

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 April, 1907, was as follows:

1.....	33,670	17.....	35,090
2.....	34,090	18.....	35,090
3.....	34,110	19.....	35,010
4.....	34,290	20.....	35,430
5.....	34,330	21.....	35,390
6.....	34,330	22.....	35,090
7.....	34,300	23.....	35,390
8.....	34,380	24.....	35,430
9.....	34,500	25.....	35,470
10.....	34,500	26.....	35,430
11.....	34,410	27.....	35,330
12.....	35,720	28.....	34,600
13.....	35,590	29.....	35,510
14.....	35,490	30.....	35,550
15.....	34,690		
16.....	34,920	Total	1,039,410
Less unsold and returned copies			9,864
Net total.....			1,029,546
Daily average.....			34,284

CHARLES C. ROSEWATER, General Manager.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 30th day of April, 1907.
(Seal) M. H. HUNTER, 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.

Abner Ruef says he went into politics with high ideals. He appears to have got good prices for them.

A physician says goose eggs are healthy. The Washington and St. Louis ball teams seem to be living on them.

Astronomers insist that Mars is again trying to signal the earth. It must wait to know about the price of wheat.

Mr. Bryan does not care who is the next democratic candidate for the presidency, so long as he is recognized as the present one.

The Jamestown exposition is not yet completed, but as the country has already waited 200 years for it, a few weeks more won't count.

One of Sunday's sermons explained why the minister joined the Eagles. Why should the joining of a fraternal order require explanation?

Abner Ruef says he never took a cent of money dishonestly. Reports indicate that Abner would not take anything smaller than a dollar.

Howard Gould and his wife admit that they have been just as unhappy in their domestic relations as though they had lived in Pittsburgh.

"If we must have a democratic president," says the Philadelphia Inquirer, in opening a long editorial. Somehow interest ceases after that invocation.

Scientists who are searching for a parasite that will destroy the green bug might do a service by finding one that will destroy the speculative bug.

If only a few more public service corporations dig up our streets at one and the same time it will take the pavement repair plant several years to catch up.

It is just possible, of course, that Uncle Adlai Stevenson is the dark horse Colonel Watterson has in his mind for the democratic presidential nomination.

A woman preacher in Chicago says she is going "to try to stop smoking on the streets and all public places." Good. If she must smoke, she should do it at home.

That Connecticut man who claims to have seen a redheaded devil fish which stood on its tail and bled at him should have more respect for the work of the prohibition crusaders.

An Ohio postmaster has resigned because the pay of the office is but 10 cents a day. We have come upon mercenary times when an Ohio man gives up an office, pay or no pay.

Governor Sheldon is disappointing the chronic office seekers. The people will manage to pull through providing he does not disappoint them by backsliding on his platform principles.

J. Hamilton Lewis declares that the democratic nominee next year will be a man whose name is not now considered seriously. This sounds like the formal launching of the J. Ham. Lewis boom.

"A little less vinegar, a little more oil," is Colonel Watterson's molasses for the democratic party. The colonel should know that the democratic party always takes it straight.

WHEAT PROSPECTS AND PRICES.

The spirit of speculation, once liberated, is wont to run riot without regard to facts or reason, and just now the energy formerly devoted to the study and manipulation of the stock market seems to have been turned toward the cotton and wheat fields. In this country the broadest speculation in wheat has been indulged in since the famous Leiter boom of 1898 and the exchanges of the old world have caught the fever. The dollar line has been crossed several times in the movement in each direction and little furies of clouds or sunshine have caused fluctuations that marked the making or losing of fortunes. The game is a merry one and the excitement it causes the players to lose sight of some indisputable facts that must have their bearings, not only on the prospects for the coming crop, but on the prices that it will command.

Both bulls and bears on the grain exchanges of the world have facts to urge in support of their operations. In this country, while the government crop bulletin issued May 2 indicated an injured and retarded crop, later reports show that spring wheat is being replanted in many sections and the acreage promises to be larger than before. Winter wheat is exhibiting its characteristic disposition to "pull up" under favorable weather conditions, and there is a possibility that the total crop for the year may equal that of last year's record breaker. On the other hand, the European crop prospects are most discouraging. Russia, the Balkans, France, Germany and Austria all tell the same story of late seeding on account of excessive rains and cool weather, with indications that the European production will be many hundreds of millions of bushels short of normal. This assures a higher level of prices for export wheat than was secured last year and indicates a strong demand for every bushel of wheat America can spare from domestic demands.

The export factor is important in estimating wheat prices. Europe has been increasing its demands for American wheat since last August. Since August 1, 1906, Europe has taken 114,404,000 bushels of American wheat, as compared with only 76,000,000 in the twelve months preceding. Broomhall estimates that the United Kingdom now has a surplus stock of about 20,000,000 above immediate requirements. The exports of wheat have decreased for a number of years, as the domestic demand has increased at a remarkable rate. In 1902 the United States exported 235,000,000 bushels of wheat, as compared with 97,000,000 bushels in 1906. The domestic consumption of wheat has increased from 467,000,000 bushels in 1903 to 595,000,000 bushels in 1906. With an average crop for the present year—about 660,000,000 bushels—and an average consumption of 510,000,000 bushels, the country could figure upon about 140,000,000 for export, in response to the certain increased demands from foreign countries. With the present prices of spot wheat about 11 cents above the average of a year ago, the wheat grower has nothing to worry about, however much the speculators may be disturbed.

THE SPURNED WEDDING GIFT.

Just to help the rest of the country forget the Corey-Gilman farce—or was it a tragedy?—Pittsburgh has another story that has the distinction at least of being different from the usual run of tales from that town. It appears that Charles M. Schwab has a brother living in Cleveland who is going to be married in June. When a sister married a few weeks ago, Mr. Schwab presented her with a check—certified— for \$2,000,000 as a wedding present, and he announced a few days ago that he would give his brother and sister-in-law to be a similar gift on their wedding day. Now comes the story that the brother and his bride-to-be have spurned the offer and express their determination to lead the simple life and be free from the care and temptations that would beset them if charged with the chaperonage of \$2,000,000.

It is a little difficult to understand why Brother Schwab and his fiancée should adopt such a course. This theoretical simple life business is all right, but a couple of million dollars would come mighty handy around the house with the new furniture to buy and all that expense that counts up like everything in the first days. Their refusal is the more puzzling in view of the fact that they are to make their home in Cleveland. The bride naturally might object to a \$2,000,000 husband if she had to live in Pittsburgh, but as no condition of that kind is attached to the proffered gift, she ought to reconsider her refusal of it.

THE C. O. D. PACKAGE.

The supreme court of the United States has come to the relief of the parched throats in Kansas and other states which have prohibition laws, as well as the thirsty dwellers in cities and towns that have gone "dry" under local option laws. The highest judicial authority in the land has decided that express companies cannot be prevented by state laws from delivering and collecting for intoxicating liquors shipped to consumers in "dry" localities from another state.

The decision was made on a case from Kentucky in which the authorities of a prohibition county sought to restrain an express company from delivering a "C. O. D." package containing intoxicants that had been shipped from Louisville. The Kentucky authorities contended that the act of collecting for the goods made the express company a vendor of liquor and subject to a state law prohibiting such traffic. The express company argued

that it was a common carrier and bound by contract to make collections on C. O. D. packages and that the effort of the Kentucky authorities was an interference with laws governing interstate commerce. The supreme court sustained the contention of the express companies, deciding that its transaction was one of interstate commerce and therefore not subject to state regulation.

This decision will doubtless have some effect upon the enforcement of the law enacted by the late Nebraska legislature to cover this point. In fact, the attention of the lawmakers was at the time directed to the impracticability of any regulation restricting shipment of liquor packages between intra state points that would not prevent similar shipments from points outside the state, and the probability that the only effect would be to force all the business in C. O. D. packages into interstate shipments. In view of the position taken by the court, pressure for federal legislation to make these state laws effective may be expected to be redoubled in the forthcoming congress.

STANDARD OIL METHODS.

Commissioner Herbert Knox Smith of the bureau of corporations of the Department of Commerce and Labor, has furnished a most illuminating report to the president on the relation of the Standard Oil company to the petroleum industry of the nation. This report is a summary of the findings made by a corps of special agents of the government who spent more than a year investigating the oil interests of the country, in all branches. While much of the evidence secured has been withheld, on account of pending litigation, enough is published to more than justify the exaggerated suspicions the public has held concerning Standard Oil methods in perfecting and perpetuating its hold on the oil business of the country.

Contrary to the general impression, the Standard does not produce the bulk of the oil. Less than one-sixth of the 135,000,000 barrels of crude oil produced in 1905 came from wells owned or operated by the trust. The Standard's ascendancy is not based on production, but on the absolute ownership of practically all the refineries of the country and its complete domination by ownership or control of all pipe lines, through which 96 per cent of the crude oil produced is transported. This pipe line control is as effective for its purposes as direct ownership of the wells would be—and less expensive. Having thus secured the monopoly of refining, the Standard completes its grasp by doing its own marketing. The tank wagon system enables the trust to deal direct with the consumer, eliminating the jobber and placing the Standard in position to adjust its prices to suit conditions in different localities and to wipe out effectually attempted competition.

"Only by unfair practices has the Standard been able," reads the report, "to maintain its monopoly while charging prices averaging much above the competitive level. These unfair practices may be broadly grouped under three heads—railroad discriminations, abuse of control of pipe lines and unfair methods of selling products." The federal authorities are already making great progress in their efforts to put an end to the railroad discriminations, and a determined fight is to be made to break up the other combinations, injurious to the public, which have been used by the Standard to secure its monopoly.

The officials of the Standard were among the first to raise the cry that the "small investors, the widows and orphans," were being wronged and injured by the government's attempt to bring the trust to terms. Commissioner Smith's report shows that the "widows and orphans" who own \$46,000,000 worth of the \$75,000,000 capital stock of the trust are John D. Rockefeller, Henry M. Flagler, Charles Pratt, O. H. Payne, William Rockefeller, J. A. Bostwick, W. G. Warden, John D. Archbold and Benjamin Brewster. At the present time these poor widows and orphans are drawing only \$45,000,000 a year in dividends.

SAME THING HERE.

The grand jury, which has just reported on conditions existing in the Lancaster county court house, calls attention to a graft which is perpetrated not only there, but here in Douglas county as well, and probably in other counties in this state. The report says:

In this connection, we wish to state that evidence has been brought before this body that the sheriff has been negligent in the matter of paying over fees which he has collected from the county to the persons for whom such fees were collected. Our investigation was especially directed to the matter of fees claimed and received by the sheriff from the county for the services of attendants in conveying insane persons to the state asylum; such fees in some cases running back for a period of two or three years; also that in at least one instance the sheriff has put in a claim for the services of an attendant where no attendant was employed, the driver of the conveyance having been reported as an attendant, but paid only for the use of the conveyance.

The sheriff's office in Douglas county has for years been worked to the limit in all directions to line the pockets of successive incumbents. The Bee last winter thoroughly exposed the game as it was worked through claims filed with the legislature for reimbursement of alleged cost of conveying prisoners to the penitentiary. We are in position to assert and to prove that the same species of graft has been perpetrated on the Douglas county treasury through bills rendered by the sheriff for conveying insane persons to the State asylum; that these bills include

items for mileage traveled on free passes, for carriage rides, for trips made in street cars, for meals never eaten and for attendants who never received any pay.

If such expense accounts were handed into the federal government by a United States marshal his official head would be decapitated forthwith and in all probability he would in addition be presented to the grand jury for indictment, while his bondsmen would be called upon to return the stolen money.

Is there any good reason why the office of sheriff cannot be conducted honestly and on the square with the taxpayers?

A Burlington official is said to have written a letter to explain why the road has gone back on its promise of a new depot at York, in which he predicts that the revenues of the company will next year show a falling off of \$7,000,000 as a consequence of "hostile" legislation. Railroad bookkeeping has always been wonderfully made and if the bookkeepers are so instructed sufficiently in advance they should have no difficulty in producing the desired deficit.

The indictment of the members of a well known law firm at the state capital for being implicated in a scheme to withdraw protests against liquor license applications for a cash consideration suggests that some of this kind of work has also been going on in Omaha under various thin disguises. If the whole truth were disclosed it would be found that the berated saloon keeper is often as much sinned against as sinning.

"When the cardinal rays of the setting sun flood the forests, fields and spires of earth with golden glory, the soul soars into the fading light and revels in a dream of immortality," says the Baltimore American. It may affect them that way in Baltimore, but out here, "when the cardinal rays of the setting sun, etc.," the Omaha soul hikes for the homebound car and revels in a dream of dinner.

The democratic World-Herald is agitated at the reflections of the Lancaster county grand jury upon Lancaster county officials, among them the Lancaster county sheriff. When the same charges were made and proved by The Bee against the present republican Douglas county sheriff and his democratic predecessor the World-Herald remained dumb as an oyster. Why?

Some patriotic people in Council Bluffs are threatening to enjoin the sale of liquor at Lake Manawa because the street railway company has not seen fit to provide them with a site for a club house. Over on this side of the river such a proceeding would come dangerously near subjecting the participants to prosecution under the Nebraska law against blackmail.

The court has taken under advisement the case brought to compel specific performance of the water works purchase contract. Whichever way the decision goes will make no difference with the regularity with which the do-nothing water commissioners draw their salaries.

The new volume of Nebraska session laws is supposed to be ready for distribution within sixty days after legislative adjournment, but more usually makes its appearance about sixty days late. Wonder if this year will be any exception to the rule?

It is announced by the local democratic organ that the Lancaster county grand jury is to be made the basis of a reform movement designed to land a few democrats in office. When a democrat goes in for reform a berth on the public payroll is the goal.

Thomas Fortune Ryan, the Wall street magnate, says he has no desire to represent the state of Virginia in the United States senate. Even a Wall street man occasionally gets on the popular side of a great question.

Slender Excuse for Mirth.
Washington Herald.

Senator Platt again hands out the old joke about Mr. Roosevelt "stealing the ten commandments." It is absolutely certain, however, that he didn't steal them from the senator.

Provocation for Discontent.
Chicago Inter Ocean.

The plague in India has killed half a million people in six weeks, and yet that part of the empire which is remote from the famine wonders why the natives are discontented with British rule.

Soothing Treatment.
Philadelphia Record.

Word comes from China that the relief sent from the United States for the starving Chinese has broken the back of the boycott. The heathens is not without due appreciation of Christian treatment.

Knock for Clean Money.
Cleveland Leader.

For the richest nation in the world—a country which has surplus revenues amounting to \$70,000,000 or more a year—the United States of America permits a sad lot of dirty and disreputable paper money to remain in circulation.

Starting a Guessing Contest.
New York Tribune.

Colonel Watterson may merely have wanted to start a guessing contest when he said he had a winning democratic presidential candidate in mind. Other than Mr. Bryan, who lived "west of the Alleghenies and north of the Potomac and Ohio." But this is treating a solemn situation with undue levity.

Whetting Boyhood Ambitions.
Boston Transcript.

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON.

Current Events Gleaned from the Army and Navy Registers.

The War department has received a communication from Fort Crook, Neb., setting forth that the Thirtieth Infantry is under orders to sail for the Philippine islands, and as the families of the officers and enlisted men of that command are practically required to travel on the same trains with troops, it was asked that the War department render a decision whether the railroads could carry members of the families of officers and enlisted men at the same rate charged for troops. The quartermaster general, who received the letter, sent it to the acting judge advocate general, asking for an opinion as to the legality of railroads making a reduced rate for a party of ten or more made up of members of the families of the officers and enlisted men. Major J. H. Porter, the acting judge advocate general, recommended that the War department send the request to the Interstate Commerce commission for a decision in the matter.

An unexpected obstacle has been encountered by the army quartermasters in their effort to provide existing funds for roadways and walks at Fort Mackenzie, Wyo. It appears that construction of this kind has never been done in that locality. This accounts for the fact that when the bids were opened for the work the other day they were found to be 25 per cent higher in amount than for similar work anywhere else in the United States. There was nothing for the army quartermasters to do except to reject all the bids, and this action has been taken. The plans and specifications will have to be entirely revised in order to bring the construction within the amount available for this purpose. It does not seem possible to interest people in other parts of the country in this work at Fort Mackenzie and those in the neighborhood have not reduced the cost of labor and material to a figure which makes it possible to award the contracts on the basis of the proposals recently received.

The Army Signal corps is in the market for nearly 1,000 telephones. This supply of instruments is expected to complete the equipment of the post telephone system which has been under way for the last three years. The phones will be sent to the signal corps depots for distribution in localities where they may be needed. The post telephone system is a valuable acquisition and the service has been installed as rapidly as possible at permanent army posts.

Much comment has been excited by two decisions which were rendered last week by the comptroller of the treasury. One was in the case of an army paymaster's clerk, who lost personal property in the fire of San Francisco, and the other was that in an identical case of a quartermaster's clerk. The comptroller decides that in the former case the claimant may be reimbursed under the act of March 3, 1885, because the paymaster's clerk is, within the intention of that law, an officer of the army. He has also decided that the quartermaster's clerk is not entitled to reimbursement, as his status is that of a clerk in the military service, there being no provision for his trial by military court and no law that recognizes such an employee as a part of the military force. The favorable action on the claim of the paymaster's clerk is based on the Hendee decision of the supreme court. It has always been understood that the clerks of quartermasters and quartermasters were identical in the relations to the service, and the comptroller in the two decisions does not clearly point out why the quartermaster's clerk should not receive the reimbursement under the circumstances quite as much as the clerk of the paymaster.

The Second Field battery at Fort Riley, Kan., has been conducting some experiments, under direction of the field artillery board, with the knapsack under service conditions. The experiments were conducted with a view of ascertaining if the army knapsack could conveniently hold ninety knapsacks, with the same number of shelter tents, and all members of the battery, including the extra and special duty men, were called upon to prepare a field pack to be used in the experiments. It was found that each of the two battery knapsacks could carry only seventy-five packs.

The quartermaster general of the army will shortly award one of the largest contracts, estimated to amount to more than \$200,000, for 5,000 tons of oats and 5,000 tons of timothy hay. The bids are to be opened by the depot quartermasters stationed in the vicinity of the large grain markets and the material is intended for shipment to the Philippines.

THE UNRUFFLED WEST.

Characteristics of the Old Days
Crowded Off the Landscape.
Washington Herald.

The great west—the golden, glorious west—is fast drifting away from the picturesque days of the forty-niner, the hostile red, and the awestruck cowboy. Tamed, subdued and willing to give ear to the apostles of more peaceful ways, this great section has entered a new period of calm and unruffled content.

The old-time gambler alone dies hard. Nowhere in all this land has the gambler ever flourished more magnificently than in the west. There he has been a king among men. Reckless, prodigal and quick of trigger, he pursued a way strewn with dead men's bones and decorated with the wrecked hopes of thousands. But go he must, and going he is. Steadily, but surely, he is being crowded out, and he will soon be nothing more than a memory and a dream.

It is pleasant to note, however, that while he is suitably sinking away from the west proper, he is leaving the great state of Texas—and we usually include Texas when we speak of the west—with something of a smile and much of captivating nonchalance. From a Lone Star content, parody we culled the following poetic gem from the pen of a departing light of the pastboard professional:

"The gamblers looked at his deck of cards,
And he said, 'It's up with us, old pard,
For the legislature's plied the deuce!'
"He gazed on the pretty picture spots,
On the ace and the nine and the ten,
And he said, 'We've opened many jackpots,
But the legislature's opened the pen.'
"He bade farewell to his favorite ace,
He kissed the queen of spades,
And murmured, as he hung his sorrowful face:
"The legislature's sure played hades!"

Perhaps that "poem" may be a few chips shy as the real thing in soul-stirring veneration, but it hits the present Texas situation between the eyes.

Having taken due and deliberate note of the legislature's grim determination to pound the prohibitive keyboard all the way from the deuce to hades and back again, and viewing unwelcome prospects of a yawning "pen" a few short laps ahead, it is to this bard's credit that he seizes time by the forelock and determines to sever diplomatic relations with the queen of spades and that with a kiss instead of a slap. It is much better for us to face the inevitable with poetic fortitude than to growl about it. He is down and out and he appears to know it.

We commend his methods to other gentry of the same persuasion, if not the same temperament.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Dr. James M. Green, principal of the New Jersey Normal school, has refused to allow the girls to wear caps and gowns, which he says are wholly wrong in schools below the college rank.

The two "Abes"—Hummel of New York and Ruef of San Francisco—will now have plenty of leisure and solitude in which to reflect on the truth of that old saying about the way of the transgressor.

A southern man has been sent to the chain gang for six months for having beaten his son, who persisted in playing Sunday base ball. It is suspected the youth may take advantage of the old man's absence.

W. E. Corey's 13-year-old son is said to have told a schoolmate recently that his father offered to give him \$500,000 and take him into the steel company if he would live with his father and the new wife, but he chose to remain with his mother.

Omaha courts have attempted to do some wonderful things by injunction, but their best efforts look amateurish when compared with the attempt of a court in Carthage, Mo., to compel the local herd of Elks to stick to the water wagon during a "social session."

Frans Emanuel Kevakos, a native of Finland, has reached Pittsburgh on his walk around the world which he undertook to win a bet made by two wealthy men of San Francisco three years ago. He left that city in February, 1904, and since that time has crossed Asia and Europe on foot, wearing out thirty-six pairs of shoes.

In all Lord Wolseley's campaigns he made it a rule, where possible, to allow each soldier a pound of tobacco a month, which he considered a fair allowance. In Italy the military authorities recognise the weed as one of the comforts essential to the troops, and cigars are served out to them with their daily rations.

FATE OF THE TRANSGRESSOR.

Grafter Ruef's Confession as Viewed at Home.
San Francisco Chronicle.

Abraham Ruef should have thought of his family before he entered upon his career of crime. They are innocent and the public need not, as indeed it cannot, withhold its sympathy from them. The most terrible punishment which is inflicted on such criminals is the distress which their crimes bring upon innocent persons who have been accustomed to respect and honor them. But it is the inexorable doom which crime brings upon itself.

For Ruef himself the only sympathy possible is that which one might feel for a wolf which, having devoured the sheep fold, has been pursued, brought to bay and, after a long fight, finally disposed of. It is not a case in which the safety of society permits leniency to be shown. Ruef has corrupted every branch of the city government which he could get hold of and brought the city almost to the verge of ruin. Seldom has a man occupying an unofficial station in life been able to achieve so much evil. It will be many a year before San Francisco can outlive the shame which the man Ruef has brought upon it.

He has not been ingenious even in his confession for while pleading guilty, as charged he professes to be not guilty of this particular crime—meaning merely by that that he did not extort the money by threats within the meaning of the law. Witnesses, however, would have sworn that he did so. It is unthinkable that such sums should have been paid him voluntarily by the restaurant keepers. All that Ruef can mean by his profession of "innocence" while pleading guilty is a claim that he succeeded in terrifying the restaurant men into submitting to blackmail without the use of words which the law would construe as a threat. There is no moral difference between what Ruef would claim

that he did and the crime to which he has pleaded guilty.

Ruef also shows his disingenuousness by attributing his situation to "the assaults of the press." Doubtless he has been assaulted by the press. But the press has accused him of nothing but what he has confessed and intimated. What fault has he to find with that? Shall the press remain silent while thieves plunder a distressed city and rob it of its good name? Ruef fought the forces of decency until he could fight no longer. No man is strong enough to stand up against the wrath of an outraged community. His physical collapse was inevitable and the only mantle which charity can throw over him is that his physical weakness broke down his mental faculties and caused the self-contradictions in what is a virtual confession of all that he has been charged with.

FLEETING FUN.

"O! You're cooked for this robbery, all right," said the detective, "You left a strong clue behind you." "That's a lie," cried the prisoner. "De only strong clue I had was wid me."—Philadelphia Press.

"These are the days when the young divinity student has a mental struggle." "What to do?" "Whether to preach or pitch."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Did you ever sell your vote?" asked the impatient friend. "Never," answered Senator Borghum. "A single vote is the best thing these days. You've got to contract to deliver them in bunches."—Washington Star.

"She is very wealthy?" "Very." "Money left to her?" "No." "Is she the author of a book entitled 'Hints to Beautiful Women'?" "I presume she is. The beautiful women in the country purchased it." "No; but all the homely women did."—Houston Post.

"Say, it must be a great joke for the fish that gets away when he hears himself described as the biggest that ever was." "No, it's all lost on you." "How do you know?" "Scientific experiments prove that fish do not hear."—Cleveland Plaindealer.

A VILLAGE EPITAPH.
New York Times.

Sort of jolled along
In the friendliest way,
With a smile or a song
And a wink of his eye;
Never had a hard word;
If a fellow went wrong,
All the good in you stirred
As he jolled along.

Sort of easy and free
With a word of good cheer,
Kind of helpful to me
And inspiring to hear;
Didn't take it to heart
At a thing should go wrong,
Said he made it an art
Just to jolly along.

Put a flea in your ear
As he chanced to go by
With a voice full of cheer
And a wink of his eye;
If he reckoned you went
But you knew what he meant
As he jolled along.