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WHEN OUT OF TOWN. Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them.

No lack of ginger in the Jamaica situation just now. Governor Swettenham of Jamaica must be in position to appreciate a little first-aid to the injured.

If it were not for the gas tanks what would the poor councilmen do to enlighten their weekly meetings? Wreckless railroading is a dream that will not be realized until reckless railroading has been made impossible.

This dry farming convention ought to interest the farmers along the low lands of the Ohio river about this time. The South Omaha anti-annexationists apparently take the position that they are willing to be persuaded, but not to be forced.

The president wants congress to pass a law against swollen fortunes. A law against stolen fortunes would be more to the point. It may be true that a Chicago bricklayer earns more than a captain of the army, but few army captains have to live in Chicago.

John S. Little, the new governor of Arkansas, is in for a rough row. He had got out of the habit during his ten years' service in congress. In view of the re-election of Senator Bailey of Texas it will behoove anyone on the democratic side of the fence to throw bricks across the rail.

The truck gardeners in the vicinity of Chicago are to form a union. If it is a success the man who eats a non-union cucumber will have to pay the penalty. Senator Foraker leaves the impression that he will favor the presidential nomination almost any Ohio republican who does not weigh 300 pounds.

Dr. Parkhurst says there are twelve men in New York who are the equals of the Twelve Apostles. The doctor should give the names of his eleven colleagues. New York has just abandoned its last horse car line and has awarded a big contract for cedar block paving.

The march of progress is inevitable, even in New York. If those tax cases finally go against the contestants of the Burlington and Union Pacific lawyers "Brer Fox" White of the Northwestern will shake hands with himself again.

The governor of Jamaica explains that his letter was intended to be funny. He has evidently failed to appreciate the difference between being a humorist and being a joker. The American coal output for 1908 was about fifty tons per capita.

Out in North Dakota they are complaining that the per capita of coal like the per capita of cash is not equally distributed. The city council has made an order that after April 1 all street cleaning shall be done in the night time.

It will be up to the electric lighting company to furnish enough light so the street cleaning gang will have no excuse for not seeing the dirt. SWETTENHAM'S "JOKE."

Governor Swettenham's explanation that his insulting letter to Admiral Davis was intended to be "merely jocular" is an aggravation of the original outrage. It amounts to confession that his action is utterly indefensible, even from his own point of view.

When a whole city is overturned by earthquake and in flames, hundreds killed and the survivors maimed, hungry, naked and shelterless, is there time for coarse insults in a "jocular" vein to those who rush spontaneously and eagerly to the rescue, even though they come under the flag of another nation?

SENATOR BAILEY'S CASE. Senator Joseph W. Bailey's re-election has been brought about under circumstances from which he and every other public man might well pray to be delivered.

No man in high office can under existing conditions afford even to expose himself to such suspicion, if nothing but his own safety were to be considered. Bailey's own admissions of his relations to Standard Oil interests inevitably aroused suspicion.

Senator Bailey's case is a signal illustration of the penalty which contempt, to call it by no harsher name, invites. At a primary election in the fall he had been renominated practically without opposition; he was the most popular man in Texas; his admitted abilities had centered state pride in him, and he was the idol of his party.

PUBLIC CONTROL OF PUBLIC LANDS. President Roosevelt's pertinent suggestion to the National Live Stock association of the necessity of government control of the public range may well engage the serious attention of the Denver convention, especially as the president expresses desire to get the association's advice as to the form of such control.

Diversity of opinion, doubtless exists among the delegates on a subject so vexed and complicated. Many of the worst difficulties grow out of abuses under existing land laws which originated in entirely different conditions from those existing in the purely range country.

It goes without saying that every acre of public land suitable for cultivation should be scrupulously guarded for the homesteader. Immense tracts of such land have been notoriously seized for range by frauds made possible by the old land laws and old methods of administering them.

A vital consideration is that a great deal of land now supposed to be fit solely for range will later be found adaptable in one way or another by farming, just as an immense area of the plains country now prosperously cultivated was universally regarded twenty or thirty years ago as utterly hopeless for that purpose.

The joint committee of the legislature charged with the formulation of bills governing the railroad regulation planks in the republican state platform is getting down to business. The promises made in the platform are plain and specific and should permit of no disagreement.

The platform also demands the enactment of a law conferring upon the new railway commission power to prohibit rebates, discriminations and special rates to corporations, persons or localities and to see to it that any and all abuses are corrected and equitable freight and passenger rates obtained for the people.

The advocates of the firemen's double shift want to extend the scope of their bill so that the benefit will be shared not only by the firemen of Omaha, but by the firemen of South Omaha and Lincoln as well.

It is now proposed to authorize the governor to remove any city executive who falls to hold down the lid. The governor already has that power so far as members of the fire and police commissions are concerned and by exercising it would make any additional authority unnecessary.

The guaranty bond companies want themselves limited by law as to the amount of risk they can take in any one case. There is nothing to stop any guaranty bond company from fixing its own rules as to how much risk it will assume without waiting for the aid or consent of the law-makers.

The London Times is to establish news bureaus in Washington and New York. This is encouraging and may lead the Times finally to establish news bureaus in London instead of devoting all its space to "Letters to the Editor."

The members of the house testify their belief in the increased cost of living—as far as their living is concerned. The Morning Before. Blood is thicker than water. That is why American marines have been asked to stand guard by the governor of a British colony.

CORPORATIONS IN POLITICS. Congress has taken a long step toward compliance with a growing public demand by passing the law prohibiting corporations from making contributions to campaign funds in federal elections.

The new law makes it unlawful for any national bank or any corporation organized by authority of any law of congress to make a money contribution for any election and for any corporation to make such contribution for any election at which federal officials are chosen.

Although he is described as being thoroughly contemptuous of his American father-in-law, the duke of Marlborough, it seems, has reconciled himself to accept \$100,000 per year of that person's vulgar, plebeian money. Evidently his grace has no patience with the theory that money can be "taunted."

JAMAICA GINGER. Chicago Post. Swettenham will be sweat'n blood through the British colonial office gets through with him. Chicago Record-Herald. It was a lucky thing for Governor Swettenham that Jeff Davis of Arkansas wasn't the member of the family who was ordered to get out of Jamaica.

KEEP CLOSE TO THE PLATFORM. The joint committee of the legislature charged with the formulation of bills governing the railroad regulation planks in the republican state platform is getting down to business.

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BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE. Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot. In a short time three sides of the national capitol will have public buildings in harmony with the dignity of the central masterpiece.

Senator Stone of Missouri doesn't often speak in the senate, but when he does he is listened to with the closest attention. He delivered a carefully prepared speech on the pending Brownsville affair.

Senator Foraker's speech on the Brownsville affair was especially notable on account of the extreme vigor which characterized its delivery. The Ohioan made the American eagle scream his loudest.

Living in Washington is a man 90 years old, who has passed nearly eighty years here and has never set foot inside the capitol. At the Virginia end of the Aqueduct bridge, across the upper Potomac, is a woman past 80, who, living within half a mile of Washington all her life, has never been in Washington.

The old Washington, who is hale and intelligent, when questioned, that he'd never cared to go inside the capitol. There was no business calling him there. He'd always been perfectly willing to let the folks inside the capitol go their way.

On New Year's day, when the president received the general public, the double line of people eager to grasp his hand curved in two directions out of the White House grounds and upon the streets till 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon, though the reception began at noon.

John Sharp Williams, the democratic leader of the house, and Senator Daniel of Virginia were discussing the fortifications bill while riding in a street car.

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