

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: Charles C. Rosewater, general manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of December, 1906, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Date (1-16) and Circulation figures. Total for the month is 96,200. Less unsold and returned copies, 8,841. Net total, 87,359.

Net total, 87,359. Daily average, 2,882.54.

CHARLES ROSEWATER, General Manager. M. B. HUNGATE, 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.

Senator Dryden is having trouble in securing a renewal of his political life insurance policy.

Henry James has a new novel ready for publication, as soon as it can be translated into English.

Difference in their political affiliations will save the country from a Tillman and Foraker ticket in 1908.

The incident will not be considered closed until Mr. Dooley takes a whack at Governor Swettenham of Jamaica.

The Minnesota courts claim to have discovered that Jim Hill's stock watering tanks were not affected by the recent blizzard.

The Dry Goods Magazine predicts that mankind will soon be wearing paper clothes. That will teach people to go in when it rains.

Cleveland is planning to have the hair of the boys in the public schools cut at the public expense. Just another method of shaving the public.

Railroad men who are using the Panama canal as a stepping stone to better jobs will not complain at the delay in construction of the great waterway.

Senator Hopkins of Illinois threatens to talk the river and harbor bill to death. He is apparently anxious to be known as the Senator Tom Carter of Illinois.

While the cables state that many mules were killed by the earthquake at Kingston, there is evidence that one of the breed escaped and lived to bray over it.

One of the talesmen in the Thaw case informed the court that he had expressed an opinion, but had not formed one. That man was cut out for a diplomat.

Mark Twain is complaining bitterly because he has an attack of the gout. It is evidently the inherited kind, as the average man is proud of an attack of acquired gout.

According to Judge Gaynor of New York the public owns the railroads. In some rural sections the public still goes down to the depot every afternoon to see its train go by.

The deadlock in the Rhode Island legislature would indicate that Senator Aldrich is either indifferent to the selection of his colleague or is less a boss than he has been supposed.

The duchess of Marlborough has given her husband \$100,000 a year to get rid of him. Nothing but lack of the money prevents many other women from following her example.

All advice from Washington seem to agree that Senator-elect Brown made a favorable impression upon his future colleagues. Mr. Brown is surely disappointing those on the back-draft line.

The test suit to determine the constitutionality of the amendments creating the state railway commission voted on at the last election would excite no apprehension except for the fact that the lawyer member of the new commission insists on appearing in court as one of the legal representatives on his side of the case.

THE SOFT COAL CONSPIRACY

The report of the Interstate Commerce commission's investigation of the railroads and the bituminous coal industry opens up a new vista of prosecutions under the commerce and anti-trust laws. That both those laws had been extensively disregarded was long generally suspected, but the mass of evidence now turned over to congress and the Department of Justice goes to show systematic and wholesale violations exceed all expectations.

The monopoly of the results of these investigations, revealing how outrageously unfair have been the practices of the carrier corporations, ought not to be permitted to tire the public of their vast significance, because the struggle to destroy these abuses has yet to be fought to a finish. Bituminous coal is a commodity fundamental in our industrial system. The commission's report marshals an ominous array of proofs that the carrier corporations, instead of performing their legitimate function of transporting this article of prime necessity and universal consumption, have for ten years been in a conspiracy to prevent competition and restrain trade in it, in addition to running the whole gamut of subsidiary or related abuses.

All the big trunk lines are implicated in this showing, covering practically every ton of soft coal mined east of Chicago and far south of the Ohio river. The commission has, with apparent thoroughness, executed the joint resolution of congress ordering it to develop the main facts in the conduct and relations of the carrier corporations and the coal industry. All the detailed evidence is now available for the Department of Justice, which will surely find in them basis for a series of far-reaching prosecutions and remedial proceedings.

ROOT'S CANADIAN SUCCESS

By all accounts Secretary Root has repeated in his "purely social" visit to Canada the remarkable success that marked his tour of the South American capitals. The fiction of social purpose was not necessary, since Canada comprises independent states, and the real object could be frankly avowed. The disguise, indeed, was little more than formal before the secretary started for Ottawa, and it was practically dropped soon after his arrival.

The vital point is to establish on both sides of the 3,000-mile line separating the two peoples conviction of the necessity of thorough adjustment of relations on a friendly basis. Both countries are young, vigorous, ambitious, self-conscious and conscious of enormous future development. Mutual concession is obviously indispensable if their paramount common interests are to be promoted as they should be. All this has been thrown into the foreground by the secretary's tactful policy and by the responsive spirit in which he has been received.

It is apparent, too, that the secretary's intercourse has gone far deeper and dealt with particularly timely matters, of which there are many of the utmost importance pending between the two countries. The view generally accepted in both is warranted that the first great step has been taken toward conclusive disposal of long standing and irritating questions, and particularly of trade relations, on a more liberal and satisfactory basis. At least a better mutual knowledge has been directly acquired of the maximum concessions possible on the main questions, and that is a great advantage. For though the process must yet be formally through the London government as the sovereign, still the Canadians, if they are assured of substantially direct dealing in their own interest, will certainly be disposed to go farther and to accept the result more readily.

What is equally important, the British government must have been informed in advance of the real character and purpose of these interchanges. There appears thus a disposition on all hands to dispose of the long accumulation of unsettled business and difficulties between the two great next-door English speaking nations in the new world, and to do it with an eye to their growing permanent common interests.

NO BONDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES

One of the charter amendments pending at Lincoln proposes to give the mayor and council of Omaha power by unanimous vote to issue bonds and use the proceeds for the payment of current expenses of the city government.

This strikes us as a most vicious proposition. If enacted into law it would vest with officials who spend the money authority to keep on constantly increasing the city's debt without any responsibility to the taxpayers. It would enable them to unload upon a future generation the cost of running the machinery of city government, which should be met out of the current revenues of the municipal treasury.

There is some reason for issuing bonds to pay for erecting buildings, laying pavement and other permanent improvements because the benefits of those improvements will be spread over a long number of years, but to issue bonds for running expenses would make those who are to come after us pay for something from which they can derive no benefit.

The practical working of such a change in the charter can be easily forecasted. The requirement of a unanimous vote of the council to issue such bonds would be no bar, particularly in years just preceding municipal elections. In order to curry public favor and make a record for a low tax rate the mayor and council could

be counted on regularly to reduce the tax levy even below what legitimate demands would warrant and to fill out the funds by selling bonds so as to make a big showing of work accomplished. The bonded debt of the city would be increased year after year and never reduced, while the assets to offset the increasing liabilities would secure no increment beyond that accruing from the natural growth of the city.

It is always a safe plan for every governmental organization to pay as it goes and to cut its garment according to its cloth. No authority should be lodged anywhere to issue bonds to defray current city expenses.

GOVERNOR MAGOON'S DANGER

Notwithstanding the remarkable record he has made as governor of Cuba under the second American occupation, giving apparently perfect satisfaction to the authorities at Washington, latest advices from Havana indicate that our distinguished fellow Nebraskan, Charles E. Magoon, is in danger of forfeiting the respect and confidence of the native Cubans. It must be difficult, of course, for a man of his temperament and training to remember constantly that he is living in Havana and not in Lincoln, but his reputation appears to be menaced by his failure to keep that fact continually in mind.

The governor's first slip came when fire broke out in the governor's palace the other night. The fire department responded promptly, an unusual thing in Cuba, only to be rendered helpless by the sight that met them. Clad in pink pajamas, Governor Magoon was wielding an axe against the partition behind which crossed electric wires had started the blaze. He had an election day sweat up and was cursing his servants without resort to the Spanish language, giving orders and then executing them himself while the astonished natives gaped. The members of the fire department, uniformed like a lot of Georgia colts at a governor's ball, simply refused, or at least failed, to be of service. They could not bring themselves to associate, even at a fire, with an official who so far forgot the rules of Cuban etiquette as to appear at a fire in pink pajamas. Abas Don Carlos Magoon unless he should apologize or offer an acceptable explanation. The outraged firemen returned to quarters and the governor returned to bed.

Instead of explaining, Governor Magoon the following night added a straw that nearly fractured the Cuban camel's spine by ordering a raid of a cock fight, in which the police gathered in such patriots as General Jose Miguel Gomez, presidential candidate of the liberal party; General Monteagudo, General Pina Guerra and ex-Congressman Mendota. All Havana was aroused. The patriots gathered in front of the cigar stores and loudly voiced their protests. It had come to a pretty pass, they insisted, if the regular army of Cuba could not invite a friend into an alley and bet a few plasters on the merits of their gamecocks. It were well, perhaps, for them that the hollowness of the Gringo's promises had been so early ascertained. Instead of guaranteeing peace to the island and offices to the patriots, it was evidently the purpose of The Second Army of Occupation to rob the ragged and rugged patriots of their heaven-authorized entertainment and undermine the very foundation of Cuban independence. Clearly here was ground for another revolution.

Governor Magoon's friends will anxiously await developments, with the hope that he may, by the exercise of wise diplomacy, re-establish himself in the good graces of the Cubans whose dignity he has so grossly outraged.

HARD TIMES FOR LOBBYISTS

The professional lobbyists are not prospering in a single one of the two score states whose legislatures are now sitting. They are everywhere not only under a cloud, but under a ban. In many instances the legislatures promptly undertook measures of a more or less drastic character for banishing or limiting mischievous lobby influence. Such measures cover a wide range of method, but are identical in purpose as a response to a commanding public opinion that professional lobbying is disreputable and perilous to free government.

The similarity of the tactics of the professional gangs that have so long infested the state capitols at this season is suggestive, since all make pretense of injured innocence, of the "right of petition," etc., which, however, deceives nobody. The difference between honest effort to enlighten legislators or to represent legitimate interests claiming attention and that systematic and expert conspiracy organized to befool and corrupt the lawmakers into betrayal of the public is mountain broad, and high, and has aroused the people throughout the country to action for their own protection.

It does not appear that any state, no matter how it may have been heretofore victimized by professional lobby machinations, is disposed to deny fair hearing to any proper interest, or even to those corporations that have been the grossest offenders. But an invincible determination is manifest to make all interests come out into the open so they may be known for what they are and their purposes judged on their merits. Necessarily there can be no place in this process for the mercenary experts whose business it is to play upon the weaknesses, the susceptibilities and the baser element in legislatures.

A material general change for the better is also apparent, although of course no one imagines that profes-

sional lobby work has been wholly abolished. But in all the legislatures the field for the lobbyist's activity has been immensely narrowed. His very presence arouses suspicion and it is no longer safe to have dealings or to be seen with him. And his potency will steadily wane when the fact becomes fixed that his employment to promote any proposal is sure to excite antagonism to it rather than to win it friends.

A Lincoln architect has suddenly discovered that the east wing of the state house is in such a decrepit condition that it is liable to suffer a paralytic stroke at any moment of the day or night. The only way to cure the patient is to have a prescription filled at once for \$20,000 worth of repairs. The strange thing about the diagnosis is that it leaves out of account the imperative necessity of building a new capitol building at an outlay of a million or two million dollars. But perhaps that is to be the second chapter.

Iowa law-makers are waking up to the fact that the railroads in their state, like the railroads in Nebraska, have been almost wholly escaping their just shares of municipal taxes through the loophole of pretended distribution of terminal values. The railroads have been working their tax-shirking game in every state where they have been able to pull the wool over the eyes of the people. The fight for terminal taxation started and waged in Nebraska is sure to have its effects far beyond state lines.

The National Educational association will hold its meeting next summer in Los Angeles. This means that many delegations of distinguished educators will pass through Omaha on their way to or from the convention. Omaha should not let the opportunity pass to secure stop-over privileges on the convention tickets and to take care of those who may accept the invitation to break their journey here.

A bill to make five years' practice at the bar a pre-requisite qualification for a judge on the district bench has gone the way of the bill to require county judges to be lawyers. Why should we insist on having legal talent for judgeships of inferior tribunals when we have a supreme court of real lawyers to correct any mistakes they may make through ignorance of the law?

From the personnel of some of the "anti-annexationists" it is fair to assume that the chief objection to wiping out the imaginary line separating Omaha from South Omaha lies in the danger that it might also wipe out the line of demarcation in the agreement of certain coal, lumber and building supply houses not to invade each other's territory.

Another prize fight has been pulled off in Omaha under the guise of a ten-round boxing contest. The last one resulted in a knockout before the ten rounds were completed, while the present exhibition was declared a draw. These are simply little reminders lest we forget that Omaha has a cowboy mayor.

The Kansas City stock yards people thought they turned a neat trick when they located their yards right on the line between the two states of Missouri and Kansas. It turns out that they simply laid the foundation for an excuse for two legislatures to swoop down on them at one and the same time.

Certain sensitive Kentuckians have taken down their mail boxes rather than receive mail at the hands of a colored letter carrier. The seriousness of the matter is mitigated by the fact that the mail of persons of that kind can not be very important, anyway.

"If the president is satisfied with the Foraker resolution on the Brownsville affair, I will not interfere," says Senator Bacon of Georgia. Imagination halts at picturing what might have happened if Senator Bacon had decided to interfere.

The ice man does not know whether to smile or frown at the weather man these days. The recollection of a short ice supply at high prices almost overshadows the joy of a full crop at moderate prices.

Steps to Higher Jobs. Indianapolis News.

Eventually, it may be that the larger Panama canal jobs are quite as good stepping stones to important and remunerative positions as are the cabinet portfolios.

Fuel of the Future. Washington Post.

Congressmen from the northwest could help their constituents to-day by a supply of fuel for next winter by sending them their full quota of Congressional Records and public documents.

A Jersey Tragedy. New York Sun.

The Hon. John Fairfield Dryden is chained to his rock. Will anybody release him? Must he be devoured by the Colobite monsters? It is the saddest sight since Andromeda; and that lady had a "gentleman friend" to rescue her.

Too Numerous to Mention. Baltimore News.

When Secretary Root was asked by a Canadian interviewer whether questions of international interest had been discussed during his conference with the heads of the Canadian government, he replied: "We talked of a great many things." This assertion will be received with full faith and credit.

TIPS ON THE LEGISLATURE

South Omaha Democrat: The members of this legislature seem to be railroad crazy.

Friend Telegraph: The legislature seems to be getting down to business and we believe that every pledge made their constituents will be redeemed before that body adjourns.

Rushville Recorder: The World-Herald seems anxious that all reform legislation proposed by the legislature shall be a failure. If we have the situation sized up right, the republican platform will not only be carried out, but our constituents will be wonderfully surprised and disappointed.

Pierce Call: If the present legislature fails to redeem the republican pledges of last fall this session then the Call will advocate turning the whole blamed business over to the democrats two years ago and give them a try at it. It will go together and advocate the election of democratic members to the legislature.

Grand Island Independent: The Nebraska legislature will probably reiterate the demand of this state for the adoption by congress of an amendment to the constitution calling for the election of senators by popular vote. It probably isn't necessary, but the demand can not be made too often nor too strongly.

Albion News: If the farmers don't get what they want from the present legislature it will be their own fault. There are forty-three farmers in the house and seven in the senate. The lawyers usually predominate in numbers in the legislative halls, but they only number nineteen in both branches of the present legislature.

Neleigh Leader: Nebraska's legislature promises well in the fulfillment of all promises made in the republican state platform. A large amount of preliminary work has been done, many bills introduced and referred to committees for report that will bring results before very long. Lobbyists are no longer given a cordial welcome at the state capitol, but every effort will be given a respectful hearing by the commission.

Nebraska City Tribune: The state legislature has repudiated the "mill levy" idea sprung by the Lancaster people, who are always on the alert to get their hands in the state treasury up to the elbow, and it had figured this as an "easy" way to do it. The people are entitled to know just what is appropriated in money for the various semi-private schemes that interest special interests and the defeat of the "mill levy" idea will enable them to do this.

Kearney Hub: The measures adopted by the Nebraska legislature to shut out and keep out the professional lobbyist have been pretty effective thus far and will doubtless continue to do the business during the remainder of the session. Legislative halls must of necessity be lonely without the lobbyist, and the quietude of the senate chamber, of representative halls and the roundabouts must at times be painful after the buzz and bustle of the Lindell hotel, for instance.

St. Paul Republican: Both houses of the legislature are wasting valuable time on the lobby problem. No power on earth can prevent a free American citizen from performing the functions of a lobbyist, and it is impossible to distinguish officially between the corrupt agent and the "free and untrammeled adviser." All the legislators can do is to bar the gentry from the doors of the house and senate and turn a deaf ear to their pleadings elsewhere. Any further action would be unbecomingly pure and simple.

Albion Star-Journal: Our people are not very well pleased with the outline of the proposed new judicial district. It takes in Brown, Keya Paha, Rock, Holt, Boyd, Wheeler, Garfield, Loup and Blaine. That makes a very compact district, and as the geographic situation of the question is considered, but think how a judge would ever get over his territory. Just take a look at the way the railroads run and you will see how very impractical the plan is. It is as bad as the days of George Washington, when railroads had not been invented. It would be the rankest injustice to inflict such a district on these people.

Columbus Journal: Much of the news from the legislature indicates that the lawmakers are endeavoring to write good measures for the people. Some prospective statutes are to compel telephone companies to connect with other companies at the same point; child labor law; terminal taxation of railroad property for municipal purposes; a maximum freight rate; to compel freight trains to carry passengers; to prevent the enjoining of railroad taxes until the taxes have been passed by the railway commission with power to regulate railroad and telephone rates; to prevent discrimination between localities by making lower prices in favor of one.

Columbus Telegram (dem.): In the late campaign the republican leaders promised the people that if a republican legislature should be elected they would be passed on to drive the paid lobbyists away from the state capitol. Well, the fake reformers had a chance to redeem that promise last Wednesday. Senator Patrick's anti-lobby bill, which was right in line with republican promises, capped up for consideration, and what you suppose the republican senate did with that bill? Passed it, of course. Not much! Seventeen republican senators voted against the bill and killed it dead under Governor Mickey's political prospects. Score victory number one for reform.

Beatrice Sun: In the enactment of a child labor law the legislature should exercise a little care or it will promote an abuse greater than the evil legislated against. There is nothing more degrading to the human race than the employment of children in the mines, in the work of industry in tender years than to be raised in idleness. We see the effects of idleness on every street corner. Every idleness on every street corner. Every idleness on every street corner. Every idleness on every street corner.

Fremont Tribune: Some kind of a law prohibiting the working of children of tender age to the detriment of their health, their education and their morals is demanded in Nebraska and should be passed and enforced in every state of the union. But that a law prohibiting these evils and not giving rise to others of a serious nature must be one skillfully drafted goes without saying. Parents should have confidence in the young that they are taught the lesson of industry. It is best physically for them that they have sufficient exercise to develop their constitutions in proper manner. But it is a crime and shame upon civilization that the little ones at a delicate age should be sent down into mines, confined in factories with untidy surroundings and denied opportunities for education. And far from that, a prime object is to work their children at too severe labor at a tender age. The bill before the legislature is to correct these things. When it is so drafted as to do so without working other injuries it should be speedily passed.

The Auditor of Public Accounts of Nebraska

Examines, counts and verifies the securities and ledger assets, including registered bonds, mortgages, loans to policy holders, notes, cash and deposits in bank and deposits with the State of Nebraska, and certifies all correct. Also examines the annual statement, including income, disbursements, ledger assets and resources, and certifies all correct, and attaches his signature and official seal.

Three-Quarters of a Million Dollars Assets.

The Official Certificate

BANKERS RESERVE LIFE COMPANY

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Ledger, Cash and Bank Balances, Dec. 31, 1905. \$ 500,497.91

Table showing Income During Year 1906: Premiums Collected \$540,412.75; Interest Received on Invested Securities 28,505.40; Premiums Paid in Advance and Policy Fees 1,580.23; Total \$1,086,056.28

DISBURSEMENTS DURING YEAR 1906. To Policy Holders: For Claims by Death \$43,500.00; Dividends Paid 37,575.81; Surrender Values, Premium Notes 22,125.31

Table showing Total Paid Policy Holders: State Licenses, Fees and Taxes 6,458.27; Re-insurance Premiums Paid Other Companies 6,481.39; Medical Examination and Inspections 9,850.17; Salaries, Officers and Employees 24,000.50; Rent, Advertising, Printing and Postage 10,860.11; Exchange, Express, Freight, Phone and Tel. 2,110.99; Legal, Office and Investment Expenses 2,384.74; Agency and Renewal Collection Expenses 11,380.20; Commissions and Compensation Mgrs. and Agts. 147,000.80; All other Disbursements 3,527.27; Total \$27,292.56

LEDGER ASSETS DECEMBER 31, 1906. Invested as Follows: Registered County, Municipal and School Bonds \$323,285.20; First Mortgage Loans on Improved Real Estate 274,100.00; Loans to Policy Holders on Policies in Force 72,226.47; Renewal Premium Notes 35,171.03; First Premium Notes 35,171.03; Cash in Office 63.52; Cash in Banks to Credit of Company 53,714.08; Agents' Debit Balances 203.43; Total \$1,086,056.28

RESOURCES DECEMBER 31, 1906. Registered County, Municipal and School Bonds \$323,285.20; First Mortgage Loans on Improved Real Estate 274,100.00; Loans to Policy Holders on Policies in Force 72,226.47; Renewal Premium Notes 35,171.03; Cash in Office 63.52; Cash in Banks to Credit of Company 53,714.08; Accrued Interest on Securities 9,004.10; Premiums in Process of Collection and Deferred 7,221.35; Agents' Debit Balances 203.43; Furniture and Fixtures 3,818.38; Gross Assets \$ 778,807.36

ASSETS NOT ADMITTED. Premiums Paid in Advance \$ 1,529.23; Furniture and Fixtures 3,818.38; Total Admitted Assets \$ 773,459.93

LIABILITIES DECEMBER 31, 1906. Net Mean Reserve on All Policies in force computed on the Actuaries' Table of Mortality with 4 per cent Interest \$614,806.00; Death Losses Reported or Unpaid - NONE; SURPLUS, Assigned and Unassigned 158,653.93; Total \$ 773,459.93

E. M. Searle, Jr., Auditor Public Accounts. J. L. Pierce, Insurance Deputy. STATE OF NEBRASKA—INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the foregoing statement of the Bankers Reserve Life Company of Omaha, Nebraska, including income, disbursements, ledger assets and resources, as shown by the books of the Company December 31st, 1906, have been carefully examined and found correct by the State Examiners of Nebraska.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused my official seal to be affixed at the City of Lincoln, this 12th day of January, A. D. 1907.

E. M. SEARLE, JR., Auditor of Public Accounts. JOHN L. PIERCE, Insurance Deputy.

WESTERN POLICIES FOR WESTERN PEOPLE GUARANTEED BY WESTERN SECURITIES HAS BECOME A FIXED PRINCIPLE.

BASCOM H. ROBISON, President.

PERSONAL NOTES. Governor Jeff Davis of Arkansas finds ex-Governor Mickey as a lover of freedom. He secured a record of 1,778 penitentiary convicts turned loose in two years.

Governor Swettenham is described as 61 years old, with the physical energy and vigor of a man of 30, and it might have been added: "With the ebullience of a boy of 10."

Mr. Carnegie is reported to be willing to put up \$200,000 for a ten-year lease of life. Strange to say, no guarantee company jumped at the risk. Father Time isn't saying a word.

The correspondent of a southern paper which encourages originality of expression wrote: "The only Aldrich, the nifty Knox and the suave Spooner will lick the fighting Foraker to a finish."

In Massachusetts it has been held unlawful to shoe a fire department horse on Sunday. Perhaps the learned judge has no property that a Sunday conflagration would be calculated to damage.

Senator Tillman is not the only man who has just failed as a humorist. A newly married husband of Bloomfield, N. J., ventured to perpetrate some jokes about his bride's cooking, and she had him arrested.

Few men have had the experience of John McGrogan, who died this week at Paterson at the age of 84. He was hanged by Confederate guerrillas over forty years ago, but was cut down in time to live to a ripe old age.

"Senator Foraker did not answer a single point I made," declared Senator Lodge to a friend after the recent Lodge-Foraker clash. "That's easy," said Foraker, hearing of Lodge's remark: "Lodge didn't make any points."

Changing the Constitution. Washington Post.

The lawmakers of today may be as great as those who framed the constitution, and there may be just as much patriotism to enlighten and inform this ability. But it is a question whether the public reposes enough confidence in the patriotism and legal ability of its lawmakers to charge them with the duty of "improving" on the work of Hamilton, Madison and their colleagues. As for "changing conditions," there is no change in the fundamentals of justice, truth and right. Nor should there be any change in the fundamental structure of the government. If the reformer who hankers for a change in the constitution would turn their energies to the improvement of abuses, which can be cured by strict and honest adherence to the constitution, they would discover that there is a good deal of vitality left in that old instrument.

TRIFLES LIGHT AS AIR. "Mrs. Nutch expected when she brought her daughter out she'd be quite a society girl, but the society leaders took no notice of her at all."

"Ab, nipped her hopes in the bud, eh?" Philadelphia Press.

"The Massachusetts Board of Health wants the barbers to wash their hands more frequently. Good idea, isn't it?"

"Guess so, but I never notice my barber's hands. It's enough for me to know that he eats onions." Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"See here. That horse you sold me runs away, kicks, bites, strikes and tries to tear down the stable at night. You told me that if I never notice my partner with him for \$1,000."

"Well, you won't." Philadelphia Inquirer.

"Your speech elicited great applause," said the friend.

"Yes," answered Senator Foraker, "it's remarkable to see how easy it is to elicit three cheers from a man who wouldn't give \$1 to the campaign fund." Washington Star.

Mrs. Griggs—So you managed to get to the bargain counter for me. Did you see anything real good there?

Griggs—Yes; I caught a glimpse of myself in a mirror.—Boston Transcript.

The Study club was reading about Constantine, and had come to the circumstance of his having a thousand skulls.

"Will Mrs. Ultra-Mural," said the leader of the day, "kindly tell us what she infers from this?"

"Why," said Mrs. Ultra-Mural, "it would seem that the emperor must have lived in a very remote suburb, or else he didn't possess the despotic power we have sometimes supposed."—Puck.

TOMMY'S COMPLAINT. Puck.

Father's got the 'frash-air' crase, and mother's got it, too.

And I don't know if I can stand this Bloomin' frash-air through.

We haven't any furnace fire, 'cause father says as 'forever.

A fire is unessential, so we warm with his hot air.

He gets up early ev'ry mornin' an' thaws out both the pots.

And then goes up in our spare room an' does some scrubbin'.

The windows are left up all night, an' in the mornin' he gush!

I have to crack the log up in the pitcher when I wash.

An' mother, too, she's just as 'bid, she walks from 7 till 4.

And then comes back an' suits at some-thin' hangin' on the door.