THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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1	31,080	16	45,000
2	31,050	17	28,350
3	28,180	18	28,470
4	28,180	19	27,950
5	28,180	20	28,100
6	28,180	21	28,350
7	29,080	22	30,150
8	30,520	23	31,770
9	30,350	24	28,000
10	27,070	25	28,050
11	28,170	26	28,080
12	28,400	27	28,150
13	28,150	28	28,090
14	29,080	29	30,100
15	30,090	30	32,100

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C. C. ROSEWATER,
Secretary.

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

WHEN OUT OF TOWN.

Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. It is better than a daily letter from home. Address will be changed as often as requested.

"Let us have peace."

Togo evidently believes in doing a good job while about it.

America has another prize cup which should serve as an excellent advertising medium.

With all of Togo's popularity one thing is lacking. He cannot be forced to run for the presidency.

The Russian capacity for trouble is unfathomable if it still insists on hunting for a more bitter end.

As an argument for peace at any price Admiral Togo's performance may have more weight at St. Petersburg than all the writings of Tolstoy.

President Roosevelt will touch the key which will throw open the gates of the Portland exposition and the exposition management will do the rest.

The Prussian government has passed a law prohibiting mine owners from curtailing the output of coal. Europe can still give America a tip once in a while.

Next Memorial day will find Omaha people patronizing street cars to Council Bluffs to attend base ball games and other sports prohibited by law in Nebraska.

Cotton "boomed" on the markets of Liverpool, New Orleans and New York Monday, but it was nothing to the "booming" of gun cotton in the Straits of Corea.

Another expression on the subject of the "yellow peril" is almost due from Emperor William. He may be getting sorry his officers taught the Japanese the "goose step."

The press censor who kept the Russians in ignorance for two days regarding the defeat of the fleet will hardly dare run for office under the prospective liberal regime.

The records of the Spanish admirals at Santiago and Manila gain luster by comparison with recent events in the Straits of Corea. They at least did not surrender until all the ships were destroyed.

When the state pays $100 an acre for Lancaster county lands to be cultivated by penitentiary farmers, the prospect for a profit on the investment out of the proceeds from the crops is not very promising.

Senator Burkett is a delegate to the congressional convention that is to nominate the man to succeed him in the house. But, as he is under instructions for his home candidate, the other candidates will have to excuse him for playing favorites.

Captain Barr has proven that none of the victories over the skippers of Sir Thomas Lipton were due to peculiar familiarity with the water in which the races took place, unless, indeed, he had a secret course across the ocean mapped out for the Atlantic.

Former President Rigelow will probably be compelled by the stress of circumstances to remain away from the meeting of the American Bankers' association which is to convene in Washington in October, but as an object lesson to younger and adventurous bankers his absence should not be ignored.

MAKE THE ASSESSMENT IMPARTIAL

The State Board of Railroad Assessment labors under an inexplicable delusion when it assumes that the aggregate assessment of Nebraska railroads for 1904 was in the main satisfactory to the people.

The board certainly must know that, computed on any basis either on the net earnings, or on the net earnings capitalized, or on the market value of their stocks and bonds, the aggregate value of the railroads of Nebraska is not less than $325,000,000, and their assessment at one-fifth, would be $65,000,000 instead of $46,500,000.

The railroad tax agents and attorneys who are trying to hypnotize the board into a reduction of the assessment of railway property in the face of the increased earnings and correspondingly increased value of the railroads within the past year cannot gainsay the fact that the property of the railroads represents more than one-fifth of the aggregate value of all the property of the state.

A compilation of state taxation from official records shows that the grand total of state, county and city taxes levied in the state of Nebraska for 1904 aggregated $10,823,374, toward which the owners of real and personal property contributed $9,405,927, or 86.9 per cent, while the railroads and telegraphs contributed $1,417,447, or 13.1 per cent, when by rights they should have contributed 20 per cent of the total, or $2,164,674.80. In other words, the railroads of Nebraska paid $747,227 less taxes in the year 1904 than they should have paid had they been made to pay their just proportion of the cost of state, county, school and city government on this basis.

But that is not all. Out of a total tax of $2,056,242 collected from the owners of property in towns and cities for the maintenance of municipal government, the railroads paid only $84,856, when by rights they should have paid at least four times that amount. Their just proportion of municipal taxes in Omaha and South Omaha would be more than $200,000.

Assuming, however, that by some process of reasoning they are exempt from municipal taxes on their terminals, there is no valid or rational excuse for the undervaluation of their properties, whereby a burden of more than $700,000 a year is shifted from the shoulders of the railroads to the owners of real estate and personal property.

At any rate, the state board is in duty bound to assess the railroads at their true value, and if other property is undervalued it is its duty to raise the valuation, so that all classes of taxable property shall bear their just proportion of the total amount of taxes levied.

WILL PEACE ENSUE?

That is the question that is inevitably presented by the result of the great naval battle in the far east. For weeks the statesmen and the press of all countries have been speculating as to what the effect might be upon the belligerents of the outcome of a conflict between the fleets of Russia and Japan and it has been the consensus of opinion that in any event negotiations for peace would follow. Is this to be realized?

The decisive defeat of the Russians—a defeat more overwhelming than anyone had expected—appears to have made utterly hopeless any efforts on the part of Russia to maintain her position in Asia. She has lost absolutely the last chance she had of securing control of the eastern waters. Her navy is practically destroyed and while a few warships may escape the victorious Japanese and get into Vladivostok, this would be of little consequence. They would simply be penned up in that port and in a brief time compelled to surrender or be destroyed, as were the ships in Port Arthur. The investment of Vladivostok is now assured and it cannot long hold out against Japanese assault by land and sea. All the indications are that the land operations of the Japanese have in view the isolation of that stronghold and the accomplishment of this would seem to be by no means difficult. The movements of Oyama are kept as secret as were those of Togo, but it is not to be doubted that he has his plans well arranged and it is safe to predict that within a very short time he will launch his legions against the enemy with irresistible force and add another to the victories that have marked the advance of the armies of the mikado. It is commonly believed, and reasonably so, that the Japanese forces in Northern Manchuria are very much superior numerically to those of Russia, that they are also very much stronger in guns, while they have to stimulate and sustain them the prestige of repeated triumphs. With the knowledge of a great naval victory to still further inspire them, the armies under Oyama will fight with augmented valor and determination. An overwhelming land victory for the Japanese within a short time seems now assured. The comparative quiet that has prevailed in Northern Manchuria may be broken any day by the clash of arms and when that comes it will not end until one or the other side is utterly vanquished.

Meanwhile there is talk of efforts to bring about negotiations for peace. It is reported from Washington that there have been conferences between President Roosevelt and the diplomatic representatives of foreign governments, including the Japanese minister. It is well known that the president feels a very deep interest in the far eastern situation and doubtless is disposed to do whatever he properly may for promoting peace negotiations, but it is probable that he will take no steps in that direction without having first ascertained the views of both the belligerents. In the readjustment of conditions in Eastern Asia that will come after the ending of the war it is to be expected that the United States will have a voice. The interests of this country in that quarter of the world require that our government should not be a mere passive spectator of future events there. It must at least see that American rights and interests are properly and adequately cared for. This the Washington administration can be depended upon to do and without involving the nation in any alliances or entanglements. Peace may not come at once, yet in spite of the expressions from certain Russian sources that the war will be prolonged indefinitely there is reason to believe that Emperor Nicholas cannot much longer be persuaded to disregard those who counsel peace and to continue a conflict which for Russia is plainly hopeless.

COST OF THE WAR.

The war between Russia and Japan has been going on a little less than sixteen months and has increased the debt of the two countries at least $1,000,000,000. Of course no accurate statement can be given of the pecuniary cost of the conflict, but an approximate estimate can be made which will indicate how heavy has been the drain upon the resources of the belligerents. According to an estimate made some time ago the direct cost of the war to Russia was about $10,000,000 a week, which would give the total up to this time at a little less than $700,000,000. Undoubtedly, however, the cost of the war has increased since that estimate was made, so that very likely the above amount has been exceeded, possibly by fully $100,000,000. We do not think it at all extravagant, therefore, to place the cost of the war to Russia, up to this time, at $800,000,000, or nearly one-third of what our four years' civil war cost, as represented by the public debt of this country at the close of that war.

Japan's war expenditure has been somewhat less than that of Russia, due in part to the fact that she did not have to transport her armies and military supplies so long a distance. Moreover Japan has not bought supplies abroad on so large a scale as Russia and thus effected a considerable saving. The Japanese soldier does not require as much food as the Russian and the commissary department of a great army is a tremendous source of expense. As to munitions of war the expenditures of the two countries have probably been about equal, though Japan is understood to have manufactured at a small cost a considerable part of what she has used. Doubtless a reasonable estimate of the pecuniary cost of the war to Japan is $700,000,000, making for the two nations approximately $1,500,000,000.

This is an enormous outlay for the period during which the war has been waged and the debt that has been created will be a more or less oppressive burden upon the people of both countries for a generation or more after the war is ended. Even before the beginning of hostilities the people of Russia were sorely oppressed by the heavy taxation necessary to maintain a great military establishment, a vast police system and other requirements of a despotic government, and the war has rendered conditions in this respect very much worse. Japan's foreign debt was comparatively small at the beginning of the war and as her borrowing since has to a considerable extent been from her own people the taxation burden will be less severely felt than by the generally impoverished Russian masses. But the money cost of the conflict is inconsequential in comparison with the loss of life and the want and suffering which this means to hundreds of thousands of widows and orphans. This is the deplorable aspect of the war which is moving the civilized world to urge that the destructive conflict be terminated.

The World-Herald was the only Sunday newspaper in Omaha, or for that matter in Nebraska, to announce the great historical event in the Japan sea. The news was not received in Omaha until about Sunday noon. The World-Herald, by its condition of preparedness, had an extra on the street within an hour, and large sales testified to the appreciation of the public.—World-Herald.

That was a wonderful feat and the World-Herald is entitled to all the credit for its boasted enterprise. This Sunday extra, which in reality was a four-line bulletin with an indefinite report of a Japanese naval victory, was projected into the streets, and the cry of the newsboys penetrated into the churches while the people were worshiping in the sanctuaries. Such extraordinary feats can be performed only by a daily that never ceases to prate about its religious tendencies. Although better equipped for getting out extras than any yellow sheet in these parts, The Bee is content to leave the field of Sunday enterprise to them. The Bee does not issue Sunday extras.

The hyphenated and daily double shotted serves up to its patrons what it calls "A Deadly Parallel" between two editorials that appeared in The Bee and the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. In pointing out the effects of the victory of the Japanese over the Russians both editorials instituted comparisons between the naval victory won by Nelson at Trafalgar and the victory of Togo in the Straits of Corea. As a matter of fact, the same point of view has been taken by a dozen leading dailies, but the master mind that permeates the editorial columns of the World-Herald would never consent to reflect any other man's idea. It is strictly aboriginal in all things.

Prospects are that more tourists will pass through Omaha the coming summer and autumn than for many years and Omaha ought to seize the opportunity to impress itself on the visitors, no matter how short a time they stop. Omaha can make thousands of friends all over the country who will be constantly putting in a good word for the city and its people, if we will only pay a little attention to them and cater to their comfort and convenience. There are several organizations of Omaha business men who ought each to take this matter up, or, better yet, to do so jointly. The time to do it, however, is right now.

Patronize the home postoffice, as part of the patronize home industry campaign. The pay of the postal clerks is regulated by the receipts of the postoffice and with bigger receipts more of the Omaha postal clerks will receive salary increases.

The crop of councilmanic candidates seems to be sprouting first in the new wards. Chances are good, though, that would-be councilmen will be growing upon every bush without respect to ward lines before the harvest season sets in.

The wonder is that the Nebraska railroads, if they are as poor as they make out to the State Board of Assessment, do not lop off the unnecessary expense of maintaining a costly corps of tax bureaucrats.

Fame Pauses for a Novelty.

Washington Post.

Some man is going to acquire fame one of these days by retiring from the cabinet without accepting the presidency of something.

Bunco Gets a Fall.

Chicago Chronicle.

New York's latest trust company smash discloses a situation in the metropolis which must present irresistible attractions to bunco experts and get-rich-quick artists.

Opening for Reciprocity.

New York Tribune.

A Canadian judge has ordered the deportation of twelve American railway officials from the Dominion. How would Canada like the deportation of American capital invested in developing Dominion railways?

Struck in a Tender Spot.

Kansas City Star.

It was quite apparent that President Roosevelt and Secretary Taft have no conception of the extreme hardship it would entail on the Steel trust and other trusts to require them to sell supplies to the United States government at as low a figure as they sell them abroad.

Minding His Own Business.

Chicago Chronicle.

As President Roosevelt is in the habit of minding his own business, it is not surprising to learn that he has declined to intervene in the continuous performance row that is going on among the officers and directors of an insurance company. The notion, evidently entertained in some quarters, that the president is a sort of Haroun al Raschid who delights in mixing up in clothesline quarrels of greater or less magnitude is as unwarranted as it is unflattering.

Whither Are We Drifting.

Minneapolis Journal.

Considerable excitement was caused this spring in Nebraska involving the character of J. E. Head of Glen Rock in that state. When the Nemaha county tax assesor came to check up the report of his deputy from Glen Rock precinct, he found that Mr. Head had filed as a part of his taxable wealth an item of $25,050 cash. Now it is not uncommon for Nemaha county citizens to be possessed of wealth. The listing of such amounts with the assesor seems to be an entirely different matter, however. The county assessor could not believe the report, and telephoned at once to his deputy. But the latter stood by his list and Mr. Head was accordingly "soaked" for his frankness. Whither are we drifting?

THE CORPORATION SENATORS.

Rate Regulation Must Be Given Fair Play in the Senate.

Chicago Tribune.

Possibly the corporations senators who are members of the senate interstate commerce committee are persuaded that the interests they represent have been benefited by the hearings which have just ended. A number of able railroad men have been afforded an opportunity to say at length why they do not think freight rates should be regulated by the general government. The corporation senators may be of the opinion that the general public will be impressed by the earnestness and the unanimity of the railroad advocates who addressed the committee, and many conclude that perhaps it will be wiser to proceed slowly in the matter of the regulation of rates.

The general public has not been seriously impressed by the arguments of the railroad presidents. It has not lost sight of the fact that they were made by interested parties and has discounted them liberally for that reason. It has not been favorably impressed by the assertion that railroad men alone are competent to make rates. Nor is it prepared to admit that the managers of railroads understand the business of the shippers and what is good for them better than the shippers themselves.

More or less irritation has been created by the position taken by some of the railroad men that they are the guardian angels of the communities they serve. The railroad president, it is alleged, is the man who knows best how the resources of a particular region can be developed and its industries stimulated. It is claimed that if he is not hampered in his benficent work all will go well. But if the railroads have the power claimed for them they can use it for evil instead of good, and the general public, familiar with many of their harmful acts, is resolved to place some restrictions on the exercise of that power. It does not want despots, even though they profess the most benevolent intentions.

It may be that the representations of corporations, who appear to constitute a majority of the senate interstate commerce committee, have been letting the railroad men talk in order to provide themselves with additional arguments against rate regulation legislation. It may be that it is their intention to say to the public a few months hence that they have heard both sides of the case, and have reached the conscientious conclusion that matters should be left as they are.

That will be their attitude when congress meets, probably about the middle of October. Between now and then they can do what they please. They can have more hearings if they choose and invite railroad men to attend them. But when congress convenes the president will call its attention specially to the question of regulating rates. The public will applaud him and call on congress to act.

Then the corporation senator will either have to get out of the way or be run over. He will try to substitute some milk and water measure for whatever effective legislation may be proposed. He will have his tricky amendments and his deceptive provisos in readiness. He will resort to the tactics of delay and obstruction—to stifle legislation in committee if possible, and, if not, to talk it to death in the senate chamber. That method of defeating the popular will cannot be submitted to. The subject of rate regulation must be given fair play in the senate. There should be an early opportunity for a direct vote on effective legislation which will put every senator on record for his constituents or for his corporations. When such a vote is taken the corporations will be deserted by many of the men they count on.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

The final official report on the loss of life by the destruction of the excursion steamboat General Slocum, delayed nearly a year by the refusal of the owners of the boat to assist in the work, was handed to Mayor McClellan a few days ago. According to the report there were 1,329 persons on board the steamer when it left its pier with the Sunday school and church members of St. John's Lutheran Church on board. Of these, the report says, 963 are known to have lost their lives, 59 are still missing, 266 were injured and 141 escaped without injury. The report adds that 850 families were afflicted by the loss of life.

Deductions are made also as to the percentage of passengers who lost their lives or were injured, and those of the crew. Acording to the report the percentage of passengers who lost their lives is 66.6 while the percentage of the crew lost is only 12.2; the percentage of missing passengers is 4.6, while none of the crew is missing, and the percentage of uninjured among the passengers is 8.7 against 70.7 of the crew.

Three diamonds, cut from the world-famous Excelsior stone and valued in the aggregate at $90,000, have disappeared from the shop of Tiffany & Co., No. 15 Union square. Satisfied that they were stolen by some person in their employ, but mystified by the strange circumstances connected with the theft and the absence of clues, the company has set in motion the detective forces of two continents in their endeavor to recover the precious gems.

In all ten diamonds were cut from the Excelsior last fall, shortly after its purchase by Tiffany from an English syndicate. The stone was found at Jagersfontein, South Africa, in 1893, and in the rough weighed 971 carats. It was the largest diamond that has ever been cut up, and the total value of the ten stones taken from it was $500,000. Five of the diamonds were sold by Tiffany to well-known New York people last Christmas. Of the remaining five the company now has only two.

The robbery was committed in the company's workshop. A trusted workman neglected to put the shining treasures in the safe over night, and it is suspected another trusted workman slipped them into his pocket and neglected to return them.

Dr. J. F. Kennedy, secretary of the Iowa State Board of Health, who recently declared that the practice among doctors of wearing whiskers is responsible for at least a part of the spread of infectious diseases, is now in New York spreading the new gospel. Since coming here he has also put long skirts under the ban. "For many years I have studied contagious and infectious diseases," Dr. Kennedy says, "and I concluded that in many instances physicians themselves were responsible for spreading disease germs. In the dissemination of germs the beard worn by a physician is much to be blamed. To disinfect the beard properly would require the application of a powerful germicide—something so strong as to strangle him if he did the work thoroughly. I believe that the only sure way of preventing them from disseminating disease germs is to get them to cut off their beards. According to the best authorities, the long skirts of women sweep up millions of germs in the street and deposit them in homes."

The purchase price, $200,000, was paid over by the city last week for the site on the Long Island City shore of the East river on which a municipal lighting plant will be erected. The city's plant is to be used to furnish electricity to light the streets, doing away with gas lamps entirely, and also to light the bridges, public parks and city offices. It is part of the plans to connect the plant in Long Island City with one to be erected on the line of Avenue A, in Manhattan. That connection, however, is to be used only in case it is desired to furnish current for all the boroughs from either plant. The Long Island City plant is intended to furnish lights for the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. The fuel for the plant will be combustible rubbish, the city having at its disposal over 100,000 tons a year, which would be equal in steam-producing capacity to 20,000 tons of coal.

A unique club has been formed at 28 East Twentieth street, the house in which President Roosevelt was born. It is called "The Roosevelt Home club" and its motto is "All I ask is a square deal for every man!" The president is Leo P. Glasel, and the purpose of the organization is to raise money to buy and restore to its original condition the old-fashioned brown stone mansion of the Roosevelt family and to preserve it as an object of historical interest as well as a memorial to the president. The sum of $100,000 is needed before October 1. The club has an option on the property until that date, when, if it is not sold, the building will be demolished to make room for an up-to-date skyscraper. With the consent of the president the members of the club will soon appeal to the public for contributions, republicans and democrats alike, on the theory that he is a national and not a party president, and a typical American rather than a political partisan.

The house stands in the middle of the block between Broadway and Fourth avenue, on the south side of the street, and was formerly one of a row of the conventional three-story and basement brown stone residences, twenty-five feet wide and seventy-five feet deep. The original front has been removed and wide, swelling show windows of glass have been put in on the two lower floors, which are occupied for a tailor shop and an artist's studio. The club has rooms on the third floor.

Although the property can be purchased for $60,000, Mr. Glasel estimates that $40,000 will be necessary to restore it, and, as far as possible, to recover the furniture that was in it in 1858 at the time of the president's birth. Much of the furniture can be located and will no doubt be presented to the club. It is desirable to have a maintenance fund also, and money to purchase mementos of the president which will add to the interest and value of the place.

Every day in New York there is some fresh aggravation to matrimony cropping up in places affected by bachelors. It costs 10 cents more to be rubbed with alcohol than it did six weeks ago. Manicuring is $1 instead of 75 cents. For years the standard charge of the Turkish bath, chiropodist and barber shop has been 50 cents. It is now 75 cents all over the city. Cocktails in bath cafes were formerly two for a quarter. They are now 15 cents straight. Same way with cigars. Drug stores are charging men more for toilet articles. The tailor who used to press a suit for 50 cents now asks 75, and 35 cents instead of a quarter for pressing trousers. Charges for laundry work have gone up 20 per cent. In small expenditures alone it costs the man who has to look out for himself $6 a week more to live now than it did six months ago.

Beauty in the Backyard.

Baltimore American.

Backyard beauty is a feature of urban life which cannot be too strongly urged upon city summer residents. The backyard has hitherto been a synonym for the storage of refuse and for all that is dirty and forlorn. No matter how small, a vine or two and a few seeds will make a transformation almost magical in its effect.

PERSONAL NOTES.

The Spanish senate has intimated to King Alfonso that he get married, and the king has sent in a reply promising to bring off the match as soon as possible.

General Porter, through whose efforts the body of Paul Jones was recovered in Paris, has mailed to the government at Washington full reports proving the correct identification of the body.

Largely through Queen Alexandra's efforts, England is in a fair way to quit the so-called sport of shooting live pigeons. The most important sporting club in the kingdom has abandoned the practice.

Twenty or more Vassar girls are said to be going to be married shortly after graduation. Such a noteworthy record again raises the question whether matrimony isn't, after all, the final test of the higher education.

President Roosevelt will visit the Tuskegee institute and address the students about October 16. Former Mayor Seth Low of New York and ex-Mayor William Drennen of Birmingham, Ala., have been elected directors of the institution.

Jacob H. Schiff of New York, who ranks in the first line of American philanthropists, is chairman of a committee recently appointed to decide upon plans for the celebration this fall of the 250th anniversary of the Jewish settlement in North America.

A new society in Boston formed for the purpose of learning the "fundamental equities of all great questions, in the light of the best wisdom of the world," decided to remain inactive until after all the girl graduates and commencement orators have had their say.

The mediaeval idea that a gentleman is born was brought into court in New York this week by a German baron who had been arrested for making trouble in a theater lobby. The judge, after imposing a fine, completed the lesson by remarking that in America the gentleman is the man who plays the part. Let the eagle flap his wings!

General John B. Murray, on the other hand, has advanced the claim of a celebration held at Watertown, N. Y., May 27, 1866. It has been shown that General Logan often referred to his first Memorial day order as the "proudest act of his life," and in the year it was issued the first great observance was held at Arlington cemetery, with General Arthur as the orator.

The Swiss town of Zurich has taken a step toward the municipalization of medicine, and puts a poll tax on all the population over 16 years old sufficient to make up an income of $100,000 to pay the doctors. Forty doctors will get $2,500 each, and for this sum they must give all needed attention to all citizens of the commune, young or old. The tax amounts to about 86 cents a head. This is getting medical services at a cheap rate, but the doctors will be fairly well paid and their number ought to be equal to all the business they will find to do. Other Swiss towns are giving attention to the experiment, and if it succeeds may try it themselves, with the possibility that it may find its way into other countries besides Switzerland.

IS WAR SO VERY DEADLY?

Calculations Show There Are Other Active Ways of Killing.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

Those who hold that war is the greatest of evils—so great that any sacrifice should be made to avoid it—are wont to grow eloquent over the destruction of human life in war as an irrefragable proof of their theory.

A condition in which large numbers of men are engaged in fighting, wounding and killing each other is, according to their notion, the most miserable possible. Therefore, a condition in which every man is going about his daily business in peace must be the happiest possible.

However, some statistics recently compiled show that so far as safety of human life is concerned a condition of war is very little, if any, worse than a condition of complete peace. Here are some interesting figures bearing on the point:

In the battle of Bull Run in 1861 the losses on both sides, as nearly as they can be ascertained, were 857 killed and 2,653 wounded. In the coal mines of Pennsylvania in 1901 the losses were 814 killed and 1,899 wounded.

Of course, coal mining is a somewhat hazardous occupation. Hence the comparison may be deemed unfair. Here is another one, drawn from the railway industry:

That a passenger's chances of getting hurt on a railway train are less than in his own home is well known. Some branches of the railway service are classed as hazardous, but many others are not. The danger to human life from railways, taking into account everybody affected, is probably no greater than in any other environment.

Yet the losses in the United States from railroad accidents, including trolley lines, in 1904, were 12,290 killed and 187,916 wounded. In the three greatest battles of 1863—Chancellorsville, Chickamauga and Gettysburg—the losses were 12,857 killed and 69,468 wounded.

These "butcheries of peace," as he calls them, are brought forward by a socialist writer to prove that the "capitalistic organization of society" is all wrong, because of its alleged destructiveness to human life. Of course, the argument really proves nothing. These men were killed and wounded in doing the ordinary work of the world, and that work would still have to be done, no matter what the social formation.

But these figures do prove that battles of war are not more deadly than the daily dangers of peace. An insurance actuary submits some calculations, based on insurance experience, which proved the point in another way.

He finds that the fatal accident rate of American cities—the killing in which no criminal intent is found—is between 80 and 85 a year to each 100,000 of population. On the basis of 80,000,000 population this would give a yearly loss of about 65,000 lives.

During the civil war, as near as can be told, 44,238 Union soldiers were killed in battle, and 49,205 died of wounds. The Confederate losses are imperfectly recorded, but were certainly not greater than the Union. Doubling the foregoing figures and dividing by four gives a yearly loss from war of 46,722 lives.

Deaths in the Union army from disease and unknown causes were 270,400. Doubtless and dividing by four as above, this gives a yearly loss of 105,200 lives. Yet this was only 3 in 1,000 of the population in 1865, whereas the death rate from all causes, while much lower than forty years ago, was still over 18 in 1,000 in 1900. Hence we cannot assume that the soldiers who died of disease would not have died had there been no war.

Of course all this does not prove that war is not a great evil. But it does prove that those who argue against war ignore the fact that it is little if any more destructive of human life than the daily work of peace.

PASSING PLEASANTRIES.

"I suppose he still goes in for wining and dining as much as ever."

"No, he's become such a dyspeptic lately that he does all his whining after dining."—Philadelphia Press.

"You said some time ago you were going to retire from politics."

"Yes," answered the man with a good job, "but the statement attracted so little attention I concluded I could stay where I was without being noticed."—Washington Star.

Miss Gabble—Yes, she always takes up the latest fads. Just now she is quite wild about Osler.

Mrs. Newriche—Dear me, I knew her coachman was handsome, but I've never seen her 'ostler.'—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"George!"

"Yes, dear."

"Before we were married you once asked me if I enjoyed a brass band."

"Y-yes, perhaps I did."

"You did. And I said yes; but it seems I misunderstood you, George. My wedding ring is making a black mark on my finger."

"! ! !"—Cleveland Leader.

Mrs. Jenner Lee Ondego—What do you know about these people that have moved into the house next door to you?

Mrs. Seldom-Holme—They seem to be disagreeable, suspicious kind of people. They keep their kitchen window blind down all the time. I suspect the woman does her own housework.—Chicago Tribune.

He—When I look at a girl's eyes I can always see what she's hoping for.

She—Oh, have I got rings about my eyes this evening?—Yonkers Statesman.

She—I wonder why so few men are regular churchgoers?

He—I don't know, unless it's because there is no law prohibiting it.—Judge.

"Haven't you forgotten something, sir?" asked the waiter, with outstretched palm.

"No," replied the patron, "it isn't my memory but my disposition that's at fault."—Philadelphia Press.

Church—What does that typewriter of yours make a week?

Gotham—About 18,000 errors.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

THE DEAR OLD DAYS.

Atlantic Constitution.

Gimme back the dear old days—all the boys in line—
"Bay" stood on the burnin' deck," an' "Bingen on the Rhine"
"'Twas midnight; in his guarded tent"—we spoke it high and low,
While Mary trotted out that lamb "whose fleece was white as snow!"

Gimme back the dear old days that Mem'ry loves to keep,
With "Pilot, 'tis a fearful night—there's danger on the deep!"
The old-time, awkward gestures—the jerk, meant fer a bow—
We said that "Curfew should not ring," but Lord it's ringin' now!

Gimme back the dear old days—the pathway through the dells
To the schoolhouse in the blossoms; the sound of far-off bells
Tinklin' 'crost the meadows; the song of the bird an' brook;
The old-time dictionary, an' the blue-back spellin' book!

Gone, like a dream forever!—A city's hid the place
Where stood the ol' log schoolhouse; an' no familiar face
Is smilin' there in welcome beneath a mornin' sky—
There's bridge acrost the river; an' we've crossed, an' said "Good-by!"