THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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5	30,100	19	30,300
6	27,710	20	27,650
7	27,630	21	27,650
8	27,800	22	27,540
9	29,470	23	27,540
10	27,730	24	28,180
11	30,310	25	30,430
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GEO. B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of March, 1905.
(Seal) M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

That wise old ground hog knew what he was doing when he took to his hole last month.

The Lenten season opens in Russia two weeks later than in the west. Sackcloth and ashes for events in the far east may not be out of place.

France is willing to admit that Russia is defeated, but the czar seems to be anxious to prove that it takes more than one Sedan to make him think of peace.

There is one consolation to the Russian soldiers in Manchuria. The Transsiberian railroad can now come nearer carrying full supplies to what is left of the army.

Latest rumor is that Rojestvensky is not bringing his second squadron home. The world at large may now have more admiration for his bravery than respect for his judgment.

The white South Carolinian sentenced to be hanged on the same gallows with a negro will probably not object so much to the social equality involved as to the place of its exhibition.

Senator Bate is dead and ex-Senator Mason is critically ill as the result of attending the inaugural ceremonies. Here is another chance for the advocates of safe and sane festivities to begin work.

The general public might not be so insistent on government bank inspection were it not for evidences of the lamentable failure of men in charge to perform their duties as shown again in the testimony of bank directors in the Chadwick case.

Governor Cummins promises to use his influence with the next legislature of Iowa for the enactment of an anti-pass bill. We suggest that Governor Cummins come right over to Nebraska and begin practice on the Nebraska legislature now in session.

A candidate has been found willing to take the complimentary vote of the lone democratic member of the council for the vacancy in that body. He must be trying to establish a claim to something substantial when the party has more than rainbow shadows to give out.

Whatever the new charter bill may provide with reference to paving contracts it cannot leave us in worse shape than the present charter, under which the warring contractors have blocked completely all efforts to get streets paved or repaved and kept public improvements at an absolute standstill.

Whether the bill defining property entitled to tax exemption becomes a law or not, Omaha and Douglas county ought to have an official list of all untaxed property within their jurisdiction. As it is now, nobody knows how much property is escaping city and county taxation, or whether it is property entitled to exemption, or is evading on mere pretense.

Give the state senate a big credit mark for putting its foot down hard upon the musty old claim of Tom Kennard for alleged services in collecting money due from the federal government to the state of Nebraska. His claim was so old and has been rejected so often that the wonder is the house should have allowed itself to be imposed upon to the extent of passing it on for the upper branch of the legislature to kill.

The report of City Treasurer Hennings shows that the city has plenty of money in bank, but it is accredited to funds that are not available for current expenses, while the current expense funds are running close to the limits, and under several headings warrants are outstanding in excess of the money to redeem them. The city's position very much resembles the heir to an estate which is still in the hands of the administrator.

CRITICISM OF KOUROPATKIN.

The commander of the Russian armies in Manchuria is having the inevitable experience of the soldier who fails. The military critics, and some not military, have concluded that Kouropatkin is incompetent, or at any rate not qualified for the great task to which he was assigned—a task, by the way, which has developed into proportions vastly beyond what was expected at the beginning of the war. Among yesterday's foreign dispatches was one from Berlin giving the opinions of military men in Germany. One of these, a retired lieutenant general, is reported as saying that the task of directing 400,000 men on a single stage with from eighty to 100 miles front, so that each unit may have its proper weight against a thoughtful and active enemy, "was too large for Kouropatkin, whose training was adjusted to the command of some 100,000 men. The brain in command failed on the Russian side to perceive the developments and meet them with prompt precision." This, it appears, is the view of other German military critics.

An American writer remarks that Kouropatkin naturally suggests comparison with McClellan, "whose chief concern was always the exact numerical superiority of his foe." He says that like him the Russian general is a remarkable organizer, a man of talent and industry. "But the Russian has never learned to stick to the offensive at all costs, to forget the possibility of a defeat, to get out of his men their last atom of strength." In the gift for divining his adversarie's plans this critic declares that Kouropatkin is totally deficient. Much of this must be conceded to have ample warrant in events. The Russian commander has certainly shown marked ability only in retreat. But may it not be that Kouropatkin is not altogether responsible for the failures that have so seriously impaired the military prestige of Russia and broken a hold in the far east which she probably can never recover? There is a military faction at St. Petersburg with which Kouropatkin is not in favor and there is reason to believe that it has been instrumental in having his operations directed to a considerable extent by the military officials at the Russian capital. It will perhaps be found that he has not been permitted that freedom of action which a commander in the field should have. But at all events it must be admitted that Kouropatkin has proved unequal to the great task devolved upon him; that it has been conclusively demonstrated that as a strategist he is no match for the Japanese generals, who have shown skill and resourcefulness of the very highest order.

A PROMISE TO BE REDEEMED.

The platform promulgated by the last republican state convention, upon which Nebraska was carried for Roosevelt and the state ticket, and upon which the republicans were placed in control of the present legislature by an overwhelming majority, contained one plank bearing distinctly upon state issues. It reads as follows:

> In response to a public necessity and the party's pledge, the legislature has enacted a new revenue law. It was framed to distribute the public burden with exact and even justice. We pledge the party to a correction of such inequalities as may be disclosed, and to a listing of all property—corporate and private—at its full market value, so that all property shall bear its equal share of taxation, raising only such revenue as is intended to meet current expenses of the state government under the most rigid economy, and for the extinguishment of the public debt.

The execution of the promise to list all property, public and private, so that it shall bear its equal share of taxation will devolve upon the administrative officers, but the execution of the promise of most rigid ecenomy to keep the current expenses of the state government within the revenues and for an extinguishment of the public debt devolves upon the legislature, which is responsible for the appropriations. Unless the appropriations are held down to reasonable limits the burden of taxation cannot fail to be more oppressive, and the possibility of a surplus revenue to be applied to debt extinguishment will be completely barred.

For the redemption of this party pledge each house of the legislature and the governor, too, is collectively and individually chargeable, because they must all concur on every item appropriating money out of the state treasury. As the time for action is at hand, it is well to remind all these officers of the promise and of what is expected of them.

OMAHA'S PROMISING PROSPECTS.

Everything goes to indicate that Omaha has before it just now a most promising prospect of progress and improvement. Omaha stands better today in the business world than ever before and it is more favorably known as an industrial and commercial center than at any time in its previous history.

Omaha has been making headway of the substantial kind during the last few years and more particularly for the last twelve months. The perfection of our railroad facilities, the establishment of the grain market, the inauguration of an active building campaign, the success of the annual Ak-Sar-Ben festivities, the completion of the Auditorium and the reorganization of the Commercial club have all called attention to Omaha as a coming city. The general atmosphere was never so thoroughly charged with public spirit and private enterprise, nor the disposition of our business men to work together more pronounced.

What is even still more important, the condition of the working people in Omaha will compare more than favorably with that of those in other cities of similar magnitude throughout the country. The wage workers here have been steadily employed at good pay, with few exceptions and fewer interruptions. The number of small cottages and dwellings planned or in course of construction shows that the desirable class of small home owners is increasing and that the wage workers of Omaha are not of the roving or migratory element, but rather are identified with the city and equally interested with their employers in its upbuilding and growth.

Omaha ought to add 5,000 or 10,000 people to its permanent population during the coming year, and it will do so if advantage is taken by us of every factor that can be turned to good account.

THE TREASURY SITUATION.

Up to date the national treasury deficit amounts to about $23,000,000. Whether at the close of the current fiscal year this will be increased or diminished is a question which cannot now be determined, though the chairman of the house committee on appropriations, Mr. Hemenway, in his statement regarding appropriations, expressed the opinion that the deficit at the end of the fiscal year will not exceed $18,000,000. In order to reach this conclusion, however, he made certain deductions from the appropriations a part of which at least may have to be expended. It is in this that the uncertainty exists as to what the deficit will be at the end of June. In regard to the next fiscal year, beginning with July, Mr. Hemenway predicted a surplus of over $28,000,000. He thus showed that for the two consecutive years there is a margin in favor of the treasury of more than $10,000,000.

On the other hand, the statement made by the ranking democrat on the appropriations committee, Mr. Livingston, put a very different aspect upon the situation. According to his figures the deficit for the current fiscal year will be considerably above the amount estimated by the chairman of the committee, while instead of a surplus at the end of next year expenditures are likely to exceed the estimated receipts to the amount of nearly $93,000,000, "a broad enough expanse," he remarked, "between the buckle of expenditures and the tongue of revenue to startle the plain and common people, who bear the burdens of taxation." Of course it was natural for this democratic member of the committee to give a partisan view of the matter, but this does not necessarily discredit his statement. Perhaps the most trustworthy statement is that of Senator Allison, chairman of the senate committee on appropriations. He expressed the belief that during the next fiscal year there will not be a deficit any greater than the one for the current year, which he hoped will not be as great as appears at this time. "I think we may fairly congratulate ourselves upon the treasury situation," said Mr. Allison, "although not as desirable as most of us would like."

While the condition of the treasury is entirely sound and the public credit unimpaired, yet the country does not like to hear of deficits. The very general popular sentiment is that the government expenditures should be kept within the revenues and there is no question that this could have been done by the Fifty-eighth congress without in the least impairing the efficiency of the public service. The next congress will be called upon to keep down expenditures, to curtail wherever it can expediently be done, and if it should fail to heed the demand the people may administer a severe rebuke to the party in power at the next congressional elections. It is not desirable that there should be a great surplus in the treasury from year to year, but on the other hand deficits should be avoided. They must be if there is not to be increased taxation. The new congress will need to give the subject earnest attention.

Now that the authorities have taken to enforcing the anti-expectoration ordinance it might not be a bad idea to resurrect some of the other ordinances designed to keep our streets free from filth. If we mistake not there are city laws against using the streets as receptacles for store sweepings, waste paper or other refuse, which are being more honored in the breach than by observance. There are ordinances also against wagons dropping their contents over the pavements, but the trail of excavations for new buildings can be followed over downtown pavements for blocks. If the streets are to be kept clean let us have no half-way measures.

In discussing railroad legislation, James H. Eckles makes the mistake of assuming that the public should receive no consideration for the privileges it confers upon transportation companies and speaks of those corporations as though they were private concerns having no more privilege than an ordinary firm or individual. The fact is that every court decision on the subject holds that railway corporations in particular have been granted powers beyond those of private citizens and for this reason, if for no other, they are in a greater or less degree subject to governmental supervision, and this rule is based upon common law as well as common sense.

Factions and Spoils.
New York Tribune.

The contest for the governorship in Colorado seems to be degenerating into a factional guessing match.

Penalty for a Fright.
Chicago Tribune.

Russia paid that $325,000 to Great Britain with commendable promptness. The financial headache that follows overindulgence in vodka is sometimes severe.

Long Wait for Peace.
Baltimore American.

When it comes to a general's being forced to fight for his line of retreat, the idea of waiting for victory to make peace seems in the nature of a step from the sublime to the ridiculous.

Cost of Armed Peace.
San Francisco Chronicle.

The cost of armed peace in Europe is shown in the enormous amounts the three principal maritime nations are levying for the support of their navies. Germany wants $200,000,000; France, $220,000,000, and England, $300,000,000.

Any Old Thing is Possible.
Washington Post.

It is formally announced that the Standard Oil trust has no interest in the Beef trust. We are about ready to believe that, since Commissioner Garfield has asserted that the Beef trust has a profit margin of only about 2 per cent.

Simply Throwing a Brick.
Ottawa (Kan.) Herald.

Even if the state oil refinery does not "pay," the Herald doesn't care. The man who lams a brick into the dog who bit him does not expect to make anything on the brick. And in Kansas just now it is a question of hitting the dog.

Good Idea for General Use.
Philadelphia Press.

Booker T. Washington, in his address last Sunday, gave good advice to colored men, and equally good for white men. In substance it was for a person to live within his means and save "for a rainy day." With something accumulated a man gets a new idea of life. But there are millions who take no thought for the morrow. Proportionately, they are more numerous among the colored than among the white men.

Problem for The Hague Tribunal.
Louisville Courier Journal.

And now comes the report of another slight to the diplomatic corps in Washington. The foreign ambassadors feel that the proper deference was not shown them during the inauguration ceremonies, because the justices of the supreme court were ahead of them in the procession to the stand. It was not so long ago when the justices felt hurt because the foreign diplomats were given precedence at a White House reception. To humble private citizens such incidents seem childish and silly, but since the subject is regarded by those in official life as of so much importance, it is high time a commission or arbitration board or The Hague tribunal, or something of that kind, should be invoked to establish rules and thereby prevent any further suffering.

RAILROAD THREATS.

Managers Ringing in the Old Bluff in Wisconsin.
Chicago Record-Herald.

The railroads that have lines in Wisconsin are taking an awful vengeance on that state because of the state legislature's projected railway rate legislation. They have ordered work stopped on all their extensions and improvements. They have threatened to make the state get along without any increased railroad facilities until the proposed laws are abandoned.

Wisconsin, of course, ought to be horror-stricken. But it isn't. It knows perfectly well that the railroads will in the end make all the improvements that business justifies and that they will make them solely and purely with a view to profits after, as before, the passage of the laws. It is convinced that the laws will not do the railroad interests any damage, even though they do deprive them of some of their favoritisms. Moreover, it has heard this cry of "Wolf" too often in the past to be scared by it now.

In a recent magazine article Governor La Follette recalled the fact that in the '70s, the years of granger legislation, the railroads had the same harrowing tale to tell of "construction at a standstill," "collapse of railroad business" and "the checking of all development in the granger states" that they have now. He has analyzed railroad statistics for those years to show how little the facts corresponded with the howls.

Wisconsin's granger legislation lasted from early in 1874 to 1876. Comparing the figures of railroad extension in 1873 with those in 1875 he shows that for Wisconsin there was an increase of 9 per cent; for the four granger states, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota, there was an increase of 6.1 per cent; for four adjoining nongranger states, Michigan, Missouri, Indiana and Nebraska, there was an increase of 4.1 per cent; for the country at large, an increase of 5.5 per cent.

All over the country there was a decline of gross earnings of railroads in those years. But for the three granger states for which figures are available, Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa, the decline was only one-half of 1 per cent. For three adjoining nongranger states the decline was 7.5 per cent; for the country at large, 4.4 per cent.

It would not be fair to argue from such figures that the proposed Wisconsin laws will increase railroad profits. But that kind of an argument would be fully as rational as the bugaboo threats and prophecies which the railroads are making.

INTERRUPTED PUBLIC CAREERS.

Interesting and Instructive Cases of Political Recuperation.
Washington Post.

Mr. Thomas H. Carter is again a senator in congress from the far-off state of Montana. It is one of those cases of political recuperation, not rare, but always interesting. As this gentleman left the senate four years ago he discharged a Parthian arrow that found the vitals of a river and harbor bill, and for some weeks he was the fullest discussed and best abused man in the country. Nobody supposed that he would again take a seat in that chamber and again help to judge Israel.

The late Matthew H. Carpenter lost his seat in the senate in 1875. The country was in a roar because of the "salary grab" of the Forty-second congress, which Carpenter not only voted for, but took the stump to defend. He was the ablest man of the great west and one of the most brilliant men of our history. On the stump he was irresistible and he knew so well that he could do without the senate better than the senate could do without him that he was simply reckless in his speeches. In defending his vote for the acceptance of the back pay he one day made a speech that shocked all the Puritanism of Wisconsin, and it cost him the senatorship. For some years he was known as the "great defeated." But in 1879 he was again a senator and died a member of that body in 1881.

Ben Butler was another gentleman of national proportions who lost a seat in congress to regain it. In 1874—a tidal democratic year—he was defeated by a man of the name of Thompson, but in 1876 he was returned to the Forty-fifth congress. Butler also took and defended the salary grab, but that was not the issue when he was defeated.

There is a hiatus in Senator Allison's service. He left the house of representatives in 1871 and did not enter the senate until 1873. James B. Beck left the house in 1875. Several young fellows and some old ones had long cast covetous eyes on his seat, and in 1874 he declined to scramble for the nomination, and Joe Blackburn succeeded him in the house. It was not until 1877 that Beck became a senator. And Senator Blackburn himself regained a seat in the senate after he had lost it. In 1896, in defiance of the state platform, he insisted on 16 to 1 and lost his seat, but four years later, in the chaos of Goebelism, he regained it.

Senator Gorman is another conspicuous public man who was defeated for re-election to the senate and after a time spent in private life again triumphed in politics and returned to the senate. The same thing happened to the late Senator Quay.

When Warner Miller got Thomas C. Platt's seat in the senate in 1881 few men expected that Mr. Platt would again have a political existence, but he did. He nominated Harrison in 1888. He came back to the senate in 1897, and some recent doings in the "amen corner" of the Fifth Avenue hotel would indicate that he is a remarkably spry man for his age; and Governor Odell can testify as to that.

STATE PRESS COMMENT.

Howells Journal: They still have a senatorial deadlock in Missouri. The election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people would put an end to all such foolishness and at the same time place better men in the senate.

Kearney Hub: Former Senator Dietrich has returned to Nebraska and is again a private citizen. His work as a senator was both capable and conscientious and neither he nor the people of the state need apologize for any portion of it.

Bradshaw Republican: Governor Joseph Folk and Rev. Joseph Schell—there's two Josephs for you, who as reformers are up and doing something. Give us a few more Josephs and there will be some signs that the world is growing better.

Albion News: The prevailing custom of calling Roosevelt a good democrat or populist has ceased to be a good joke. All the reforms that have ever had practical application in this nation have come through the republican party. There is no indication that this rule will be changed in the near future.

Grand Island Independent: We are inclined toward the conviction, after reading Mr. Holdrege's statement concerning the discouragingly low railroad rates in this state, that the legislature should immediately pass a law increasing the freight rates and—making everybody pay who rides on a train. It is also, now, the more easily understood why the railroads did not pay all their taxes. They hadn't the money.

Stanton Register: The evil of the railroad pass seems to be considered in a negative sense by the present legislature. If any of them refused a pass it is not known to their constituents. It may be that members think they are not influenced by the pass. If one of the common herd would go to Lincoln and give a member $300 it would be considered a bribe and the offender would be arrested as a common briber of the lawmaker.

Loup City Northwestern: The farmers' combine in the legislature is, to our way of thinking, a mistake. Put the shoe on the other foot and see how it would pinch. Let the lawyers, the bankers, the irrepressible real estate men, or any other like combination be formed and these same farmer combiners would raise a howl that would make old-time populism sound like the wail of a lone coyote to a pack of starving timber wolves. Isn't that true? Let the farmer members stand out and make their fight in the open and win or lose on merit rather than by secret force and compact.

Aurora Republican: The Republican is in no mood to smother its disappointment at the action of the house in killing the direct primary legislation. We had hoped our legislative members were guided in some large measure by the desires of their constituents, but this does not seem to be the case. Especially had we hoped to see Messrs. Anderson and Cunningham line up in favor of a long stride toward political purity. We do not know the motives which prompted their opposition to the bill, but we can assure them that they have not voted the sentiments of their constituents in this important matter. Their action occasions genuine regret if not displeasure.

Norfolk Press: How can a man with an annual pass in his pocket consistently vote to make it a misdemeanor for his successor to do the same thing? It is a condition, not a theory, that confronts the members of the legislature on the question of an anti-pass law, and there is little hope that the measure introduced will be passed at this session. The defeat of the measure will, however, serve to emphasize the purpose of the railroads in giving these passes to legislators, as well as the false position in which the recipient is placed by accepting such a favor. It may be that some day the people will become sufficiently aroused on this question to refuse to elect any man who has ever ridden on a pass to any office within their gift, and when that day comes some untrammeled railway legislation may be expected.

Albion News: The railroad lobby at Lincoln is trying to impress upon the members of the legislature that there is no demand on the part of the people for a reduction of rates. We believe there is an emphatic demand on the part of the people for this very thing. It will be eminently proper that the people give their representatives emphatic evidence of this fact. Let every one write a letter to our representative and senator informing them of the sentiment in their neighborhood. We have as yet no right to believe that our representatives do not wish to reflect the desires of their constituents, but if they do not know or are in doubt what the people want, then we will be partly to blame if they do not vote in accordance with the wishes of the people. If 100 men in Boone county will write to our members that the public sentiment is in favor of a rate bill it will give them no chance of misunderstanding what the people want, and we believe they will conform to the wishes of their constituents. There should be no delay in this matter. Write today.

WILL HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF?

Edgar Howard Looks Backward Ten Years and Then Asks Question.
Columbus Telegram.

Ten years ago this winter the republicans had an overwhelming majority in the Nebraska legislature. The majority rode roughshod over the minority, and failed in every instance to redeem the pledges made by the party at the election. That legislature elected Thurston to the senate, enacted a sugar bounty law, passed the Omaha fire and police bill, popularly known as the American Protective association bill, and in fine, made a deplorable record throughout the session. In the closing days of that legislative assembly some of the strong republican newspapers in the state appealed to the legislature to make a better record, and warned the members that the people would repudiate the republican party at the polls unless something was done to show that the members were legislating for the whole people, rather than for a few. The warning was unheeded, but the prophecy was fulfilled. Two years later the people of the state elected a majority of democrats and populists to the legislature. At the present time the republican newspapers are appealing to the legislature to make a better record. The Lincoln Star sounds a wild note of warning, declaring that the republican party will be held responsible for the work of the legislature, and intimating that the work up to date will not meet public approval. The position of the Star is well taken. Not a move has the legislature made to redeem party pledges. The republican party promised to make such amendments to the revenue law as justice should demand. Nothing has been done. The republican party promised to curb the grain and elevator trusts. Nothing has been done. The republican leaders promised to enact a railroad regulation bill. Two railroad bills have been introduced, but it is apparent that no bill to regulate railroads will be passed, unless it is in such shape that it will not stand the test in the courts, and accordingly be of no value to the people. The republican majority in the legislature is so large that it must bear all the blame for bad legislation. There are not enough democrats in the house to impede any program of the majority, and the senate is solidly republican. If any good legislation shall be accomplished the people must give all the glory to the republican majority. And that majority must sustain all blame for failure to redeem republican pledges

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

What is said to be the first instance of its kind in the history of medical science was successfully performed in a New York hospital the other day. A finger was taken from the hand of a woman and grafted upon the hand of another woman. This was the last step in an operation began nearly a month ago.

The second finger of the one woman's right hand was grafted to the stump of the second finger of the left hand of the other. The latter had lost all the fingers up to a second joint in a shooting accident several years ago. She paid the first woman $500 for the digit that is now on her hand.

The woman who surrendered her finger, to all appearances, was the only one to suffer during the operation, but she bore it with Spartan courage. The woman who was getting the new finger did not seem to feel the slightest pain.

The present alarming spread of spotted fever is a repetition of the epidemic of the first three years of the '70s, in which there were many deaths, according to Health Commissioner Darlington.

In January of this year there were 107 deaths from the disease. Last January there were twenty-five, in February there were 149 deaths, an increase of 123 over February of last year. There were 271 deaths from the disease in 1903, and in 1904 there were 1,211, an increase of 940. This year the 256 deaths of January and February have been augmented by forty-four last week and by twenty-nine the week before. For the corresponding weeks of 1904 the deaths were four and three, respectively.

According to the records of the health department, the epidemic of the '70s began among street car horses and spread to human beings. Dr. Darlington thinks that the disease is in some way brought on by the severe winters, since the last epidemic followed closely a succession of unusually cold winters, as in the case of the present epidemic.

"Cerebro-meningitis is due to a germ which presumably enters the nose and works its way to the brain," said Dr. Darlington. "It is found in the fluid surrounding the brain and in the fluid of the spinal cord after death. I think that it is mildly infectious. Here is a question that my commission to investigate spotted fever must solve: Shall cases of this disease be isolated, and shall the houses where they have developed be disinfected?"

Captain Steve Van Allen, who has been shooting things out of other men's mouths at the Madison Square Garden Sportsmen's show, shot a few remarks out of his own mouth in court. He hit the bullseye, too, for Magistrate Flammer discharged him.

Roundsman Tom Gleason arrested Van Allen as he was about to smash with a rifle bullet a glass ball held between his assistant's lips. Gleason said the stunt was dangerous.

"It's a violation of the sanitary code," said the roundsman to Magistrate Flammer in court.

"I should say it was, replied the magistrate. "It would also tend to injure the health of the spectators by making them unduly nervous. I shouldn't think it would be amusing to watch a man risk his life in that way."

"It isn't an amusement to me," corrected Van Allen. "It's my business. I've been at it for years, all over the world. I have fired hundreds of thousands of shots, and never missed or hurt anybody."

"But suppose you should miss?" suggested Magistrate Flammer.

"I couldn't afford to," said Van Allen.

"What does anybody want to see such things for, anyhow?" queried Magistrate Flammer.

"What do folks shoot the chutes for?" asked the ready captain.

"I'll cut out the glass ball part," finally volunteered the rifle expert, "if you will let me keep on splitting cards with my rifle. That isn't dangerous. The man can hold the card out at arm's length."

Magistrate Flammer agreed to allow this on Van Allen's promise to omit all shooting around the head.

A woman boarded a Madison avenue car at Twenty-fourth street the other day. She was prety and knew it. Some time after she paid her fare she called the conductor, who was at the far end of the car from her, and in a soft, musical and well-modulated voice said so that all could hear:

"Conductor, will you please tell me when this car reaches Forty-fourth street?" and she smiled at him archly.

At Thirtieth street she asked him if they were near the place. The car was not and the conductor told her so. "It's fourteen blocks off," he answered, as he rang up another fare. In ten minutes—the car was proceeding slowly because of a long line of wagons—the objective street was reached and the conductor called it out with more than ordinary distinctness. But the woman did not arise. The car stopped and the conductor called the street again. Still no sign of her rising. Then the bell cord was pulled and the car rolled onward.

"I though you wanted to get off at Forty-fourth street," said the conductor as the car was topping at Forty-fifth street.

"Oh, no," she answered pleasantly and innocently enough looking. "You see, it's this way. Mrs. Brown lived in the second flat of that building on Forty-fourth street, and my sister asked me this morning to look up and see if there was a 'For Rent' sign on the window. We had heard she has moved, but my sister wanted to be sure of it. And now will you please give me a transfer?"

Half a dozen asphalt companies are after the large paving contracts that are about to be let in Brooklyn. Even cheaper paving is the prospect for the borough before the fight is over. The Barber Asphalt company has invaded the field and, according to a semi-official statement, intends to make a deep cut in prices. This company already has obtained a large contract to lay asphalt pavement, with concrete foundation, at $1.68 per square yard, which is slightly lower than the average price for 1904 and considerably below the average price for 1903, which was $2.05½ per square yard. In view of the effect caused by the opening gun of the Barber concern, there is considerable curiosity as to what prices will be on the seventeen contracts, bids for which will be opened by President Littleton.

Fashionable New Yorkers who live on the exclusive Forty-seventh street block between Fifth and Madison avenues are reported to be much disturbed over the purchase by a mediste of the house formerly occupied by Richard Canfield as a gambling resort. It is understood that the house is to be converted into a tailoring establishment. Among the dwellers on the block are Perry Belmont, the Boardmans, the Alexanders, the Stevenses, the Gildersleeves, the Baxters and many more of New York's ultrafashionable folk. They fear that this proposed commercial establishment is the entering wedge on their block for the invasion of trade that is driving society off Fifth avenue. As a result of the fashionable alarm some curiosity is expressed as to the school of morals prevailing in a district which protests against a dressmaker but tolerates gamblers.

PERSONAL NOTES.

There are to be fifty-three Sundays this year and according to the annalists this has not happened before since 1826, and will not happen again until 2015.

Dr. Joseph B. Moore is one of the oldest residents in Washington and well remembers hunting quails in the woods which is now occupied as Lafayette square.

A Chicago university professor has found a tropical weed which he says makes a better smoke than tobacco because it has no effect on the nerves. It won't do; the smoker is looking for that nerve effect.

John L. Dube, whose father was a Zulu king, is in Boston trying to raise money with which to establish an industrial school in his native country. His father gave up the throne after he became a Christian.

Edwin W. Sims, whom President Roosevelt has appointed solicitor of the Department of Commerce and Labor, is a Chicagoan and for the last eighteen months has been special attorney for the Bureau of corporations, a branch of the department of which he is named solicitor.

Lieutenant Zebulon Montgomery Pike, an officer in the United States army, discovered the famous peak that bears his name on November 15, 1806. The Chamber of Commerce of Colorado Springs has started a movement to honor the 100th anniversary of this event in 1906 by a celebration to be participated in by the entire state.

The Louisville Courier-Journal offered five prizes for the best five suggestions for advertising the city. The theory has lately been advanced and with a measure of acceptance, that a city needs to be advertised as much as a business does. The judges decided that the most effective plan proposed was the raising of a sufficient amount of money to advertise the city's advantages in the leading newspapers published in the territory from which the city expects to draw trade and population, followed up by advertising in the leading journals of the country. All the proposals had reference to some form of newspaper advertising.

PASSING PLEASANTRIES.

The early robin sat on the bare limb of a tree and looked gloomily at the piles of snow in the shadows of the buildings.

"I may look like a robin," said the bird, shivering in the raw east wind, "but I feel like a blooming jay."—Chicago Tribune.

"Pa, what's forbidden fruit?"

"Oh, any old kind that's good."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"I never knew before that he was a religious crank."

"Nonsense! he isn't."

"He certainly is. He got me in a corner the other day and asked me if I was prepared to die."

"Of course. He is an insurance agent."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Did you notice how that Pittsburg millionaire removed a temptation from the pathway of his susceptible son?"

"No. How did he do it?"

"The boy wanted to marry an actress and the father objected. Then the father married an actress himself."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Your daughter seems to be terribly depressed because she may not be able to graduate this spring."

"Yes, poor girl. It is going to be a terrible blow to her if she fails. The lovely dress we have had made for her will not, of course, be in style another year."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Mr. Borem—May I have the pleasure of this waltz, Miss Luvvey?

Miss Luvvey—Excuse me, please—I don't care to dance.

Mr. Borem—Then I shall take great pleasure in sitting here and talking to you until the waltz is ended.

Miss L.—Oh! Let's dance!—Cleveland Leader.

THE NEWLY RICH.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

Since Silas Sorreltop struck "ile"
Some year or two ago,
His folks put on a deal of style
As they would have you know;
They have no use for common stuff
Nor for the simple life—
The best is hardly good enough
For Silas and his wife.

Their food is served on solid gold
And gotten up with care;
They breathe exclusively, I'm told,
A special brand of air.
No cheap or vulgar object mars
The household, it is said—
They even have no family jars,
But jardinieres instead.