THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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5	28,640	21	31,700
6	29,950	22	29,020
7	31,550	23	28,530
8	28,510	24	28,510
9	28,450	25	28,750
10	28,100	26	29,040
11	30,300	27	30,150
12	28,640	28	29,110
13	30,230	29	30,850
14	31,530	30	33,000
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C. C. ROSEWATER,
Secretary.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st 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.

If the pressure on Japan becomes too strong that nation may have to prove its elasticity rather than lose the fruits of victory.

There are perhaps not so many loose planks in Omaha sidewalks as there used to be, but there are still more than there ought to be.

Grover Cleveland, as an Equitable trustee, has an excellent opportunity to exemplify and enlarge upon his ideas of public offices and public trusts.

Missouri railroads are to test the maximum freight rate law. If those rates run the gauntlet the Missouri law will be of special interest to Nebraska when our legislature meets.

If Japanese and Russian statesmen fear it will be too hot in Washington to talk peace they might retire in favor of their army generals, who have been accustomed to hot places.

There is no excuse for any able-bodied mechanic to be idle in Omaha this season. And steady employment for wage-workers should be reflected in every branch of local trade and industry.

Since there were no delegates present at the populist congressional convention called to meet at Lincoln there is reason to believe that the campaign against the use of passes is having some effect.

Secretary Taft's idea of the race problem seems to be a square deal for all men, which is the ultimate solution of the question, but unfortunately the secretary fails to tell just how to get it.

Now Booker T. Washington says: "There is no disgrace in being a cook, but there is eternal disgrace in being a poor cook." And he might have added there is also eternal indigestion in the output.

In deciding to congratulate the king of Sweden on the marriage of his grandson the Norwegian Storthing evidently wants to show that brothers can dwell in peace and unity without eating at the same table.

Railroads in Illinois admit that they have two standards of value, one for fixing rates and the other for purposes of taxation. While in other states they may not admit this openly the situation is the same.

Milwaukee business men have organized a consumers' league whose members are all bound to patronize home industry, including, of course, Milwaukee's uncorked beverages. The Milwaukee idea is suggestive.

With Japan taking steps to adopt the Roman alphabet it offers unparalleled opportunity for the champions of phonetic spelling. Here is where the English language can be given a rest until the idea is tried on the orient.

The labor unions of South Omaha are to be reorganized. But the horny-handed grafters who make merchandise out of the working men's votes do not need reorganization. They are always on hand, in season and out of season, ready to do business.

The State Association of Nebraska Postmasters has decided to hold its next annual roundup at Omaha, but not without serious opposition. In coming to Omaha the Nebraska Nasbys will have to forego the pleasure of a free trolley car ride to the insane asylum and the penitentiary.

ANOTHER RAILWAY COMBINATION.

An association of receivers and shippers at Cincinnati has petitioned the Department of Justice to institute proceedings under the anti-trust law against the Southern Railway company and the Atlantic Coast Line company, which are alleged to exercise a controlling ownership over competing railroads in their territory and to be working together under a classification and rate agreement. It is urged by the petitioners that this brings them under the ruling judicially laid down in the Northern Securities case. While the cases are not identical there is certainly some analogy between them. The petition declares that a combination owning or controlling railroads leading from all the principal gateways, and from all directions of the compass, into a common territory of destination, has the power to restrain trade as effectually as does a combination which consists of two parallel and competing roads, and it asks that proceedings be taken for injunctions against the designated railway companies, forbidding them to acquire further stock in railroads in southern territory or to vote that which they now hold or in any way to exercise control, direction, supervision or influence over the subsidiary companies. Other combinations or agreements are alleged and it is complained that in these there is discrimination against the northern and western states and in favor of the eastern states in their trade relations with the southern states, to the serious damage of the commercial interests of the first named states.

The allegations and arguments of the petition appear plausible, but according to the view of some if the request of the petitioners should be carried out the result would be revolutionary, a familiar objection to every effort to put an end to railroad combinations and the consequent suppression of competition. As soon as a movement of this character is started a cry is raised that the whole railway system of the country is threatened with demoralization and disorganization and that the inevitable result must be disaster to the business interests of the country. This was so when proceedings were instituted against the transmissouri and the joint traffic associations and again in the Northern Securities. In all these cases it was urged that if the decisions were adverse to the agreements there would ensue conditions that would bring hardship to every industrial and commercial interest. Experience has shown the fallacy of such predictions.

The combination or agreement of the southeastern roads, according to the facts and statements set forth in the Cincinnati petition, appears to be plainly in violation of the anti-trust law. Assuming the allegations made to be correct, the combination of the railroads referrred to is clearly in restraint of trade and commerce among the states and is subject to the same rule that was applied against the transmissouri and joint traffic agreements. There is also involved in it unlawful discrimination. The matter is manifestly important and calls for careful investigation on the part of the federal authorities, which it is safe to say will be given it. As now presented the country has known no railway combination more formidable or dangerous than this.

TAFT ON EXCLUSION.

Following close upon the announcement that President Roosevelt had taken up for consideration the subject of Chinese exclusion, with particular reference to the harsh enforcement of the law, and the discussion of the matter by the cabinet, the utterance of Secretary Taft regarding the subject is most significant. Assuming that the secretary voiced the sentiment of the administration, which there is every reason to believe was the case, the country may expect from the president a decided stand against the harsh course that has been pursued toward Chinese merchants, students and travelers who have come to this country and a determined effort to have the offensive policy changed.

Secretary Taft was very plain and explicit in his treatment of this subject. The course in subjecting Chinese merchants, students and travelers to the same sort of examination that is given coolies he characterized as humiliating and insulting, and he put some very pertinent questions suggested by the commercial point of view. The utterance of the secretary of war, than whom no one in the administration is more in the confidence of the president, carries with it the assurance that the administration disapproves of the severity with which the exclusion law has been enforced and gives to the subject a more commanding imporance than it has hitherto possessed. It makes evident the fact that the appeal of American manufacturers and exporters to Mr. Roosevelt has had the desired effect.

WASHINGTON SELECTED.

The selection of Washington city as the place of meeting of the Russian and Japanese peace plenipotentiaries will gratify the American people, who will quite naturally regard it as additional evidence of the high esteem in which the United States is held abroad. In agreeing to hold the conference in Washington the hostile powers express confidence that at our national capitol there will be no outside influence to interfere with or embarrass the deliberations of their representatives and that so far as the government is concerned they will be treated with absolute impartiality.

It is now pointed out that it may be a couple of months before the meeting of the plenipotentiaries, assuming that the remaining details will be adjusted in due course, by which time the very hot season will be about over. It is further suggested that in the event of the conference meeting sooner than is at present expected it might adjourn to some summer resort and carry on its deliberations until the weather at Washington should become comfortable. This rather important detail being settled, the other matters preliminary to the meeting of the peace plenipotentiaries it is expected will be disposed of without any serious difficulty. It is true there is the possibility of differences as to some of the other details, but as both powers are thus far showing good faith there appears to be no reason for apprehending any serious hitch in the arrangements. There seems to be a shadow of pessimism in some quarters, but very generally the feeling is that all the preliminaries will soon be arranged and the meeting of the peace conference take place within a reasonable time.

A BELATED EYE OPENER.

Taxpaying citizens of South Omaha, and especially home owners, are gradually becoming impressed with the fact that they have been fleeced and misgoverned by democratic grafters, republican grafters and grafters who are not especially particular to what party they belong. It is a matter of notoriety that public office in South Omaha, by whatever party, is always regarded as a private snap. Municipal franchises, concessions, contracts or privileges of all kinds have been bought and sold almost in the open. The late president of the Union Pacific, Mr. Burt, once said that his road could not get a right-of-way or switch privilege in South Omaha without being held up, whatever the political complexion of the city government and council might be. But the men who exact this tribute never share their loot with the taxpayers.

To be sure the financial exhibit made by the city treasurer shows well on its face. We are told there is to be no overlap this year, but we are not told that repeated overlaps have been funded and bonds have been issued bearing 5 and 6 per cent interest to make good the periodic shortages caused by grafters and jobbers.

In round numbers, South Omaha pays $300,000 a year for its municipal and school government. Close to one-half of this amount is absolutely wasted. This does not take into account the expenditure for paving and other improvements for which bonds are being issued, nor does it represent the fixed charges that will have to be added to the ordinary taxes to meet the interest on proposed bond issues for parks, city hall and sewerage. The proposed new bond issues also represent graft in various forms. There is graft imminent in the purchase of lots and park lands, graft in sewer contracts, and, last but not least, graft in the sale of the bonds.

No wonder South Omaha taxpayers are not pleased with the outlook and many of them who last winter trooped to the state capital with a brass band to remonstrate against the enactment of the law that would have enabled the people of South Omaha to say whether they wanted to continue or terminate their extravagance and wasteful local government now wish they had stayed at home.

Among the LaFollette reform bills that will become part of the Wisconsin statute in the near future is the act banishing professional lobbyists. The measure makes it unlawful for any person employed for a pecuniary remuneration to act as legislative counsel or agent to attempt personally to influence any member of the legislature to vote for or against any measure then pending therein otherwise than by appearing before the regular committee when in session, or by newspaper articles, public addresses, or printed and written statements, arguments or briefs delivered to each member of the legislature. The bill further provides that twenty-five copies of any such statement must be filed with the secretary of state before being distributed among the members of the legislature. If such a bill were enacted in Nebraska the corporation pay rolls would be materially reduced.

Judging from the protests made to the County Board of Equalization, there has been a general shrinkage in the volume of merchandise and bank deposits and in the value of real estate and personal property in this city and county within the past twelve months. The marked increase in the volume of Omaha bank deposits can therefore be accounted for only on the theory that Omaha has become a general depository for outsiders, while the insiders have transferred their balances to the wrong side of the ledger. Whether this extraordinary shrinkage of assets corresponds with the reports to the commercial agencies has not yet been divulged. Possibly the protesting taxpayers of Omaha, like the railroads of Illinois, are keeping double entry books—one entry for the tax assessor, the other entry for Dun and Bradstreet.

Mandamus proceedings have begun before the supreme court to compel the outgoing city council of Lincoln to canvass the votes and issue certificates of election to the incoming members of the city council. If an Omaha council had made such a spectacle of itself what a roar the organs of the law and order element of Lincoln would have emitted about Omaha's political depravity.

Democrats of the First Nebraska district profess to have unearthed a ray of hope that they may capture the congressional vacancy created by the promotion of Senator Burkett. On what the ray of hope is founded, however, they will refuse to divulge until after the election returns are in, with tidings of the usual republican majority.

There is danger that the appropriation made for the rehabilitation of Fort Omaha may lapse before the 1st of July unless the military red tape can be cut in several places. There is one consolation, however—the contracts for the new band stand and flagstaff will be let, come what may.

The railroad tax bureaucrats are again trying to make capital out of the assertion that the railroads are the one class of taxpayers who always pay promptly every dollar of taxes assessed against them, whether state, county, school or municipal. Better ring off on this line. The records right here at Omaha show altogether too many cases of railroad taxes fought off to the last ditch or settled on compromises no other taxpayers would have been able to exact.

Having corralled three out of five of the members of the State Board of Assessment, John N. Baldwin has departed for the seashore on his annual vacation, perfectly serene and confident that last year's Union Pacific assessment will stand this year, although last year's Union Pacific net earnings show an increase of more than 20 per cent over the preceding year.

It will take more than the retirement of Mr. Harmon from the case to make the American people believe that the present administration desires to strike violators of the anti-trust laws with a feather. They will remember that Mr. Harmon, as attorney general, once had an opportunity to enforce much the same laws himself and did nothing.

A Melancholy Reminder.
Baltimore American.

The monument to the dead of the Slocum disaster is shortly to be unveiled. But justice as yet has taken no decisive step to make another such monument impossible.

Just for a Change.
Washington Post.

It would be almost worth while to have the Japs lose a fight, just to see how the commander would handle that "virtue of the emperor" proposition in his official report.

No Rest for the Wicked.
Brooklyn Eagle.

Trains are now being fitted with wireless telegraph machines. So are ships. So are automobiles. So are pedestrians. Great Scott! Is there to be no hiding place left to quiet folks when they go off on a vacation?

"They Have the Money."
Pittsburg Dispatch.

Those Illinois and Nebraska farmers who threaten to go after the beef combination by building a packing house in Chicago and entering the business shows the extent of present-day prosperity. The capital of the concern is to be a million and a half, and they have the money.

Stepping Stones to Success.
Philadelphia Record.

Not many persons have had Mr. Paul Morton's privilege of choosing between $100,000 jobs. It is a common thing to warn young men to keep out of the public service, but Mr. Morton, Mr. Cortelyou and Colonel Lamont, besides a considerable list of assistant secretaries of the treasury and comptrollers of the currency, have lost nothing by it.

Chasing the Landgrabbers.
Springfield Republican.

Lawyer Heney of San Francisco, the special government land fraud lassoist, has discovered a bunch of land fauds in California that promises to match the Oregon collection. Secretary Hitchcock will be kept busy for some time to come chasing the rascals. And it is likely that he will chase them to jail before they chase him out of the cabinet.

Worse Than Burglary.
Philadelphia Record.

Ten years in the penitentiary is an awful sentence for a man who has been wealthy, respected, influential and a financial power in the community, but it was not a day too much for the defaulting president of the First National bank of Milwaukee. As much or more is not infrequently imposed upon a common criminal, whom nobody would trust and of whom very little could be expected. Defalcation and embezzlement are more serious offenses, and more shocking to the moral sense, than burglary.

Scraping Off the Barnacles.
Chicago Chronicle.

Opinions may differ as to the extent of the regeneration that will be wrought in the Equitable society by the change in management, but it is plain that the society will profit by the retirement of several well known figures upon whom public attention has been centered for the last three months. These gentlemen had clearly lost the confidence of the policy holders and their retirement was indispensable to the rehabilitation of the company. The new management may very well profit by avoiding the mistakes of the old.

ANOTHER ROOSEVELT TRIUMPH.

Peace Overtures Increase the Prestige of the Nation.
Kansas City Star (Ind.).

President Roosevelt's administration, which began brilliantly and has been fraught with achievement, continues to add distinction and credit to the remarkable man who first became an occupant of the White House by accident, but was returned to it by an unprecedented majority of the American voters.

The president has done greater things than to bring Russia and Japan into an agreement to negotiate peace, but probably no other act of his life has attracted such world-wide attention or brought him such general admiration and good will. The war which now seems at an end was an inevitable conflict, considering the character and temper of the nations engaged and the issues that provoked hostilities; yet it was strangely incongruous with present-day enlightenment, with the peace sentiment of the world and with the progress of Christianity. But even the strongest friends of peace seemed to understand that blood alone could establish permanent and peaceful relations in the far east. The powers could do little to prevent hostilities. But the United States, through President Roosevelt and Secretary Hay, enlisted the efforts of other nations to limit the zone of war, and this act alone lessened the horrors and the demoralization incident to the conflict, and certainly helped to hasten the end.

The action of the president following the great naval battle in which Russia's sea power was destroyed, displayed such an intimate knowledge of the true conditions of both powers, such an understanding of the attitude of other nations interested in restoring peace, and such a fine grasp of the diplomatic resources available in bringing the nations together, that he must be rated as a diplomatist of the first order. His course also revealed the fact that in the midst of other duties and distractions he had held this subject as one of vast importance and personal responsibility, and was constantly prepared to make the right move at the right time. The foresight, capacity and skill of President Roosevelt has resulted in another great personal triumph and in another credit to the United States on the side of international tranquillity.

A great president adds immeasurably to the strength and prestige of the nation. The people had a correct intuition as to the quality of Theodore Roosevelt even before he became their chief magistrate, and they were never misled by partisan and factional reflection on his political "safety" and "sanity."

AN ASTOUNDING DECISION.

Despotic Power Vested in Immigration Officials.
Baltimore News.

Astounding is the only word properly to characterize the recent decision of the supreme court of the United States in a case excluding a man of Chinese parentage who is a natural born American. We do not wish to express an opinion on the technical merits of the case. The fact that three judges of the court—Justices Brewer, Peckham and Day—emphatically dissented indicates that the law was not all upon one side. This makes still more extraordinary the view of the majority of the court. A native born American citizen made a visit to China, the fatherland of his parents. On his return to America he was held up by the immigration officials at San Francisco and denied admittance to the United States. On a writ of habeas corpus the federal district court in San Francisco decided that the man excluded, having been born in America, was a citizen of the United States and therefore entitled to admittance. Appealed by the immigration authorities through the circuit court of appeals to the supreme court, the latter august tribunal has decided that since a statute of congress, passed on August 18, 1904, provides that the decision of the proper immigration officer excluding a Chinese alien is final, there can be no adjudication of the question of citizenship by the courts and relief canot be had through the writ of habeas corpus. In other words, an officer of the United States government appointed by the president in a ministerial position has impliedly conferred upon him through an act of congress supreme judicial power under which he can himself charge a citizen of the United States coming back to his own country with being an alien, sentence the citizen to everlasting banishment, and the citizen has no remedy whatever but to submit to the ignominious punishment. This supreme judicial power overrides article cxi, section 2, of the constitution, guaranteeing trial by jury, and the fifth amendment, as to due process of law, and supersedes the writ of habeas corpus.

By the rules under which this ministerial despot with extraordinary judicial powers is permitted to act he may deprive the person accused of being an alien of communication with any person except an officer of the United States. He is examined in private and only the witnesses chosen by the immigration officer are heard. Neither attorney nor friend can be present. If exclusion is the sentence, then the appeal to other immigration officers, if made, must be prepared and on the way to Washington within three days. The burden of proof is upon the person excluded, and he has no right to summon distant witnesses as to his birth or citizenship. This is what Justice Brewer, in his dissenting opinion, says of the proceeding:

"If this be not a star chamber proceeding of the most stringent sort, what more is needed to make it one? I do not see how anyone can read these rules and hold that they constitute due process of law for the arrest and deportation of a citizen of the United States."

FRATERNAL INSURANCE RATES.

Royal Arcanum Raise Provokes Sharp Criticism.
New York Commercial.

The present revolt among members of the Royal Arcanum against the supreme council's recent order advancing the rates of assessment insurance was to have been expected. It was only a matter of time when those in control of this department of the fraternity would discover that its life insurance system was established on an erroneous idea and therefore has a defective basis. The Royal Arcanum has probably conducted its life insurance scheme as well as, if not better than most of the fraternal orders making a specialty of this sort of thing; but the very fact that it has been forced at least twice within the last decade to materially advance the assessment rates in order to prevent its insurance system from collapsing is the best proof in the world that the prospective beneficiaries are being bled, and must continue to be bled, for the purpose of keeping the business alive and solvent. In 1898, when the rates were last increased and an "emergency fund" of $2,000,000 was created, it was promised distinctly that the 315,000 members would never have the rates increased again; but now men in the 65-year-old class must pay $16.08 per month for $3,000 of insurance—an advance of $5.08 per month from their previous rate, or almost 50 per cent—and they are the very ones who have been paying out assessments at the highest rates and through the longest periods. "It has taken us twenty-eight years," says one of the council, "to find out that we were doing business on a basis on which no insurance business can be conducted and survive." That confession is quite enough to condemn the management of the system even if this latest change in it will maintain its solvency.

PERSONAL NOTES.

If Henry James could induce the high school graduate to cut "elegant" out of her vocabulary his visit would not have been in vain.

Joseph R. Coomes, one of eight confederate soldiers who organized the famous Ku-Klux Klan, while prisoners of war at Rock Island, Ill., died at Norfolk, Va., on Saturday.

A veterinary surgeon in Garnett, Kan., in obedience to the wishes of his patrons shaved off his whiskers, declaring he would do anything to accommodate them except to stop chewing tobacco.

Russian liberals, it is reported, are delighted that Pobiedonostzeff has sufficiently recovered his health to go abroad. That illustrious personage can interpret the compliment any way he pleases.

The Postal department has discovered a shortage in the accounts of a Wisconsin postmistress. Lapses of this kind are so infrequent as to call attention to the remarkable honesty of business women.

It is told of Oliver Wendell Holmes that after many futile attempts to propose to the lady of his choice his courage failed. They were walking one pleasant afternoon on Boston common and, coming to where the path separated, he asked: "Which path shall we take?" "This one," she replied, turning toward it. "For life?" he asked. And she said "Yes."

Senator Lodge frequently visited a certain lunch room in Washington which members of both houses of congress were wont to patronize. On one occasion, finding his usual seat occupied, he chose one at another table, where, as it happened, a new man had been installed as waiter. "Bring me a piece of Washington pie and a glass of milk," said the senator. In a few minutes the darky returned bearing a piece of chocolate pie, whereupon the senator said: "I want George Washington, not Booker."

John Melin, who owns a little hotel adjoining the country estate of John D. Rockefeller at Tarrytown, N. Y., has advertised his place for sale. It is believed that since Mr. Rockefeller has bought up the little village where the saloon is, Melin's business has been ruined. Several years ago Mr. Rockefeller endeavored to buy the hotel, as he did not want liquor sold in the vicinity of his place. Mr. Melin refused to part with his hotel. Now Mr. Rockefeller is going to wipe out the village of Briggsville and transform it into an artificial lake.

OUR LETTER BOX

Paul Morton.

OMAHA, June 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: I should hope that it will not be disagreeable to the people of the state to be reminded that Paul Morton bears a name and embodies a memory which has been held in high esteem and honor in this state and in the country for a generation. J. Sterling Morton, his father, and Carrie French Morton, his mother, a very queen among women, mark their distinguished son as a distinctly Nebraska product, although for the greater safety and comfort of his mother in our pioneer period, Paul was born in Detroit. In fact and in truth he is a native of our state, and in all its manly productions no man, living or dead, has ever reflected upon it more honor than he has done. Deeply do I regret the failure of the press of this city and state to give voice to the pride which all men and women who live here ought to have in the prizes he has won at middle-age in the unequal struggle of life which has already secured to him a great career, and which is full of promise for still higher achievements in the paths of usefulness and honor. I am sorry that the people of Nebraska and Omaha have had no opportunity to see, know and justly measure the splendid character, ability and sheer goodness of heart and greatness of head of the second son of J. Sterling and Carrie French Morton, who stands foremost in the unbounded confidence and affection of the greatest president who ever presided over the destinies of this nation, save two, since the days of the fathers of the republic.

Mr. Joe Pulitzer and other political reptiles may seek to blacken the name and tear down the character of Paul Morton because of a technical violation of the law under his general orders by a subordinate during his service on the Santa Fe in regard to rebates. It was to Paul Morton's everlasting credit that he frankly confessed the fact and explained the small matter about which the O'Bryans and the O'Pulitzers, and other political patriots and dancing dervishes, are howling themselves hoarse. Not a centime of money was involved in the case to any company or anybody. The incident occurred from a previous competition between the Santa Fe and its rivals for volume of business. These rivals were violating the law every minute, and Mr. Morton's subordinate met the pressure. And that's all there is about it. President Roosevelt knows every fact in the case that has caused such a roar of hypocritical indignation in certain high quarters in which malignant enemies of the president are hiding. It is not Paul Morton so much as it is Theodore Roosevelt that these noisy gentlemen are after, although I freely admit that the perverse and the envious have been busy in the same outrageous attempt to strike down this masterful and phenomenal man who is Nebraska's own boy.

Paul Morton is being tossed about from eminence to eminence of distinction in national affairs and in the control of vast interests in a way to make other men dizzy. But, my personal word for it, it will not make Paul Morton dizzy. Honest, keen, able, six feet two in his low-heeled slippers, big-headed, big-hearted, finely proportioned, and in all respects a superb personality, Paul Morton has a grasp of affairs and a capacity for labor which are not surpassed by any other man now living in our country. It is a misfortune perhaps (perhaps not) that he never saw the schools. A horney-handed farmer boy, at the tender age of 10 years, milking cows before daylight in the cold winter months, and doing the work about the home that is usual and continuous, at the still tender age of 15 he was sent out into the world as a self-dependent bread-winner, in the service of the Burlington railroad. Everybody knows the rest of the story of this remarkable life.

GEORGE L. MILLER.

The New Iconoclasm.

LINCOLN, Neb., June 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: John L. Webster in his address before the Phi Beta Kappa society Tuesday went somewhat out of his way to deal the ancient past some telling blows. He informed that scholarly society that Greek civilization in general and Greek literature in particular were greatly overestimated by those people "whose minds had been so long shut up in the cloistered seclusion of libraries." The enthusiasm of the philo-Hellenist is utterly misplaced, for "when the plain and full truth is told, the Greeks were almost a semi-barbarous people." This is interesting if true, and Mr. Webster appears definitely to settle the matter when he adds with a judicial air: "No impartial and unprejudiced reader of Greek history can conscientiously say otherwise."

But Mr. Webster is too good a lawyer to rest his case on his ipse dixit, however weighty that may be. He brings forward an argument to prove "the unimportance and insignificance of the ancient past," which, he rather strangely says, "stands out prominently when compared with the present." This argument is as convincing as it is acute. "Herodotus is said to be the father of history, yet how few of the millions of the reading people of the United States ever find it worth while to read his writings. In this age no one regards him as a historian of practical value." That is, no one but those "whose minds have been long shut up in the cloistered seclusion of libraries," and the opinion on literary and historical matters of these few misguided ones scattered over this country and Europe, can hardly weigh against the unanimous testimony, as voiced by Mr. Webster, of the millions of reading people in the United States.

Under the same condemnation fall Homer, Virgil and Dante. These worthies, not having had the advantages of twentieth century civilization, and unable to keep the pace we set, are very properly sidetracked. They are indulgently allowed a place on our shelves (why do we keep up this foolish pretense of respect!), but "thousands of people never think it worth their while to read them." Demosthenes, according to Mr. Webster, has fared no better. In spite of the professors and scholars who have erected "a scaffolding from which they expostulate (sic) on his oratory as the greatest and most nearly perfect model," thousands have read and will continue to read modern authors in preference to Demosthenes.

It is hard to grow old and be neglected, but perhaps that is in a measure inevitable with the lapse of time; but it must be still more humiliating for the shades of Homer, Virgil and Dante to know that they have been read out of the ranks of genius by a show of hands under the discriminating leadership of Mr. John L. Webster of Omaha.

WILLIAM F. DANN.

Kansas City's Water Works.

OMAHA, June 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: In an article of June 14, 1905, our penny evening paper states that Kansas City has owned its water works for ten years and that the city has saved by reason of its free public service the total sum of over $1,500,000, which it would have been compelled to pay out under private ownership of its water plant.

I notice in the annual report of the city comptroller of Kansas City, dated April 17, 1905, that Kansas City issued the following water bonds:

July 1, 1895, $2,769,000, 4½ per cent; annual interest charge, $124,605.
July 1, 1896, $75,000, 5 per cent; annual interest, $3,750.
January 1, 1905, $1,100,000, 4 per cent; annual interest, $44,000.

Consequently interest charges in the amount of $1,350,800 were paid from July 1, 1895, to July 1, 1905. This sum more than would have paid for the water used for public services during the last ten years.

According to the article cited, Kansas City saves annually $150,000 on account of free hydrant service and free water for all public uses, parks, etc. The annual report from Kansas City discloses the fact that the levy for 1904 for the water, sinking and interest fund amounted to 2 mills and produced $135,434, therefore the city pays $35,000 more in interest charges than amount named.

"FAIR PLAY."

SMILING POINTERS.

Mrs. Lapsling was showing her latest photograph.

"It's got my best expression, I think," she said. "The artist took it at what they call the exact physiological moment."—Chicago Tribune.

"Failed, did he?"
"Yes. Liabilities were half a million."
"Goodness! What are his assets?"
"Not a cent."
"And yet you denied that he possessed true financial genius!"—Cleveland Leader.

"Don't be discouraged. She may learn to love you, and when she does she won't have to say so; she'll tell you with her eyes."

"Yes, but her 'noes' repeatedly tell me that she doesn't."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Woman," said the very young man, oracularly, "is a snare and a delusion."

"Which may account for the fact," breathed the girl meaningly, "why men are so prone to hug their delusions."—Cleveland Leader.

Her (in grand stand)—Why does the man that throws the ball make all those queer motions with his arm before he lets it go?

Him—He's got to do something to justify the salary they pay him. It keeps the attention of the crowd centered on him a little longer.—Chicago Tribune.

BILL JOHNSON, UMPIRE.

W. J. Lampton in New York Sun.

Bill Johnson was the umpire
Imported for the game,
A knocker from Knox City,
Prepared to prove the same;
And still not over sassy,
But when he said: "Play ball,"
And looked around the di'mond,
They had to play, that's all.

'Twas Cobville versus Haytown,
And in the match before,
The Corncobs knocked out forty,
While Haytown failed to score.
The Haystacks swore the Corncobs
Had owned the slob umpire,
And Cobville intimated
That Haytown was a liar.

That's how come William Johnson
Was doin' business there,
To see the game was moral
And keep the playin' square.

So William set 'em goin',
And when a player kicked,
There wasn't nothin' doin'
Until the dub was licked—
And licked by Mr. Johnson—
He slugged 'em left and right,
The grand stand and the bleachers
Went dotty with delight.

And every time he licked one
He called a substitute,
And nodded to the bleachers
To root another root.
They done it, too, by cracky!
And long before the game
Was done, the substitutes
Was playin' of the same.

The two nines that begun it
Recovered by and by
From Mister Johnson's handlin'
And sneaked off on the sly.
But when the game was over
And people left the ground
Hoorayin' for an umpire
That umpired; say, they found
The Haystacks and the Corncobs
In considerable suspense,
A-playin' by their lonesomes
Outside the base ball fence.