THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
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1	27,650	15	27,620
2	27,500	16	27,580
3	28,000	17	28,900
4	30,300	18	30,650
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
12	30,430	26	30,150
13	27,600	27	27,540
14	27,850	28	27,720

Total	799,530
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Daily average	28,181

GEO. B. TZSCHUCK.

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

Tax collections in Omaha and Douglas county were never better. People pay their taxes most promptly on a rising market.

The best April fool joke the legislature can play is to get through their work in time to spend the day at home with their constituents.

President Castro apparently will not be required to come to New Orleans for a fight, as France seems willing to accommodate him at home.

Two juvenile court judges may be better than one—but suppose they should deadlock over the appointment of the $1,200 probationary officer?

The taxpayers of Omaha will be gratified to learn that the water board has held another semi-periodic meeting, just to make a show for its salary.

The demand for well located, habitable houses continues to exceed the supply in Omaha. Investors with surplus capital will find it to their advantage to take notice.

The second explosion in the West Virginia mine proves that bravery is not always as desirable as good judgment. A brave man who failed to protect his lamp doubled the loss of life.

With so many alleged aspirants for the office of president so early in the game a whole lot of American statesmen may be expected to be on their good behavior for a year or two.

St. Petersburg again reports that powerful influences are operating on the czar in the interests of peace. This may be a shrewd Russian way of discounting another defeat in the far east.

The Ohio river is now preparing to show how little more the United States gets for money sunk in that stream than for money planted in the Missouri river, in spite of all Congressman Burton has said.

President Smith of the Mormon church must have had a revelation that the members have little use for a president who has had no revelation and therefore asks permission to amend his testimony in the Smoot case.

Commissioner Leupp does not intend to make a hard and fast rule to see no "unauthorized" delegations from Indian tribes. He is aware that "authorized" delegations have been known to be "fixed" after their selection and the "unauthorized" version is frequently the correct one.

The enactment of the biennial election bill would extend the terms of about 1,000 elective state and county officers in Nebraska and about twice that many appointive officers, giving them a year's additional salary without lifting a hand. The beneficiaries could well afford to hang up a nice, big pot to put the job through.

Omaha, Council Bluffs and Sioux City managed to get together and fraternize in the reception accorded President Fish of the Illinois Central. If these rivals of two states can harmonize for such an occasion, Omaha ought to be able to get all the cities and towns in Nebraska to join hands with us once in a while when matters of mutual interest and advantage require combined action.

The Burlington railroad has purchased $50,000 worth of Hastings real estate upon which to erect a freight depot. With $50,000 worth of property withdrawn from the city of Hastings for taxation for municipal purposes it is probable that the citizens will look in vain for a voluntary return by the company showing that much additional value of its lines in Nebraska when the next Board of Equalization meets. Then they may wish that the legislature had been less hasty in turning down those terminal taxation bills.

THE QUESTION OF INDEMNITY.

The reports that come from the Russian capital in regard to peace talk there state that the chief reason for the attitude of the Russian government is the expectation or belief that Japan will demand a heavy indemnity. It is pointed out that such a demand would be regarded by Russia as absolutely intolerable and that under no circumstances could it be seriously considered. The Japanese are being told from various quarters, more especially by the French newspapers, which doubtless voice official sentiment, that they should not make the payment of an indemnity a condition to peace. They urge the mikado to be generous and above all things to refrain from asking any pecuniary compensation for the losses and sacrifices Japan has suffered.

What effect this sort of admonition may have upon the Japanese government, with the situation entirely in its hands, it is impossible to say. There has been no intimation from an authoritative source of an intention on the part of Japan to demand indemnity and the fact that Russia fears such a demand is a virtual admission that there is justification for it. Unquestionably there is ample justification. It would be different if Japan had provoked the war, but she was forced into it. That country earnestly sought through diplomatic means to avert hostilities, asking only such conditions and guarantees as were necessary to self-preservation. During all the prolonged period of negotiations Russia was active in strengthening her hold upon Manchuria and scheming with Corea against Japan. While solemnly professing friendliness the czar's government was doing all it could to injure the Japanese. It thus provoked the war, which it confidently believed would end in a few months in utter disaster to Japan.

Now that Russia faces overwhelming defeat she asks that the Japanese be generous, that they be content with their victories and the prestige these have brought them and not ask any payment of money for what they have lost and sacrificed. Perhaps Japan will show such magnanimity, and if so it will be the finest example of a nation's generosity the world has ever seen. It is scarcely probable, however, that she will do this. She might not demand all that she would unquestionably be entitled to, but it is hardly conceivable that she would relinquish altogether a claim for pecuniary compensation. That would be an injustice to her own people for which they could justly reproach their government. As to the threat that if Japan demands indemnity Russia will continue the war indefinitely, it can have no terror for the Japanese. They are better prepared for continuing the war than their enemy and it is not to be doubted that what they have won they can hold. Japan is not at present experiencing any such difficulty and perplexity in regard to providing for the expenses of the war as Russia is. The money markets of the world are not closed against Japan as they are against her enemy.

It is believed that Japan is not unwilling to have peace, but she will make peace only on terms that will absolutely assure her national safety and national development, and it is not likely that she will let Russia off without an indemnity that will repay at least in part her expenditures and losses.

MISSOURI'S REPUBLICAN SENATOR.

It is thirty-five years since Missouri was represented in the United States senate by a republican. For the next six years that state will have as one of her representatives in the national senate a man whose republicanism is of the stalwart kind and who has rendered invaluable service to the party. Missouri's new senator, Major William Warner, has long been known to the republicans of the country as an able and indefatigable party leader in his state, always ready to respond to the call of duty.

Senator Warner made a good record as a soldier in the civil war. He ranks high as a lawyer and he has had experience in legislation, having served two terms as a representative in congress. He is therefore well equipped for a seat in the senate. Major Warner's career has been in the highest degree creditable and honorable and the senatorship came to him almost unsolicited. He is understood to be heartily in sympathy with the policy of the national administration, especially in regard to railway rate regulation, and is confidently expected to support President Roosevelt in this direction. Without wishing to say anything detrimental to the other Missouri republican leaders who were candidates for the senatorship, it is not to be doubted that the election of Major Warner was the very best that could have been made and his party services certainly entitled him to the distinguished honor. He is a man of strong convictions and will be a useful member of the upper branch of congress, one who can be depended upon to do at all times what he believes to be for the best interests of the people.

PROHIBITION IN MAINE.

Prohibition has been a failure in Maine, as in every other state where it has been adopted, but the supporters of that policy in the Pine Tree state are still endeavoring to enforce the law. Last week the legislature passed a bill which authorizes the governor to appoint a commission with power to exercise in any part of the state all the common law and statutory powers of sheriffs in their respective counties in the enforcement of the law against the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. This commission can appoint deputies with similar powers in the various counties, the purpose being to enforce the prohibitory law where the local officers have failed to do so.

Immediately following the passage of the measure the campaign for enforcing prohibition was begun and a dispatch from Portland last Friday stated that there was not a single place in the state where a drink of liquor could be obtained. The liquor traffic was brought to a sudden standstill and large quantities of liquor were shipped out of the state. Thus for the first time in many years there is real prohibition in Maine, but how long this situation can be maintained is a question. It is a pretty safe prediction that it will not continue for any great length of time, at least in the cities and larger towns. It may be possible to keep saloons closed, but a way will be found to provide liquor for those who want it.

The operation of this new effort to enforce prohibition will be watched with some interest, but there can be little doubt of its ultimate failure.

IN THE LIGHT OF PAST EXPERIENCE.

In the convivial exuberance of a banquet men noted for sound judgment and scrupulous business integrity sometimes allow themselves to be carried away into expression of sentiments they would not want to avow under other circumstances. This, doubtless, is the view which the rank and file of the Commercial club would take of the response its president delivered at the banquet in honor of Stuyvesant Fish, president of the Illinois Central, in which these sentiments are expressed in substance:

Omaha appreciates that the interests of commercial Omaha and the railroads are one. Omaha business men feel they are better served and treated now than they ever have been, and therefore would rather have the railroad traffic managers untrammeled in their freedom to make rates according to their best judgment than to put the railway regulation and rate-making power into the hands of any set of men living at a distance from Omaha who are subject to political influences.

Are Omaha business men justified in placing themselves in an attitude of hostility to national railway regulation or state railway regulation in the light of past experience? Has not Omaha been compelled to fight for every concession that has ever been made to its merchants and manufacturers in the past, and is there any probability that it will fare better in the future if railway traffic managers are allowed to have a free hand?

Who does not remember the bitter and protracted struggle Omaha had to make against extortionate and discriminating bridge tolls that for years retarded the growth of this city and diverted its traffic to other distributing centers with which our jobbers were unable to compete? Who does not remember the repeated appeals made to the Interstate Commerce commission by the jobbers of Omaha against discriminating rates? Who does not remember the repeated efforts of business men of Omaha to secure relief by the construction of an independent railroad bridge and railway terminals that would enable its merchants to overcome the drawbacks caused by the old bridge and terminal monopoly?

Would the East Omaha bridge have been built had the Union Pacific been willing to carry out the letter as well as the spirit of its charter to make the bridge accessible to all railroads that desired to enter Omaha? Would the Illinois Central have bought the East Omaha bridge had its managers foreseen that the courts would finally throw the Union Pacific toll gate open for the Chicago Great Western road and for all the roads that may follow?

And how long would Omaha have been compelled to forego the advantages of a grain market had it not been for the organization of a grain exchange on a fighting basis that enabled it to make successful headway against the combination of railways that had for years diverted the grain from Omaha north and south for the sake of the long haul? Have the business men of Omaha forgotten the admonitions of President Stickney to Omaha jobbers, manufacturers and grain merchants that their only hope for obtaining and maintaining commercial and industrial supremacy in the region naturally tributary to it is by pooling their issues and being ever ready to enforce their demands by a policy of retaliation? Does it stand to reason that railway managers, who are expected to secure for their respective companies the largest amount of earnings possible, will ever voluntarily make a concession they are not obliged to make?

Mr. Stickney, although a railroad president, takes a view of national railway regulation entirely different from the president of the Omaha Commercial club. In a book on "railway regulation," published twelve years ago, Mr. Stickney pointed out the reforms needed for the protection of shippers and communities, and gives his reasons for the change which he proposes as follows:

There are many reasons besides those in the interest of uniformity which makes it desirable to transfer the entire control of this important matter to the regulation of the nation.

First, because of its constitution and more extended sessions congress is able to consider the subject with greater deliberation and, therefore, with more intelligence than can the legislature composed of members who, as a rule, hold their office for one short session of about sixty days' duration. There would also be removed from local legislation a fruitful source of corruption, which is gradually sapping the foundations of public morality.

In the second place, the problem of regulating railway tolls and managing railways is essentially and practically indivisible by state lines or otherwise, and therefore it is not clear that whenever the question may come before the courts it may be held that the authority of congress to deal with interstate traffic carries with it as a necessary and inseparable part of the subject to regulate the traffic which is now assumed to be controlled by the several states.

These views Mr. Stickney has reiterated very recently before a congressional committee.

President Wright's apprehension that national railway regulation at long range will operate disadvantageously to Omaha is groundless. Federal appellate courts and the federal supreme court that pass upon the reasonableness of state and national railway regulation also are located at long range and always will be, and the appointment of national commissioners to regulate interstate commerce is lodged in the same hands as is the appointment of federal judges.

South Omaha business men who propose to organize, or reorganize, a commercial club to promote the business prosperity of South Omaha would accomplish a great deal more for their town by joining the Commercial club, Grain exchange and the other commercial bodies of Omaha that are just as much interested in the upbuilding of the south end of Omaha under a separate corporate name as they are in the center of Omaha under another corporate name. In other words, the growth and prosperity of South Omaha can be promoted more readily by concentration of all the energies that make for the upbuilding of Greater Omaha than by subdivision that fosters a rivalry impotent to carry out any great project or accomplish any great thing. The sooner South Omaha business men and South Omaha people generally make up their minds that Omaha is one and indivisible, by whatever name or names it may go and whatever number of office holders and pie-biters feed upon its taxpayers, the better the prospect will be for attracting investors and developing the industries and increasing the population of South Omaha.

In advocating the consolidation of the assessment, collection and disbursement departments of Omaha and Douglas county The Bee has at no stage of the discussion suggested or recommended that any elective officer of the city be legislated out of office before the expiration of his term. This was also the position of the republican candidates for the legislature during the last fall's campaign. It was understood then, and has been understood since the opening of the session, that the city treasurer, city tax commissioner and city comptroller would be allowed to serve out their terms, which expire in May, 1906. Any deviation from this line of policy, whether it affects a republican office holder or a democratic office holder would naturally be regarded as a breach of faith on the part of the delegation.

The only rational explanation of the unanimity with which the demo-populist contingent in the legislature and the demo-populist press of Nebraska are generally boosting for the bill to extend the terms of county and judicial officers for one year by doing away with odd year elections is that the dismembered fusion reform forces are anxious to save the political lives of the rear guard of demo-pop office holders who escaped from the political Waterloo of 1904.

Russia is now beginning to attribute its troubles to the Jews, and a force of troops has been sent against an alleged uprising in the southern part of the empire. Here is a detachment which may be expected to cover itself with glory and "uphold the time-honored reputation of Russian soldiers."

If Nebraska is to be represented at the impending Portland exposition the legislature should make an appropriation that will insure a creditable exhibit, and a creditable exhibit can scarcely be made with less than $15,000.

We Are Easily Satisfied.
Cleveland Plain Dealer.

There is a disposition to circulate the statement that grafters are boiled in Persia. In this country we are pretty well satisfied if they merely get into hot water.

A Waste of Words.
Washington Post.

It is announced that the Philippine government will pay the actual expenses of the congressmen who are going on Secretary Taft's junket. Somehow, the announcement seems like a wanton waste of words.

Wouldn't We Have Fun?
New York Commercial.

The best that could happen to Venezuela would be that the army of invasion be dispatched. After the cadets from a couple of our military schools had taken them into camp we would calmly lead them up through Washington to New York and show them a few evidences of real independence under the government of a true republic. It would do them good.

Borrowing Trouble.
Philadelphia Press.

Congressman Hull of Iowa appears to be borrowing unnecessary trouble in entertaining the idea that "a bloody war" may take place between the United States and Japan over the possession of the Philippine islands. There is no prospect whatever of any friction with Japan on that question. Japan has not shown any desire for war with any other nation. The present war was forced on it and would have been avoided if there had been any safe way out of it.

ANOTHER DISCOVERY.

Railroad Managers Rear a Scarecrow on the Rate Question.
Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

The poor, hard pressed railroads have made a great discovery—that government rate control would be unconstitutional on new and hitherto unconsidered grounds. Here is the discovery: That differential rates on interior traffic to the various seaboard cities are a necessity of the railway situation; but the constitution provides that while congress shall have power to regulate commerce, etc., it also says that "no preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one state over those of another." Thus, it is argued, the government cannot touch the subject; for, if it does and permits the differentials, it will be acting against the constitution, and if it abolishes the differentials, ruin follows, etc. It is said that the president's attention has been called to the matter, and that he and his supporters are "amazed" and "dumbfounded." What bosh! The whole point rests upon the assumption that these differentials "are an essential part of the entire fabric of rates throughout the country." But they are not necessarily anything of the sort. Many of the roads would already like to abolish them, and some of the port cities. They have absolutely no standing in an economic consideration of the transportation business. Their abolition might injure some ports and trunk lines which have no economic right to them, but the injury at the most would not be great, and it would not be wrong to the roads or ports if inflicted, nor hurtful to the country. Besides, it is not certain that a government recognition of differentials would be a violation of the constitution. The point advanced is utterly without importance and it is simply ridiculous to talk of the possibility that it may compel entire abandonment of rate control legislation.

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON.

Matters of Interest Gleaned from the Army and Navy Register.

The quartermaster general of the army has extended the system of army supplies, both as to purchase and issue, so as to facilitate the delivery of stores, such as clothing and equipment, to the army, and at the same time to have places of storage and depots of distribution nearest to the market. This is effected by means of subdepots, where will be kept stock upon which drafts may be made for military supplies. These depots will be located at Atlanta, Chicago, St. Paul, Omaha, Denver, San Antonio and Portland, Ore. Instructions are being prepared for the guidance of officers of the quartermaster's department in the purchase of supplies under contract and the maintenance of a stock at various points for military necessity.

There will not be an examination of candidates for appointment as sergeant, first-class, of the hospital corps of the army until autumn. There are now sixteen vacancies in that position, and numerous candidates all over the country and in the Philippines have made application to take the examination. Ordinarily the examination would be held in May or June, but it is not likely to occur until September or later.

Among the devices submitted for the consideration of the army board of ordnance and fortification is one for the protection of the ear drums from shock at the coast forts, and the board has alloted $20 for the acquisition of some of these devices, which are made of celluloid in such form as to deaden the sound and reduce to a minimum the amount of air which will enter the ear. This is an important question and will add very much to the comfort of people in the neighborhood of the guns, to say nothing of affording a protection to the ear drum. Some time ago an inquiry was instituted into the question of protection from the blasts of great guns, and the report of the investigation conducted by the experts has been received. Of course, nothing can be done toward changing the position of guns already in place at the coast defenses; but hereafter the engineers, in locating the guns, will take into consideration the position where it has been found the gun blast works to the detriment of those at an adjacent gun. It is interesting to note that the blast from the fifteen-pounders is worse than that from any other gun.

The quartermaster general of the army on his return from the West Indies will decide upon the venetian blind which is to be adopted for officers' quarters at all army posts. Some time ago it was decided that window fixtures should be furnished from the quartermaster's fund, and the question at once came up whether curtains should be purchased or the more durable venetian blinds. For several weeks the quartermaster general's office has been examining samples of the latter without finding anything that will quite reach the demand. Accordingly, an office design has been prepared, and as soon as it is approved by General Humphrey bids will be invited for the construction of a large number of these blinds. The main differences between the venetian blind designed in the quartermaster general's office and that now on the market is in the lifting arrangement. The blind will be of oak, probably.

The army will not be equipped with the automatic pistol, and, for the time being, the revolver will be used to the exclusion of a more intricate weapon. Some time ago arrangements were made for a test, under practical conditions of shooting, of the Luger pistol and the Colt pistol, both of the automatic type. These pistols were issued to the troops in the field with instructions to the commanding officers that a full and frank report would be made upon them. As a result of these reports and a comparative test of the automatic pistols with the revolvers already in the service, it has been concluded that the automatic weapon is not sufficiently developed to warrant its adoption, at least to the exclusion of the revolver. This is the conclusion which has been reached by the army board of ordnance and fortification in a report made this week to the secretary of war, who has approved this finding. It is admitted, of course, that the automatic pistol is a more efficient, not to say valuable, weapon, and that its usefulness extends to the military service. But it is felt by the experts that there still remains much to be developed in the weapon and that the time has not yet come when the automatic weapon should be adopted for use in the service.

THE MANY-SIDED ROOSEVELT.

Happy and At-Home Among All Races and Peoples.
New York World.

Whether he is foregathering with his fellow-Irishmen or his fellow-Germans or his fellow-Hungarians or his fellow-Frenchmen or his fellow-Italians or his fellow-Hollanders, Mr. Roosevelt is equally felicitous.

What could have been happier than the little speech he made to the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick last night, with its tribute to the work of the Irish in building up the republic and its adroit reference to the beauties of Gaelic literature?

To be sure a captious critic might sneer that the president's Irish speech was only a paraphrase of his German speech at the unveiling of the statue of Frederick the Great. For Muhlenberg and Steuben and Herkimer he substituted Barry, Montgomery and Sullivan. The Irish pioneers were there in place of the German pioneers. Irish valor was substituted for German valor, and Irish influence for German influence.

But what of that? It was a good speech, with plenty of red blood in it, and plenty of appeal to American patriotism, along with the familiar exhortation that "the best American is the man who has in him the American spirit, the American soul."

No matter what nationality Mr. Roosevelt is speaking to he manages to show himself in sympathy with its language, its literature, its traditions, its customs and its spirit. Nothing human is foreign to him, and yet stupid people are still to be found who cannot understand why he is the most successful politician of his day.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Harvard university, it is stated, will buy no more ancient Babylonian bricks with inscriptions on them. There is a suspicion that the archaeologists have got into the gold brick trade.

Nothing rouses the world's sympathy like success. The German military experts who foresaw such wonders to be performed by the Russians when the war in the east began, now call Oyama "another Napoleon" and the mikado's troops "the best on earth."

William E. Corey, president of the Steel trust, has been living in New York for a year, but is still a stranger there. No one sees him at the theater, he has never knocked down a pedestrian with his auto and the most strenuous reporter finds it impossible to get an interview.

Brigadier General S. W. Fountain, who has just been advanced to that position from a lieutenant colonel by President Roosevelt, is a Virginian by birth and fought through the civil war, being mustered out with a certificate of honorable service by President Lincoln.

A portrait of the late James G. Blaine, painted by Thorpe, is now in the committee room of Representative McCleary at the capitol, Washington, and will be hung among the portraits of former speakers. At present there is only a crayon portrait of Mr. Blaine at the Capitol.

General Lew Wallace's will contained only four sentences, in which all his property is left to his wife, without conditions. The author left a considerable estate and Mrs. Wallace will have not only the revenue from this, but she will also in future be entitled to royalties from the sale of his books, which amount to considerable in the course of a year.

A brewing company in Massachusetts, noted for its fostered claims of pure hop juice, has been indicted for doping its brew with sulphuric acid. To smother one's gob in three inches of foam in order to reach the substance tests the patience of a thirsty mortal. When to that test is added sulphuric acid, then, surely, the Bay State has struck the schooner that kills.

GAB FOR A GRIN.

Yes, indeed. I attend strictly to my own business."

"But mercy! What do you do with all your leisure time?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"How high can that soprano sing?"

"As high as $5,000 a night," answered the manager, absent-mindedly.—New York Sun.

The Preacher—What's this—fishing on Sunday? I shall tell your father at once!

The Urchin—Yes, sir.

The Preacher—Where shall I find him?

The Urchin—Over there by the fence, diggin' some more bait.—Cleveland Leader.

Caller (at office of county treasurer)—What is the earliest date at which a man can pay his personal tax?

Clerk (clutching a pillar for support)—Don't you mean the latest date?—Chicago Tribune.

Chesterfield Chauncey—Could you spare me an old pair of trousers, mum?

Mrs. Winrow—Yes; do you want anything else?

Chesterfield Chauncey—Oh, yes. I'd like about $50,000,000 and a seat in the senate—but dat kin wait!—Puck.

"I suppose you feel that you have done your duty by your country," said the censorious citizen.

"Yes," answered Senator Sorghum. "I feel that I have done very well. There isn't a grand jury that has a word to say against me."—Washington Star.

"Yes," said the gay Lothario, "I called on four ladies last night."

"Huh! You must be a quitter," snorted the poker friend. "I'd keep on raising all night if I had a hand like that."—Philadelphia Press.

ISN'T IT QUEER?

Somerville Journal.

Have you ever remarked, when a good man goes wrong,
How anxious his good neighbors are
To get the details of the transgressor's deeds,
Without missing one particular?
Have you ever observed, when there's scandal afoot,
How willingly people give ear?
They strongly condemn all the tales that are told,
But they listen—say, isn't it queer?

Have you ever observed, when a murder's been done,
How curious every one seems?
People seem to delight in the gory details
That they tell you will haunt all their dreams;
Have you ever remarked, when the minister says:
"Deacon Johnson's a rascal, I fear,"
How the good people, horrified, hold up their hands,
But they listen—say, isn't it queer?

Have you ever remarked, in a word, how the world,
Though it tries all the time to be good,
Takes an abnormal interest—so it would seem—
In the folks who don't do as they should?
Perhaps you've observed, when the gossip bezzing,
That nobody tries not to hear,
Folks are shocked—oh, they're shocked, there is no doubt of that,
But, they listen—say, isn't it queer!