the civil service experiment had shown defects in the old spoils system, which he believed the people were not prepared to restore. He favored tests to determine whether men were competent, instead of competitive examinations, and wanted wider discretion in the power of selection given to the appointing power. He also had a strong preference for republicans in a republican administration and democrats in a democratic administration. This position of a democratic leader is noteworthy in view of the confusing course which the party has followed in the last twelve years. In the Bryan campaign it demonstrated the abrogation of the present system and the subject was omitted in the original draft of the St. Louis platform, but in the final round up it was declared that the party stood committed to civil service reform.

Mr. Gillett of Massachusetts, chairman of the committee on reform in the civil service, stated his belief that the present system is infinitely better than the old "spoils system" in the service it gets for the country, in the men it brings in as clerks, and in the effect it has upon members of congress. He believed it had improved and will improve from year to year and he thought it will be free from much of the criticism which used to be made about the examinations. These are better, he said, and the effect on the service is beneficial. While the system is not per-

fect, it is greatly superior to the one which it displaced.

It is remarked that the prestige of Mr. Roosevelt's victory has evidently stiffened the backbone of the civil service reformers in congress and it is expected that the increase in the direct appropriations for this bureau, which in the past has been operated largely by detailed clerks, will go through congress. At all events it can be very confidently assured that the merit system will not be interfered with so long as the republican party remains in power. President Roosevelt is an earnest friend of the system, so that the influence of the administration in its behalf is assured and there are only a few republicans in congress who are not favorable to it. There is on the calendar of the house of representatives a bill which provides that when a man gets to be 70 years of age he shall leave the service, the passage of which would do away with the objection to the present system that it tends to superannuation.

PROBING THE TOBACCO TRUST.

By direction of the president the Department of Justice is to make a searching investigation of the Tobacco trust, the operations of which are believed to be in flagrant violation of the anti-trust law. It appears that frequent complaints have been made to the department in regard to the alleged oppressive methods pursued by the combination of tobacco and cigar manufacturers, these complaints being especially strong from the tobacco growers of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and other tobacco-producing states, the growers declaring that they are absolutely at the mercy of a combination of manufacturers. They assert that they have been reduced almost to poverty by the alleged action of the trust in driving from the field all competitors and compelling the growers to accept any price which the combination may choose to offer.

The association of American Tobacco Growers has been working earnestly to secure the investigation which has been ordered and if its charges are well-founded the so-called Tobacco trust is one of the most rapacious and oppressive combinations ever organized. Its operations, if the allegations regarding it be true, have been hurtful not only to the tobacco growers, but also to dealers and consumers. It has laid all under tribute. The country will see in this investigation assurance that the administration has in no wise abandoned its program of trust inquiry.

FURTHER DELAY DANGEROUS.

The most important and delicate task that will devolve upon the legislative delegation to the coming legislature is the revision of the charter for cities of the metropolitan class. The Real Estate exchange has appointed a committee to present and suggest charter amendments to the delegation. This is eminently proper, and it is to be hoped other commercial organizations will emulate the example of the Real Estate exchange by formulating such amendments as they deem essential for the more economical and efficient government of the city. Each of the departments of the municipal government should also be notified to make recommendations of charter amendments based upon their practical experience. When all these suggestions have been discussed and deliberated upon a new charter should be formulated on lines in consonance with the conclusions reached by a majority of the delegation.

As only three weeks remain now until the opening of the legislature, there is no time to be lost. A beginning should be made during the coming week and an agreement should be reached upon all the salient points of the new charter before New Year. Unless this is done we will have another patched quilt municipal law, ill-digested and poorly framed, leaving the door wide open to endless litigation in the courts. The Ak-Sar-Ben Board of Governors says they welcome criticism, but they object to criticism through the newspapers, and especially that whose authorship is not disclosed by the signature. It often happens, however, that people who have criticisms to offer do not want to put themselves up as targets for reprisals and almost every newspaper in the country withholds the names of contributors when requested to do so, so long as they know who they are and that they are acting in good faith. If a criticism is well founded the source is not important; if it is not well founded no influential signature at the bottom should entitle it to better consideration.

The removal of the beet sugar factory from Norfolk is explained upon the grounds that the neighboring farmers find other crops more profitable than growing beets for the sugar factory. It is easy to find excuse for such a move as is contemplated, but the fact that the sugar people received a big bonus for locating their factory at Norfolk, to say nothing of the bounty paid by the state during the first few years, would indicate that there are other obligations that should be considered. The truth is that the beet sugar factories have all come under control of the Sugar trust, and the trust is looking for profits untaxed by local sentiment or past favors.

An effort is brewing all along the line to prevail upon the legislature to increase the salaries of state employees in nearly every department of the state government, and each one will have a plausible story to tell of weighty responsibility and increased work. It is to be noted, however, that should any of these appointees resign, no difficulty would be encountered in securing competent men to fill their places at the old salaries.

Unanimity in a Lockup.

It is noticeable that every one of the democrats now in jail in Colorado for fraud at the recent election is firmly of the opinion that there is "a conspiracy on the part of the republicans to defeat the

will of the people," as expressed at the stuffed ballot boxes.

Force of Habit.

Washington Star. Those bankers who have been staking Mrs. Chadwick to her millions probably continue to sneer at the Rubes who loan money to strangers on a train.

Emergency Tools.

Chicago Inter Ocean. Contrary to the unshelved advice which is constantly reaching us from the mother country, we continue to build up a navy that may be used in case of accident.

Another Theory Shattered.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Those who contend that women have no business ability will find an exception in the case of Mrs. Chadwick, who has developed all the shrewdness of a Wall street magnate.

Light on a Knotty Word.

Boston Transcript. That knotty little word, "zemstvo," which appears so frequently in news from Russia these days, is derived from the noun "zemlia," meaning land, and the verb "vopeet," to clamor. Thus it signifies "the voice of the land" and is a council of landed proprietors appointed to deliberate and report to the central executive of the wants of the rural population. It is something like an English county council without the latter's authority, yet that authority is what it now pleases to be. The conception introduced in 1864 and Alexander II intended it as one of the most important of his reforms.

Wasting Time.

Kansas City Star. Representative Norris of Nebraska, for some reason, would make vice president, succeeding to the office of president through the death or incapacity of his predecessor, ineligible to election to that post. This feature is included in the question introduced by Mr. Norris and which also provided for an eight-year presidential term and the same period for a senatorial term and four years for representatives. Just now, the country has elected Mr. Roosevelt by an unprecedented majority, and the record he made in filling the unexpired McKinley term, there would seem to be the least possible chance for the first of these provisions to receive serious consideration.

It is the People's Business.

Cleveland Leader. It is preposterous to pretend, as has been done in certain quarters, that transactions which involve the solvency of banks are nobody's business, but that of the persons to whom loans are made and the officials who jeopardize the deposits of their clients and the welfare of the communities in which they live. Everybody is interested. It is the right of the people to know the dealings of a mysterious and questionable nature involve the security and strength of banking institutions. Publicity, when shady financial deals are in progress, is like the use of the surgeon's knife, which may cause immediate suffering, but is imperatively demanded to prevent the spread of gangrene sure to be fatal if left alone.

LIVING UP TO IDEALS.

More Genuine Christianity the Need of the World Today. Century Magazine. It is more, and not less, Christianity that the world needs as between peoples and between people, in diplomacy, in public and private business, in all affairs of the state, the faculty and the industry, in the kindness, helpfulness, courtesy, gentleness, honorable dealing among men—these are all practical versions of the golden rule and genuine products of the sermon on the mount. In the secret soul there are apprehensions and apprehensions of the hidden truth, the deep humanity, of even the dogmas which are so often spoken of, nowadays, with scornful and superior criticism by those who have not studied their philosophical significance or felt their meaning in spiritual experience. The doctrine of atonement, so many deemed outworn—how many souls have been helped, how many hearts degraded and pain, some numbing sin of the inherited flesh! How many, in dashing aside the shell of form and tradition, despoil themselves of some inner treasure, fit and useful for the spirit's food! More, and not less, of genuine Christianity is the need of the world. Every intelligent religion may have something to impart to those born to Christianity; but those so born, and the nations thus cradled, will arrive at nobler destinies in the increasing endeavor to follow the spirit of the teachings of the world's one inimitable Prophet.

SHIPPERS' LACK OF REMEDY.

Need of Legal Defense Against Railroad Rapacity. Chicago Record-Herald. Railroad lawyers are insisting that the proposition to clothe the Interstate Commerce commission with the power to substitute a just for an unjust rate, subject to the revision of the courts, is revolutionary in the terms of the constitution, irrespective of the right of appeal. The answer to this might be that whenever the commission saw fit to order a rate substitution the courts are still open to the carrier and the injunction remedy still applied. However, the position he taken that the measure proposed by the president is revolutionary, may it not be more truthfully said that the conditions surrounding the transportation industry of the entire country are revolutionary and unprecedented?

Years ago railroads competed in the true sense of that term. Now there has been accomplished such a community of stock ownership that competition as to the freight rate, at least, has all but entirely disappeared. In the future, the legal and transportation conditions such as the railroad itself is the final court of appeal with the justice of its own freight rate is called into question. Commercial lawyers might argue that a revolutionary condition has been reached when a party in interest becomes the final arbiter. But this is not so; the shipper who today appeals to the commission for relief against an excessive or unjust freight rate is practically without remedy unless the railroads see fit voluntarily to obey the orders of the commission. All the commission can do is to point out the abuse, and the shipper must rely upon public opinion to compel its correction. The virtual futility of appealing to the commission for relief from burdensome charges is being demonstrated today in Chicago, where the commission is taking evidence in the recent case, which has been nearly a decade on its journey through that body to the United States supreme court and back. And should the commission finally decide that the terminal charge is excessive it is possible for the railroad to reduce that charge so little as to make the ruling of the commission and the courts abortive.

BITA OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot. Short as the session of congress will be, it promises to develop two of the liveliest contests witnessed in recent years. Very little oratorical fireworks will be displayed in the open, but the oratory will be there and orators will be heard in a way that will make statesmen wish the fishing season was ripe. The orators will be women, and when women orate, who will dare follow their own impulses to listen?

The agitation for restoration of the army canteen brings to the fore an organization of the wives of army officers, who are championing the cause of the canteen. This announcement aroused a war cry among the members of the Women's Christian Temperance union, and they are preparing to descend upon congress the moment there is a sign favorable to the canteen. The odds are in favor of the latter, for having once excluded the canteen, his restoration is fraught with political trouble, and wise statesmen are not looking for that result.

Among the warm protests already on foot there is not a word about any other feature of the bill. All praise upon the passage quoted, denouncing it as "outrageous." One writer says: "Injustice is therein threatened to our sisters." She continues: "This would allow these states to disfranchise minors, criminals, nonresidents, ignorant and women." Further, she argues that the pioneer women who suffered and toiled as earnestly and as successfully as their husbands in behalf of the country's progress ought not to be treated in this more than dignified manner.

A prominent Michigan club woman uses a somewhat hysterical style. "Do unto others," she quotes, "as you would they should do unto you. Substitute the word 'male' before the word 'you' and see how you like it. The deafening clamor that would then arise would simply raise the earth. Hoping that the honorable body of which you are the honorable chairman will never report such a travesty on history as believing that the senate of the United States will not thereby lower the status of the sex, I am, etc."

Several young men think they would like to be secretary to Senator Fairbanks after he is sworn in as vice president. There was a question today as to what are the duties of a secretary to a vice president. "I'll tell you," said a man who has been in the capitol for many years. "The secretary of the vice president is required to sit in the vice president's gorgeous room and when a party of 'rube' eighteenth century heads in the floor say to them: 'Come right in and I'll show you the mirror John Quincy Adams bought for \$50.'" There is to be a decided invasion of the capitol by the senate of Pennsylvania. He was talking proudly recently of two things. One was that his son, who has come here as his secretary, is nearly a head taller than the father. The other was that the senator of Pennsylvania is in the same short class with the Delaware senator and, although being a short man, is recognized as having distinguished ability.

But the prospective senator from Nevada, George S. Nixon, will probably be the shortest in stature of all that branch of congress. He is described as nearly a head shorter than Senator Knox, although, like nearly all the short men of the senate, possessed of much ability. Senator Stewart of Nevada, with his flowing white beard looks the part of old Father Time. He is 77 years of age, although retaining insinuations that he is an old man. Yesterday he was speaking of Tonopah and the rapid growth of that section of the state. "I know of no finer place for a young man," said he. "I am going right out there to practice law." When Mr. Stewart becomes a lawyer of Tonopah George S. Nixon of Winnemucca will become senator. One has changed his political coat quite as often as the other. Mr. Stewart was for years a republican, then a silverite, a democrat, and then a republican. Mr. Nixon was originally a republican, next a silverite, a populist, a gold democrat, and now a republican. He is accounted a very estimable citizen among the Nevada voters, who have a fondness for political variety and do not object to candidates for public office who have the same kind of inclination. Mr. Nixon has been banker, rancher, cattleman, politician and all-around hustler. He is just as versatile in business as he is in politics.

"Some of these republicans are pretty fierce for tariff revision," said Representative Jacob Belder of Ohio to Speaker Cannon. "Reminds me of a lady out in my town who met a little boy on the street one day," said the speaker. "The boy was carrying an empty looking pup. The lady stopped and looked at the pup. 'Is he fierce?' she asked. 'He's the blankety-blankest fercest pup you ever seen,' said the boy. "'Oh,' said the lady, 'I didn't want a fierce dog.' 'Well,' replied the boy, 'he ain't so blankety-blank blank-blank-blank fierce.'"

George A. Post, at one time a member of congress from Pennsylvania, is in Washington trying to arrange for an exhibit of railway appliances. He called on Speaker Cannon in relation to the matter, saying he hoped congress would allow him and his associates to use vacant ground adjacent to the Washington monument. "I'd like to see you," said the speaker. "You are here asking for legislation that does not involve any expenditure of public money. I'm sure that is so rare as to be worthy of notice. Verily, your scheme seems worth pushing along. A patriot who for the old flag, and without an appropriation! The day of miracles is not past."

Inglorious Destruction. New York Tribune. The spectacle of the Russian squadron lying helplessly at Fort Arthur under Japanese guns instead of boldly rallying forth and doing battle with Topo's fleet, thus courting glorious death rather than ignominious destruction, is not an heroic one. Cervera's example at Santiago is an instance of the choice of a brave man and, although not successful, history will accord him a higher place than it would had he remained in the harbor and permitted his vessels to be sunk by American guns.

TALKING OF INDIANS.

Grand Island Independent: The report of the federal grand jury at Omaha, into the charges brought by Father Schell of the Indian reservation, of the exploitation of the Winnebago Indians, and the conditions surrounding these aborigines and wards of the government, are startling and certainly demand the prosecution of those accused, and if found guilty, they should be severely punished.

Tekamah Journal: The Omaha Bee's suggestion that the forthcoming legislature establish a no-license zone ten miles wide around the Indian reservation is not meeting the wholesome support of some of the white brethren who would have their bug juice dispensaries closed up. The Bee's suggestion is the necessary corollary proposition we have yet encountered. The Republic also informs us that "what Rosewater and Father Schell don't know about affairs on the reservation would make a monument of ignorance as big as the Pikes Peak hotel."

Wahoo Wasp: Father Schell has been able to attract the attention of the government to the lawlessness and demoralization that has existed for some time at the Winnebago Indian reservation. The grand jury after investigating the matter thoroughly urges the necessity for prompt action on the part of the state and national authorities to wipe out the influence which causes such a deplorable condition. Mr. Rosewater editor of the Omaha Bee has been of great assistance to Father Schell in getting the condition of affairs at Winnebago agency before the public and especially before President Roosevelt.

Verdige Citizen: Isn't it a strange coincidence that the guardians of the heirs of the deceased Indians is generally chosen among the people who are most interested in purchasing their land? Perhaps the Winnebago agency is not the only reservation that would be benefited by the appearance therein of a man like Father Schell. The action of Father Schell in uncovering the rottenness at the Winnebago agency, has already been commended by the federal grand jury at Omaha last week. This will be a revelation of the Homer grafters, for this act the doors of the penitentiary is in plain sight of many of them.

Columbia Telegram: A grand jury in Omaha has reported to the federal grand jury of the United States court the alarming fact that the Winnebago Indians on their reservation in Nebraska are utterly neglecting to pay any attention to the usual marriage customs. The report says that it is a common practice among the Indians to live with one woman until they get tired of her, and then take another one. Well, that is not far different from the white man's way. The only difference is in the manner of quitting. When the Indian gets ready to quit his squaw he calls a witness, and in the presence of the witness he breaks a stick into two pieces. He is then free to take another wife. The white man, when he gets tired of a wife, calls a lawyer, pays him a fee, and then the lawyer induces some Omaha judge to write his name on a sheet of paper, and the white man is free to choose another wife. The Indian way is the simplest and the cheapest. The only one who suffers by the Indian method is the lawyer, who loses his fee.

PERSONAL NOTES. General Cronje, the Boer officer, will remain in this country at least another year. He expects to spend the winter in Florida. All's quiet along the Shalke river. But there's noise enough in the vicinity of 23rd Street hill to supply the whole field of operations. Servia's new cabinet consists of General Gruick, M. Tzanic, M. Pauci, General Putnik, M. Radanovic, M. Nikolic and M. Stojanovic. Reports of snow storms down east will excite profound sympathy for the unfortunate people who neglect to act on the advice of Horace Greeley. Only the brave deserve the fair. The senator of Pennsylvania is in the same short class with the Delaware senator and, although being a short man, is recognized as having distinguished ability.

Richard Canfield, the New York gambler, has pleaded guilty and been fined \$1000, thus permitting Reggie Vanderbilt et al. to return to New York without the embarrassment of an "appearance in court."

The Louisville Courier-Journal gives this luminous explanation of the Mississippi evil: "The conditions that are responsible for Vardaman are simply the conditions responsible for asses in every part of the country."

The good will of Chicago toward St. Louis is not limited to regular donations of Chicago river water. It is even more substantial. A Chicago concern offers to pay \$200,000 for fair buildings which cost \$1,000,000.

An interesting presentation will be made to the president the last of this week by some scientific men of Prussia. It is a map made in 1704, and it is the first one known upon which the name "America" was used.

Governor-elect Douglas of Massachusetts announces that he is not a speechmaker and will not sacrifice himself on the altar of wind. Some other means will have to be employed to blow the dust off the sacred codfish.

In a few days General O. O. Howard will receive at his home in Burlington, Vt., a letter written to him nearly forty years ago by General W. T. Sherman. The letter is hanging in a frame in the home of Horace B. Austin, in Hartford, Conn., and General Howard said for the first time several days ago when he went to Hartford to lecture at Trinity college.

THE TAX SHIRKING RAILROADS.

Schuyler Free Lance: And now comes a few editors who have been bucking the new revenue law and now that because the railroad companies are refusing to pay their full taxes under the last assessment that the law was sure of corporation origin and dictation. To us it looks the other way and that this tax refusal is but a step to force the matter into the courts for the purpose of knocking out the law.

Butler County Press (dem.): When the minimum freight rate law was passed the railroads went to the federal courts to prove the value of their roads. Now they are in the federal court to prove that a mistake was made. It is now up to the federal courts to rule that the railroads have a dividend-earning value entirely separate from tax-paying value. No doubt the federal courts are expert in finding a way to do this, but such decisions do not add to public reverence for the courts.

Beatrice Express: If the railroads are successful in compelling the counties in Nebraska to accept less than the amount of tax on their property, what a merry time there would be. John Doe, who pays \$1000 taxes in Gage county, would offer to pay \$800. Richard Roe, who pays \$500 taxes, would offer to pay \$400, and then would come farmers, doctors, lawyers, merchants, laborers and last and least editors, each offering to pay his taxes if the scared treasurer would accept what was offered. And why not? What is the law for one, should and would be the law for all.

Butler County Press (dem.): The action of the railroads since election in resisting their tax has exonerated the republican party from the charge of being the cause of the new revenue law. The new revenue law was passed in the interest of the railroads. If the next legislature will express themselves in no uncertain way on the political pass system, they will not only perform a service to the people of Nebraska, but they will forever settle the false charge that the republican party in Nebraska is a "railroad tool." And whatever this legislature may do they should not forget that the interest of the production and the railroads are identical and they should be friendly.

Valentine Republican: The Burlington and Union Pacific railroads have secured a temporary restraining order against county treasurers from attempting in any way or manner to collect taxes levied against them under the new revenue law. This action on the part of the railroads is an outrage and will in the end work no gain to these roads. By this and similar action of the railroads and monopolistic concerns, the great corporations are surely weaving a net that is certain to bring them destruction. They are forcing an issue that the people will not patiently and silently endure without resentment ere long, and which, if pressed to the limit, is sure to result in their overthrow.

LINES TO A LAUGH.

"They say old Colonel Hankthunder is as proud as Lucifer," said a young man. "He is—and with about the same kind of a personal regard he is proud of."—Chicago Tribune.

He (the Postmistress)—I believe you are sorry we are engaged? She (the Optimist)—Oh, no. Just think how much more it might be—we might be married!—Cleveland Leader.

"You my Smith has joined the Peace congress?" "Yes, he is determined to remain a bachelor."—New York Herald.

"I wonder why Mrs. Newly is giving so many crushing receptions?" "She's bought a lot of new Turkish rugs and is trying to give them an antique look."—Detroit Free Press.

The Senator—"Why mustn't I vote for that bill?" "Constitution—Because the people don't want it senator." The Editor—"What have the people got to do with it?" "Ain't election over, hey?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Gauspitt—"They're all saying that your wife asked you to marry her." "Will it be any consolation to you, if I tell you she's now married?"—Philadelphia Press.

THE IMPERIAL POEMS.

By Mutsuhito, Emperor of Japan. My heart's at peace with all, and calm I live, as I love, in life-long amity; And yet the storm-clouds lower, the rising wind Stirs up the waves; the elemental strife Rages around, I do not understand Why this should be.

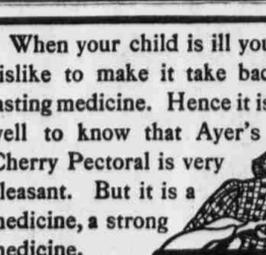
We've sought to be sincere in deed and word; We've exhausted every means to press A clear and truthful case, but all in vain. Now may the God that sees the hearts of men Approve of what we do!

They're at the front, Our brave young men; and now the mid-bleeding Are shouldering their arms; and in the fields The old men gather in the abundant rice, Low stooping o'er the sheaves; all ages in cheerful self-devotion to the Land, Kyoto, Japan.

(The above translation of poems by his majesty, the originals of which appeared in the Kokumin Shimbun for November 7, 1904, seem to have been composed at different periods. No. I evidently was written before the war, when the emperor saw himself surrounded by ominous signs of a coming conflict. No. II dates from the actual commencement of the war, when all peaceable means had been exhausted and the decision of arms had become inevitable. No. III is what we see in Japan today. Only this afternoon I passed a group of women, taking their husbands' and brothers' places in the building of bridges. His majesty has every reason to be proud of the ready self-sacrificing spirit of his people.—Arthur Lloyd, in the Independent.)

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