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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: C. C. Rosewater, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the following is a true and correct statement of the circulation of the Omaha Bee during the month of February, 1906, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation category and Amount. Total paid circulation: 878,810. Total unpaid circulation: 9,182. Total circulation: 887,992.

Net total sales, \$809,048. Daily average, \$31,744. C. C. ROSEWATER, Secretary.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 23rd day of February, 1906. (Seal) M. H. HINGO, Notary Public.

WHEN OUT OF TOWN. Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

Fifth district editors who denounce 'ready made' editorials have the solution of the problem in their own hands. No editor is compelled to print them.

The new French cabinet has announced its program and the discordant opposition now knows where to begin work to accomplish its downfall.

Louisiana has discovered that failure to plant cotton for one year on infected land will drive out the boll weevil. This should increase diversified farming in the south.

Senator Simmons evidently thinks the railroads have nothing to fear from government rate regulation so long as the roads are permitted to arrange the classification.

The independent telephone people have now answered back. It would be rash, however, to undertake to say which side of the talking wire will have the last word.

The remarks of Secretary Taft on political independence is also in line with what has made the people forget party divisions in their approval of the present administration.

Perhaps the Standard Oil company laid its pipe line along the railroad right-of-way in order to avoid local taxation; at least that is the effect it would have in Nebraska.

Secretary Wilson's remarks regarding the advance in Nebraska land values shows that his conversion to the idea of Nebraska being in the corn belt was complete and lasting.

Des Moines retail dealers have advanced the price of bituminous coal because of fear of a strike; and still the people lay the blame for all high prices on the "big combinations."

Congressman Bennett's opinion of foreign immigration in New York comes from a man who knows what he is talking about and for that reason may have little effect upon the theorists.

It is now announced that China is to have a constitution based on the British model. As it took the British a thousand years to develop its constitution, China will show remarkable ability if it can duplicate it in one generation.

Public sentiment in favor of direct primary nominations is steadily increasing throughout the state. People are gradually waking to the fact that they are entitled to have something to say as to who shall be the nominees of their respective parties for important offices and that the right to have a voice in nominations is as important as the right to have a vote at the elections.

While probing into "petty politics" in the county court house, it might not be a bad idea to look into the county auditor's office, where the head officer is said to find it difficult to distinguish between his work as county accountant and as secretary of the Fontanelle machine. If any petty politics is at large in the county budging the moving center will be found pretty close to the auditor's secretary.

Omaha Republicans are to choose between three candidates for mayor. Benson represents the extreme of puritanical law enforcement and Broatch the extreme of wide open vice and licentiousness, while Hennings stands for the application of common sense in a rational enforcement of the laws, with a view to maintaining decency and good order and promoting the growth and prosperity of a cosmopolitan city. Keep in the middle of the road.

KANSAS CITY OIL HEARING.

While there has been no doubt that the western railroads have been guilty of unlawful discriminations in favor of the Standard Oil company, the definite proofs have just been put on public record before a committee of the Interstate Commerce commission sitting at Kansas City. The testimony before it establishes beyond a peradventure that the roads operating in the new south-western oil fields have maintained a lawless and outrageous league with the Rockefeller octopus in its purpose to monopolize the product of that region, in pursuance of which a most intolerable system of rate and other gross discriminations has been mercilessly enforced against independent producers and shippers. In no wise save so far as the forms under which it was carried on had to be varied does the system exposed afresh differ from that by which the giant monopoly earlier crushed competition in the Pennsylvania and Ohio oil regions and has since maintained itself. If anything were needed to deepen the impression of its criminal character as shown by the documentary evidence and the testimony of witnesses who have come forward to tell the facts, that would be supplied by the preposterous evasions and disclaimers by Standard Oil officers and agents summoned before the commission as to truth obviously and necessarily within their knowledge.

The disclosures at the Kansas City hearing emphasize here in the heart of the west the vital connection between unrestrained railroad rate discriminations and monopoly tyranny. But to the most startling feature is the extent to which such practices have been carried, in the very teeth of the existing federal laws prohibiting them, for the purpose of dominating the newly discovered rich oil district in the southwest on the one hand and the general consuming public on the other.

In the light of such revelations it is no wonder the people of Kansas revolted and put forth great effort for relief through their legislature last winter. But that legislation, although it has accomplished not a little, within the jurisdiction of the state is demonstrated to have fallen far short of a full measure of relief, because the interstate charges on which the oil producers depend for an outside market are still subject to manipulation, thus reinforcing the demand for congressional action in conformity with the Roosevelt program.

TRYING TO "QUEER" INSURANCE REFORM.

The insurance officials, even the top-most of the big life companies, who have been flocking to the hearing on the ten bills recommended by the Armstrong committee, embodying the reforms in the New York law indicated as necessary by its elaborate investigation, present the curious spectacle first of eulogizing the committee's work and then imploring not to have the results carried out in legislation.

Precisely this is the substance of the labored arguments made by President Morton of the Equitable and a score of other high officials of the various companies. Their arguments were especially directed against the bills requiring the companies within five years to dispose of their investments in railroad stocks and collateral bonds and the stocks of subsidiary banks and trust companies, against legally prescribed forms of policies, and against abolition of deferred dividends. If the officers are strenuous in opposition to reform touching these capital points, the insurance agents from all over the country now swarming about the New York legislature are frantic in outcry against a maximum percentage of premium which is to be paid them as compensation for their services and which is one of the chief items of expense loaded upon policies.

The sum and substance of this belated scheme in the insurance company interest is simply an effort to rob the investigation of its fruit, and it could proceed only from the egregious blunder of its promoters in supposing that the public outbreak against insurance abuses was merely a riot and not a revolution.

REPORT ON HAZING.

In the light of the report of the subcommittee of the house committee on naval affairs on the inquiry into hazing at Annapolis the pleasant notion so generally entertained that that abuse had substantially disappeared at the naval academy must be given up. During the very years when the public was content in the belief that hazing was a thing of the past the brutal custom, as the evidence indisputably establishes, was most prevalent among the midshipmen. It is an astonishing and deplorable state of affairs when the subcommittee, after painstaking investigation, declares that 281 members of the three upper classes, including the class which was recently graduated, have been guilty of hazing and on trial could be legally expelled from the academy and the naval service.

It will strike the public as an inexcusable anomaly that a custom so obnoxious and degrading of the law could persist without being promptly exposed and punished by the naval authorities on their own motion. For nothing but the circumstance that a midshipman happened to die as the result of injuries in one of the numerous fights brought the truth to public notice. These offenses, except in rare cases, have not been reported or even taken cognizance of by the academy officers, and they acted at last only when compelled by outside circumstances.

The subcommittee's conclusions, while they deal gingerly with this phase, nevertheless implicate the officers in charge of the naval school in gross indifference and some of them in the actual connivance with the offending haz-

ers. It is impossible that the violations could go on without the knowledge of the officers in immediate charge and especially the surgeons who have failed in their duty to report the obvious truth. The showing puts in most unfavorable light, not merely the conduct of the young midshipmen in whom a certain tendency to excess is to be expected, but also the whole array of naval officers in charge of the Annapolis academy.

A DEPLORABLE CATASTROPHE.

The collision of street railway cars at South Omaha, inflicting death and serious injury upon the passengers, is a most deplorable catastrophe and the sympathy of the public goes out to the unfortunate victims. Whether the accident was avoidable or not may never be determined, but, irrespective of this, it emphasizes the need of greater caution in the operation of the street railway service and impresses the public with the great responsibilities resting upon the motormen and conductors. That the car crews on the street railway must be constantly alive to the protection of passengers against passing dangers is too often taken as a matter of course. The comparative freedom of Omaha from bad street railway accidents in contrast with many other cities of its size attests the carefulness in general of Omaha motormen and supports the assertion that on the whole they will measure up well above the average. In this particular case, however, there should be a thorough investigation that will disclose all the facts. Such an investigation is due to the street railway company, as well as to the poor people who were innocently caught in the accident.

ADVICE FROM A HIGH SOURCE.

The letter written by Secretary of War Taft in acknowledgement of the complimentary election of President Roosevelt and himself to honorary membership in a republican club organized to promote reform within the party in Cincinnati, contains pertinent advice, which applies also in some other cities. In the first place, Secretary Taft says that theoretical reform, while all right in its way, will not accomplish results except through practical politics, and that practical politics involves co-operation with all those who have the same ends in view.

"The members of such a club as the Roosevelt club," he continues, "although an orthodox republican organization, may very well decline to support the candidates of its own party if such candidates are plainly lacking in the qualifications, according to the standard they may properly set for the selection of public officers. Still, it is well to use a wise discretion in bolting. The important question will always be, what you can secure and exercise the greatest influence for good and you cannot afford in practical politics (and there are no other politics), to ignore the strength which adheres to regularly given you as a club in working reforms within the party. The conduct of municipal affairs has no natural relation to the conduct of national affairs, and while it does not seem possible to eliminate from municipal elections the system of nominating party tickets, there ought certainly to be cultivated a much wider spirit of independence at municipal elections in the scrapping of improper candidates selected by either party than is likely ever to be exercised with reference to state or national elections."

We may safely say that Secretary Taft voices the sentiment of a growing number of republicans everywhere. The mission of the republican party is to secure good government, and if bad men are to be put into office, it is better to let the other party have the odium.

Private advice to The Bee two weeks ago announced that the reactionary officeholders at St. Petersburg were using the "Black Hundred" to incite riots throughout the empire with the object of proving that the Russian people are unfit for self-government. Today's press dispatches state that Count Witte has discovered the plot and demands the abolition of the "Black Hundred." This will probably be the real test of strength before the meeting of the "Douma" as despite imperial decrees the representatives of the reactionaries in the provinces, relying upon the power of the local representatives of the "Black Hundred," have felt able to continue repressive measures, and the loss of their secret assistants might compel them to fall into line with the progressives.

The United States court has acceded to the motion to advance the Nebraska railroad tax cases to the extent of setting them for hearing at the first of the October term. That is a considerable concession, particularly as it is a recognition of the great public importance of the issues involved. A speedy and final decision on the question whether the railroads are subject to taxation on their property or whether they are other property owners, or whether they have a right to pay or refuse to pay their taxes as they please, will clear up the situation materially and give the next legislature a chance to fortify the law in case the railroads should succeed in picking flaws in it.

What franchises may be worth on the market is indicated anew by the consequences of the supreme court decision against the contentions of the Chicago street railways with reference to the expiration of their franchise rights in the streets of that city, the decision having been followed by a slump in the stock quotations of amazing proportions. According to Chicago dispatches, local financiers estimate the franchise value wiped off the slate by the supreme court at between \$600,000 and \$850,000,000. If the street rail-

way franchises in a single city like Chicago could be worth that much, how much are the steam railway franchises worth for the whole state of Nebraska? But when the State Board of Assessment meets shortly to fix the valuation of railroad property for taxation, we will have representatives of the railroads reappearing with an attempt to make the board believe that franchise rights, worth millions upon millions for capitalization purposes, are worth little or nothing as property subject to taxation.

Evidence is accumulating that the police club is being sprung with a vengeance in the interest of Police Commissioner Broatch upon denizens of the Third ward, who are being arrested or released from arrest, according as their political activities are exerted against or for the Dennison-Moise candidate. From what is being done now in this direction, they can judge what they may expect in case Broatch should by accident reach the mayor's chair and inaugurate a reign of terror as of old in the whole police court jurisdiction.

Senator Rayner of Maryland sounds a new note in the debate on the Hepburn bill, but his mild sarcasm will appear as commendation if Senator Tillman really "turns himself loose" when he makes his formal speech.

Full Down Your Face. Cleveland Plain Dealer. To laugh at the United States senate would seem to be almost as irreverent as to poke fun at the pyramids.

Sleeping on Duty. New York Tribune. The continued agitation of schemes for putting to death the hopelessly ill, the deformed and the idiotic suggests that there is work for the foot killer which he is not performing.

Just the Thing for Spring. Pittsburgh Dispatch. The arrival of Admiral Sigsbee's fleet in Turkish waters is an indication that the United States will soon be in receipt of another invoice of the most charming presents from the sultan.

The Tap Root of Evil. Philadelphia Record. President Eliot of Harvard university, makes a safe and sage observation when he declares that if corporations were not obliged to pay dividends on watered stock they could afford at once to give cheaper service to the public and higher wages to their employees. The problem for statesmen and financiers is to find a method of squeezing out the water.

Senatorial "Innocence" on Exhibition. Springfield Republican. Senator Scott of West Virginia seems to have been indulging in a Rip Van Winkle sleep. He takes the railroad side in the rate control controversy, and in his other involvement in "should railroads be merged attempt to limit competition and thereby lessen the opportunities for commerce, I, for one, would insist on radical action." He affects to be blissfully ignorant of any developments among railroads during the last twenty years or so, through merger, common ownership, consolidation of lines and other consolidating devices, to limit the play of competitive forces in transportation. When he does wake up to the situation, he says he will "insist on radical action." But we doubt it.

Sad Instance of Snatchings. Chicago Chronicle. In the death of former Speaker D. B. Henderson we are reminded of the sad injustice there may be in a suspicion. When Mr. Henderson, at the height of his popularity, refused re-election to congress and, through merger, common ownership, consolidation of lines and other consolidating devices, to limit the play of competitive forces in transportation. When he does wake up to the situation, he says he will "insist on radical action." But we doubt it.

VERY MUCH ALIVE. Bryan Men Must Hurtle If They Would Head Off Hearst. Washington Star. This is the latest from Lincoln: "Four hundred and fifty of the flower of Nebraska democracy, including practically every man of name in the state, participated in a dollar dinner here tonight. The object of the gathering was to organize for what the leaders insist is certain to be a victorious campaign, and incidentally, the speakers boasted William Jennings Bryan as the proper man for the democracy to nominate for president two years hence."

Here is the right spirit. Mr. Bryan's neighbors are watchful of his interests. He is far, far from home, and giving his attention to Oriental peoples and their customs. He is not, it is true, entirely out of touch with his country, and probably follows by letter and newspaper, what is going on here in his absence. But such intelligence is meager, and necessarily old when he receives it, and hence, in a sense, he is at a disadvantage when we consider what is going on in the field of politics and practical making for 1906. It is pleasant, therefore, to observe that his faithful supporters in his own neck of woods are thoroughly alive and resolved to keep his flag flying. That is right.

Is the contest within the democratic party narrowing down between Mr. Bryan and Mr. Hearst? It looks that way. Bryan has never fought each other. Mr. Hearst did not inaugurate his campaign for the nomination in 1904 until it was well understood everywhere that Mr. Bryan would not seek it. The field was clear so far as Mr. Bryan was concerned, and Mr. Hearst in his canvass for delegates antagonized the influence in the east which in the two previous campaigns had opposed Mr. Bryan. While he did not support him, Mr. Bryan did not oppose Mr. Hearst; and what he did in pleading for a platform which should hold the party together, he should do the Chicago and Kansas City platforms was in line with what Mr. Hearst as a candidate was standing for.

Things, however, have changed somewhat. Mr. Hearst has been making no little headway in the last few months, and is no longer a "jerk" in public affairs. His wallet may still be in evidence, but it is not the cry of his enemies as it once was. He has gathered around him a coterie of experienced workers and organizers, and they are all very active. They have not waited to hear what might be Mr. Bryan's employer, and in every section of the country are busy in his behalf.

This Mr. Bryan's neighbors seem to have noticed, and hence the dollar dinner at Lincoln, which was the object of the meeting. Let them, then, be up and doing. With a heart for any good cause, still pursuing. Keep talking Willie's loom.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot. Elderly clerk in the government service in Washington are threatened by a committee of the house of representatives with a reduction of salaries as a penalty for the offense of being burdened with years. They are not charged with incompetency or inability to do their day's stint, but they are guilty of hanging on to their jobs and thus obstruct the admission of new material in the departments, the committee thinks there is a superabundance of old men in the departments and something must be done to secure new blood. Hence the committee has formulated a plan for enforced retirement at the age of 65 years. It is calculated that it now costs the government about \$2,000,000 annually to keep on its pay rolls clerks who are fast approaching the age of more than 70. It is to make this saving in public expenditure, and also to increase the efficiency of the departmental service that the new plan is being worked out. There will be no pensions, for the aged department clerks unless the clerks themselves provide such pensions by voluntary annual contributions to a fund for that purpose. The new policy is not to be put in force against the aged clerks now in the service, but a date is set a few years hence for the new law to be put in operation and all clerks who enter the public service after that date will do so with the full knowledge that they must retire without pay on reaching the age of 65. It is expected there will be a lively contest over the question when it is brought into the house as an amendment to the legislative appropriation bill.

It requires a great deal of perseverance on the part of the experts employed in the redemption division of the treasury department to ascertain the original value and genuineness of the badly disfigured bills sent in for redemption. But they are well posted in the matter and are seldom if ever imposed upon. The regulations of the department require that before a mutilated bill can be redeemed at least three-fifths of the bill shall be delivered to the treasury. The expert has a piece of glass the size of the bill. This is divided into forty squares, and he laid over the bill to be redeemed if the remnants fill twenty-five squares. Burned money, and bills that have been gnawed by mice are the hardest to work on. The mice-chewed bills require great patience and care. Each of the pieces is carefully laid out on a flat, hard surface, and the assistance of strong glasses magnified so that it can be placed in a proper position with regard to the others. The experts have a copy of every bill that has ever been issued by the government. These are used as models as soon as enough of the bill has been laid out to describe the features. No bill is reported to the treasury department in a condition which has made it impossible to straighten it out and establish its character beyond doubt. Nor have the experts ever been obliged to work on a bill longer than the eight hours of the working day.

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot. Elderly clerk in the government service in Washington are threatened by a committee of the house of representatives with a reduction of salaries as a penalty for the offense of being burdened with years. They are not charged with incompetency or inability to do their day's stint, but they are guilty of hanging on to their jobs and thus obstruct the admission of new material in the departments, the committee thinks there is a superabundance of old men in the departments and something must be done to secure new blood. Hence the committee has formulated a plan for enforced retirement at the age of 65 years. It is calculated that it now costs the government about \$2,000,000 annually to keep on its pay rolls clerks who are fast approaching the age of more than 70. It is to make this saving in public expenditure, and also to increase the efficiency of the departmental service that the new plan is being worked out. There will be no pensions, for the aged department clerks unless the clerks themselves provide such pensions by voluntary annual contributions to a fund for that purpose. The new policy is not to be put in force against the aged clerks now in the service, but a date is set a few years hence for the new law to be put in operation and all clerks who enter the public service after that date will do so with the full knowledge that they must retire without pay on reaching the age of 65. It is expected there will be a lively contest over the question when it is brought into the house as an amendment to the legislative appropriation bill.

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Some years ago General Grosvenor was a member of the committee on rivers and harbors of the house, and this story is told of how he accommodated a newspaper friend. In those days there was a stronger pressure than at present among the correspondents to describe the advances in the river and harbor bill, so that every man who had a friend on the committee was expected to "lay down" on him and get the different items. The year of which this story is told the committee as usual tied itself up and agreed that it would not make any features public until the bill was reported to the house. But as usual some members "leaked." A man from the far west proposed the Pacific coast items and one or two other large items enough to make it appear that the bill was getting out. These items were turned over to a man who knew the general and who was expected to "give up," but the newspaper man was persistent, pointing out how nearly every man on the committee had "taken care of his friends," and that it was not right for the general to allow his friends to get left. The outcome was that the young man got his general to sign the bill and to help out all his friends who were in the plot.

The next morning there was a stormy meeting in the committee on rivers and harbors. General Grosvenor opened the ball with a denunciation of those who had made much of a pretense of secrecy and yet gave out everything pertaining to their section of the bill, and the main features of the bill, as well as whole sections had been made public, and he knew they were accurate because the newspaper men had shown him the figures. The committee had seldom received such a lecture as General Grosvenor gave them, and a few who had been guilty of "leaking" a few items to friends were reprimanded that they were not as faithful and virtuous as the Ohio representative. They resolved to follow in his footsteps in the future, and many of them did so. Whenever there is trouble over a "leak" in the committee every member now tries to get his indignant protest in first. General Grosvenor will be missed by the newspaper men of Washington, as well as by his colleagues, for he was a good "news" man.

The library of congress now contains 1,344,618 books, 66,352 pieces of music, 18,724 maps and 2,142 dot charts, according to the annual report of the librarian, Herbert Putnam, just presented to congress. The library gained 83,961 books and about 60,000 pictures and pieces of music during the last year. There were bought 22,998 books, 14,845 were received by gift, 11,753 by copyright and 4,674 gained by exchange with foreign governments.

Representative Longworth visited the senate one day this week. Fearing the ordeal of congratulations likely to occur he came in very quietly and was well within the chamber before he was seen. Senator Keane was quick to offer his congratulations and after him came a dozen more senators. Longworth got red under the volley of remarks that fell upon him. Just as the incident was at the height of its interest the door opened again and in came Prince Cupid of Hawaii. "Longworth is here," said Keane, "and Cupid came also." The next moment the young son-in-law of the president was making a hasty flight back toward the south end of the capitol.

Down in South Carolina they are unusually solicitous for the personal comfort of Uncle Joe Cannon. Several articles of personal use and adornment have recently come to the speaker from that state, and yet South Carolina is not satisfied. That the outfit of clothing, which began with a homespun suit and has been steadily growing more complete, Editor Hemphill of the Charleston News and Courier has decided to send Uncle Joe a pair of real old-fashioned fancy oxford boots. And to make the present the more thoroughly representative he has asked for contributions of 1 cent. He has limited the subscription list to republicans, and his notification to Uncle Joe of what he is doing says that by that means the boots will be a gift from the entire republican party of the state.

In fact, Mr. Hemphill is a little doubtful of there being enough republicans in South Carolina at 1 cent apiece to make up 1700 necessary to raise the price of the boots, but he says that if that lamentable condition of his proves to be well founded he will cheerfully make up the deficit.

WALTHAM WATCHES. Ask your jeweler for a watch with a Waltham movement, and insist on it. "The Perfected American Watch," an illustrated book of interesting information about watches, free upon request. AMERICAN WALTHAM WATCH COMPANY, WALTHAM, MASS.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Considering his finish the ground hog is not a discredited prophet. The totem will cut some more ice all right, all right—next summer. Richard Olney has been appointed rector of the Smithsonian institution in Washington for a term of six years.

The Indianapolis confectioner's clerk who dislocated his right arm in the course of a series of paroxysmic sneezes probably holds the record. It is by a vote of 80 to 8 that the lower branch of the Ohio legislature passes a bill creating a state railroad commission, and giving this commission power to fix rates on steam and interurban street railways and power to enforce its decrees in mandamus proceedings.

Dr. J. W. Beede of Indiana university, who has studied the upper carboniferous and permian formations from Nebraska to Texas, has been engaged to take charge of the detailed mapping of the permian formations of Kansas next summer for the university geological survey of Kansas.

Because the men who make the Chicago directory employ nonunion printers, the Chicago Federation of Labor is said to have instructed 30,000 union men in that city to describe themselves as "John Smith, promoter," when the agents of the directory company come round for information.

In Italy the woman voter has made her appearance and, as there is no law prohibiting women from voting, the authorities have admitted her claim that she has a right to a polling booth. The woman is Beatrice Sacchi, holder of a doctor's degree and a professorship at Mantua. She is the first woman to obtain political rights in Italy.

Earl Grey, governor general of Canada, will be the guest of honor at the pilgrim's dinner to be given in New York on Saturday, March 31. This will be the first public entertainment of a governor general of the Dominion anywhere in this country. Secretary Root and other members of the administration, as well as Sir Mortimer Durand, the British ambassador, will also attend the dinner.

RECLAIMING DESERT LANDS.

Immediate and Satisfactory Returns from Canals Constructed. Leslie's Weekly. According to an official of the geological survey, in the three years since the federal government organized its reclamation service seventy-seven miles of main irrigation canals of river size have been built, with others of smaller dimensions, constructed within the last twenty-five years, make a total of irrigation canals in the United States long enough to span the earth twice and representing an outlay of \$90,000,000. "Every year," we are told, "the area reached by these canals returns a harvest valued at more than \$100,000,000, with a population of 2,000,000, dwelling in harmony and content, where only a short time ago a wilderness or a desert reigned." It is beyond question that no investment of government funds has yielded such large, immediate and satisfactory returns as the money expended for irrigation purposes in the far west. No one except those who have visited such sections of the union as Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and southern California can realize what irrigation has already done and what its extension means for the future of these regions, where often for eight months of the year not a drop of rain falls. Southern California—now one of the richest, most fertile and populous sections of the United States—would still be, for the most part, an arid and uninhabitable country were it not for its vast systems of irrigation. The saying

LIGHT AND BRIGHT.

"He talks a great deal about his family tree." "That may account for the fact I've heard about his family past."—Philadelphia Ledger. At his bold words the maiden flushed. "You are positively awful," she murmured. "It appears to me," he said, "that you yourself are awfully positive."—Cleveland Leader.

"What did that new arrival want?" asked St. Peter. "He asked me for the tale I've heard about his family past."—Philadelphia Ledger. At his bold words the maiden flushed. "You are positively awful," she murmured. "It appears to me," he said, "that you yourself are awfully positive."—Cleveland Leader.

"You say your first speech made several converts?" "Yes," answered Senator Borah, regretfully, "from my side of the question to the opposition."—Washington Star.

Miss Acum—in Freudy Fathed working for a living? "Yes," answered Senator Borah, regretfully, "from my side of the question to the opposition."—Washington Star.

"How does the razor feel, sir?" asked the barber. "I'm sure I don't know," replied the victim, "but if I has any feeling at all it should be a sense of shame."—Philadelphia Press.

Bourke Cockran, apropos of St. Patrick's day, told an Irish story. "There was an Irish schoolmaster," he said, "who was examining a class in geography one day. 'Now, my lad,' he said to a clever little chap, 'tell us what latitude is.' 'The clever little chap smiled and winked. 'Latitude?' he said. 'Oh, sir, there's a none of that in Ireland. Sure, the English don't allow us any, sir.'"—New York Tribune.

SYMPTOMS.

W. D. Nesbit in Chicago Tribune. If your wife is growing restless; if she tentatively tugs at the dingy window curtains; if she studies all the rugs; if she talks about wall paper; if she views the window panes with an eye that seems tarnished by a lot of streaks and stains. Then you may as well be patient and as soon as you can get a new wife. For no feeble man can stop her—she will soon clean house. You had better plan for boarding somewhere else a day or two. For the chances are she'll start it with a scrubbing, bustling crew of scullions, butlers and waiters, and the chairs will black the hall. And a lot of dainty china will be put where it will fall. And an aproned, towelled, dragged sight will say she is in your spouse. For the signs of spring are potent—she will soon clean house. You will eat upon the ice box, you will sleep upon the stove. You will slip upon a box of soap and down the stairs will rive. You will find your valued volumes mixed with kitchen pans and pots. For the time you'll be an alien—you and all your little tots. And there'll be a time of trouble, time of shake, and dust, and douse. Till the fever has subsided, she will soon clean house.

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