The Omaha Daily Bee.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
George B. Tzschuck, treasurer 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, 1909, was as follows:

1	41,580	17	42,530
2	41,780	18	42,930
3	41,580	19	41,630
4	41,790	20	42,770
5	46,340	21	42,480
6	42,930	22	42,650
7	41,670	23	42,450
8	42,560	24	42,520
9	42,820	25	42,600
10	42,560	26	44,680
11	42,660	27	42,610
12	41,850	28	42,930
13	04,950	29	42,370
14	42,470	30	42,410
15	42,500	31	42,450
16	42,420		

Total 1,322,510
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GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK, Treasurer.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st day of December, 1909.

W. P. WALKER,
Notary Public.

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

What's one man's meat may be another's alfalfa.

Some one moves to amend by referring to it as the high cost of high living.

It looks as if the majority in congress still rules, whether it counts the speaker with it or against it.

The Ballinger investigation again emphasizes the value of the oft-proved advice, "Don't write letters."

Mr. Bryan evidently believes that one standing candidate for office on the Commoner staff is quite enough.

Mayor "Jim" is not an officer of the new League of Nebraska Municipalities, but he can still beat any of them roping a steer.

It is now said that the new creations in Paris millinery are to be in the form of boats liberally trimmed with watered silk.

Nebraska democrats are going to congregate at Lincoln on February 14, when they will hand each other a few comic valentines.

The display of pink carnations on McKinley's birthday throughout the country shows that the last martyred president is by no means forgotten.

The Paris flood is not exactly of the 40-day variety, but it has succeeded in doing almost as much damage in a much shorter space of time.

Superintendent Davidson is said to favor turning out graduating classes from the High school twice a year instead of once a year. Step lively there.

The coming week is expected to determine where the big prize fight is to be pulled off. In view of all the hot air preliminaries, better charter an air ship.

Because we are to have a new deal at the county hospital there is no good reason why the old deal should not be thoroughly ventilated. There is a grand jury coming.

We want to say that if "Uncle Mose" Kinkaid has taken a chance in the coal-land lottery in Alaska, we hope he will not have drawn a blank as most of them have.

Omaha's bank clearings for last week exceed $15,000,000 and show up an increase of nearly 23 per cent over the corresponding week of the preceding year. Going some.

Excessive loaning has put a little Nebraska bank into the hands of a receiver. Of course, if that deposit guaranty law were in effect the bank would not have made any bad loans.

A monument to the late E. H. Harriman is to be erected by the Orange County Horse and Road Improvement association. A greater monument to the late E. H. Harriman has already been erected extending over the west half of this continent, from Omaha to the Pacific coast.

The Lincoln monument, for which the legislature appropriated $10,000, waits on the raising of another $10,000 by the Lincoln Monument association. If the rest of the state furnishes half of the money, Lincoln, which gets the monument, ought to be ready to furnish the other half.

The Democratic Position.

Norman E. Mack, who speaks in the dual capacity of chairman of the democratic national committee and also editor of what he calls a democratic national magazine, adds the force of his official authority to the notice that the democrats in their fight for control of the next house of representatives will show no more favor to so-called insurgents than to any other brand of republicans. The democratic position is that of opposition to the program of the president as the party's legislative policy. This, in Mr. Mack's opinion, is the democratic opportunity, and the interjection of Cannon and Cannonism is regarded by him as merely incidental. To quote his own words:

Here, then, is the democratic opportunity. Joseph G. Cannon, as speaker of the house of representatives, is no better or no worse than his party policy. If Dalzell, or Payne, or Alexander, or any other republican leader were in the seat occupied by Speaker Cannon; if it were Norris or Murdock we have no doubt he would endeavor with the same ruthless hand to carry out the same vicious policies of government for which Cannon is now condemned.

Chairman Mack here makes it distinctly understood that no republican need expect anything of the democrats. The democrats hope to gain by differences within the republican ranks, and the democratic minority in congress will omit nothing to foment such differences. To achieve this purpose these democratic congressmen would as soon ally themselves temporarily with the regulars as they would with the insurgents. If the party division in this county were graded off as it is elsewhere, for example, into radicals, socialists and conservatives in addition to republicans and democrats, the democrats would tie up with any one of them to pave the way to democratic ascendency.

When the issue comes to be drawn then there should be no masquerading. It will be the republicans phalanxed behind President Taft and the administration presenting a constructive program on one side, and on the other, the democrats against everything progressive and promising only to block the march of the national advancement of prosperity.

Boulevarding and Street Paving.

The Park board is again being beset with applications to order various boulevards paved and pay for the same out of the park funds. The theory of the Park board's jurisdiction is that any improvement of a boulevard, after once laid out, is to be made at the expense of the city, while the cost of paving streets comes back upon the owners of the abutting property benefited. This theory is based on fairly sound principle because the pavement of a street is for the chief advantage of the adjacent property owners, and the use of a boulevard is general for the people of the whole city.

This applies, however, where a boulevard is really a boulevard and not merely a misnamed street. We have had instances where streets have been labeled "boulevards" temporarily in order to get them paved at common expense and then have become streets again as soon as the abutting property owners, who should have been specially assessed, had escaped their obligation. It goes without saying that whenever one group of property owners get a street paved out of the park fund it works an injustice on other property owners who are then called upon a second time to pay for the neighbor's paving.

It is quite likely that each case must be considered by itself, and on its own merits. The Park board's troubles in this respect arise from the fact that bad precedents have already been set. While there is no use crying over spilt milk, for the future the line should be definitely and strictly drawn between what is a street and what is a boulevard, and street pavements should be paid for by special assessment on the abutting property, and not by diversions of the park fund.

A Joker in the Deck.

The offer submitted to congress in the name of John E. Ballaine of Seattle, to pay 50 cents a ton on all coal mined on the first choice of 5,000 acres of coal land in Alaska looks mighty good, and is without question a great improvement over the $10 an acre which would be paid by entrymen under the laws as they now stand. A royalty of 50 cents a ton on the best 5,000 acres in Alaska would doubtless yield several hundred thousand dollars, but when the same rate is applied to 16,000,000,000 tons of coal said to be contained in the Alaska fields, with an ultimate revenue to the government of $8,000,000,000 it looks like stretching it some.

When a person inquires into the Ballaine bid closer it discloses a small sized joker in the deck. The bid is conditional, not only on first choice of the best 5,000 acres in Alaska, but also on a guarantee that no other coal shall be mined in Alaska without paying, at least, 50 cents a ton royalty to the government. It is possible that all the coal in Alaska might pay 50 cents a ton royalty, and then again it is possible that comparatively little of it can pay that much. If the coal mined at the greatest cost is marketed to pay 50 cents a ton royalty, then the coal mined at the least cost on the best 5,000 acres marketed at the same price, would certainly yield a munificent profit. The joker in the Ballaine bid would be about the same as if some one offered to pay $100,000 a year rent for the best business corner in Omaha on condition that no one else occupying the same space in any other part of town should pay any less.

The change from the policy of sale to the policy of royalty in the distribution of mineral and coal lands still embraced in the public domain is going to bring the government a tremendous revenue as compared with what it otherwise would get. But to us the conditional bid of Ballaine as the basis for figuring a revenue to the government of $8,000,000,000 out of the coal deposits in Alaska is going pretty strong.

If congress enacts a campaign publicity law it should provide some way of enforcing it. Such a law has been for more than ten years on the statute books of Nebraska, where the democrats yell loudest for it, but never obey it. The democratic defiance of the Nebraska campaign publicity law gives ground for the belief that the provisions of the national law would get no better compliance from them unless supported by a real penalty clause.

One of the arguments advanced against women's suffrage is that the women want all the rights of men and all the privileges of women. Paraphrased to apply to economic conditions this might read, Give us all the benefits of high prices for what you sell with all the advantages of low prices for what you buy. Sounds like that familiar proposition of an irresistible motion meeting with an immovable body.

If the new garbage contractors want householders to see to it that outside haulers do not collect the garbage they should, at least, show their own good will by sending their own men around. If the new scheme of district contracts does not work satisfactorily there will be nothing left for Omaha to do but to establish a municipal garbage department and attend to the business itself.

Governor Harmon will not come to Nebraska for the democratic gabfest scheduled for next month, notwithstanding the fact that the invitation was urgently pressed on him by Governor Shallenberger. The Ohio governor must have heard what the Nebraska governor said at that famous after 8 o'clock, when he projected "Dave" Francis as first choice for 1912.

Some of the striking shirt-waist makers have solved the problem by getting married. Others announce their willingness to try the same remedy. Well, the divorce court has had plenty of experience as a court of arbitration, especially where there has been a shortage of ante-nuptial courtship.

"It behooves democrats everywhere to get together," reads the proclamation to Nebraska democrats signed by the officers of the state committee. If the democrats are going to get together it would not be a bad idea for the republicans to avoid splitting apart.

It is pleasing to note that our Auditorium, erected by popular subscription, has again come into its own as an arena for wrestling bouts. Wrestling, at any rate, pays better at the box office than art exhibitions.

The intimation that Dan Stephens will make a try for the democratic nomination for senator indicates that he thinks the Checkbook is by this time big enough for two. How about it, Edgar Howard?

The man who claimed to have discovered the process of making paper out of wood pulp has just died. Some people are not yet ready to say whether he is entitled to a credit mark or a debit mark.

Canned.

Washington Herald.

The Treasury department's famous ruling that "frog legs are chicken" will not be nearly so interesting, now that the country is about to go on an anti-meat diet unanimously.

Smile While You Can.

Philadelphia Record.

It is the good vegetarian who is all smiles. Things are coming his way. But, if Gargantua eschews meat, vegetables will go up; and then the aforesaid vegetarian will not be so happy.

Assuming Needless Risk.

Indianapolis News.

The scheme to pass the ship subsidy next winter with the aid of the votes of defeated congressmen may not be wholly effective. Most of those defeated congressmen will want to go back home to live, you know.

Where the Judge Fell Down.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

An Illinois judge has ruled that a man must not stay away from home more than forty-eight hours without a good excuse. That is not new. If the court wanted to decide a point worth while he should have established what constitutes a good excuse.

What's the Use?

Chicago Record-Herald.

Reports from Cleveland indicate that it pays to get along without meat. Steaks are lower in price there at present than they have been at any other time since the beginning of the year. Still, on second thought, what's the use saving money on meat now? The ice companies will get it all next summer anyhow.

Rally for Pure Food.

Philadelphia Record.

The New York State Medical society has adopted resolutions favoring an amendment to the national food and drugs act by which the use of antiseptic drugs in canned fruits and vegetables and other preparations of fruits and vegetables designed for human consumption shall be prohibited. The resolutions also favor compulsory inspection by federal officials of commercial food kitchens to insure compliance with the law in the use of unadulterated food. Whether congress can be prevailed upon to give heed to the plea of the doctors remains to be seen. There will be stout opposition on the part of industries engaged in the preparation of sophisticated food for the market. The doctors speak for the public; the sophisticators speak for themselves, and they will therefore plead with the greater urgency.

LOOK UP THE GROCERY BILL.

Character of Service and Preference for Package Goods.

American Grocer.

That it costs more to maintain an individual or a family now than formerly is a fact. And yet it is largely a matter that can be adjusted to income if the party interested chooses to use common sense and practice self-denial. Prof. Whitney, chief of the bureau of soils, Washington, D. C., asserts a truth that Americans are eating far more than they did fifty years ago.

Never before was the dietary of the people so varied as today; never of higher average quality. We are a nation given to extravagance and waste. Why buy a prime rib roast costing 22 to 25 cents or more the pound when a hind quarter of spring lamb is sold at 16 cents? Why does a family, forced to economize, pay 14 cents for a proprietary brand of rolled oats when they can buy a like quantity in bulk at half the price? Why do the people pay a nickel for a box of biscuit weighing less than half a pound when they could purchase for the same cost nearly double the quantity of bulk? Those are instances typical of hundreds of articles of food. If the situation is analyzed we discover that the people regard package goods with the greater favor and willingly pay the higher cost because of their convenience.

The real cost of food is influenced greatly by the character and expense of service demanded, and that varies tremendously. It is a fact that a store whose customers demand a luxurious service distributes $100 worth of food at a cost to the consumer of $125 and that it requires $20 to $23 to cover the expense of the service, leaving the dealer 2 to 5 per cent net profit. Within the same territory are stores serving a different class of trade where the expense of service is 12 to 16 per cent, the net profit 6 to 10 per cent.

PULL ON RAILROAD PROFITS.

Affiliated Corporations Skim the Cream.

Chicago News.

Everybody knows that the Pullman company is a profitable concern. Its net earnings are very large. In order to dispose of the surplus it is found necessary to make extra dividend disbursements from time to time. There was such a disbursement in the form of a stock dividend in 1906, the sum involved then being about $36,000,000. The close of the last fiscal year showed a surplus above regular payments of over $7,000,000. Reports are in circulation that another "melon" is to be cut by the Pullman company in the near future.

Recently the public has had striking proof of the large earnings of express companies in excess of their regular dividend payments to stockholders. Not long ago one express company made disbursement of a surplus amounting to 300 per cent on the capital stock.

Sleeping car and express companies make it their business to take over certain functions of the railroad companies. They render a service which the railroads would be obliged to perform directly if they did not farm it out to other agencies. The enormous profits of the express and sleeping-car companies, therefore, represents excessive charges for forms of railroad service. Perhaps reference should be made also in this connection to the private-car service furnished by concerns like the large packing firms, which supply refrigerator cars and receive compensation for their use.

When the attempt is made to reduce railroad charges it is asserted that the railroad business is not as profitable as the public is led to believe. Perhaps one explanation is that the cream is skimmed off the business by affiliated corporations that in the past have escaped public scrutiny.

Hereafter the government in its attempts at railroad regulation should treat the business as an entirety, taking cognizance of the corporation rendering public service in connection with the railroads, like the express and sleeping-car companies and the concerns operating refrigerator cars, as well as of the carrying corporations themselves.

FARMS WILL BE MORE POPULAR

Present Agitation Likely to Check Rush to Cities.

Cleveland Leader.

The great prominence given the rise in the market value of food staples and the increase in the cost of living, especially emphasized and criticised in relation to the food supply of the average American living in a city or town, is bound to have its effect upon the growth and prosperity of rural districts. It will be felt particularly in the country, within twenty miles or so of large cities, because such districts will appeal with more force than more remote counties to those who are used to city life, or are hungry for it. Unless all signs fail, there will be a better demand for farms, large and small, in all parts of the country, than there has been in many years.

Of course, a large number of men who say that they are going to raise their own food and sell food to others instead of depending upon the markets to meet their needs, henceforth, will lose their enthusiasm for the country before they try to work out their theories of the wisdom of a radical change. The majority will go on making the best they can of town life and its burdens. Some, however, will stick to their purpose of moving to the country. There will be a certain proportion of farm buyers left out of the host of city workers who have become deeply dissatisfied with their general condition and outlook.

Another effect of the heated and general discussion of the cost of living will be the checking of the constant inflow of young men and young women to the big cities from the farms. Many a youth, balancing between farming and the chances of the cities, will be decided in favor of the country by the outcry which has gone up from the victims of high prices in the great centers of population. He will realize better than he would have done if it had not been for the prevailing agitation how much the burden of providing food, shelter and clothing increases when city prices have to be paid and city conditions accepted.

Altogether, the effect is bound to be a shifting of the balance between town and country which will be favorable to the farming districts. There will be a stronger market for farm lands and a better supply of labor to cultivate them as the result of the sharp rise in the cost of living in cities and towns. Rural America never faced a brighter future.

Room to Spare.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Nebraska insurgents have met and decided that the republican party is not big enough to contain La Follete, Cummins and Bristow and Aldrich, Cannon and Depew. Still the democratic party, which isn't nearly as big as the republican party, has for a long time contained Parker, Tammany and "Gum Shoe Bill" Stone and Bryan, Bailey and Tillman.

Ravages of Floods

The Disaster in Paris and the Seine Valley and Other Record Floods in Europe

Dwellers of the Mississippi and Missouri valleys from their experience with river floods in years past can appreciate the extent of the disaster that has befallen the French capital and its suburbs. The record flood of the Missouri in 1881 spread over the valley often ten miles wide, from Bismarck to Alton, but did comparatively little damage to valley cities and towns. Of greater extent was the Mississippi flood of 1892, a year remarkable for floods in the United States and British Columbia. The destructive effects of these floods were not felt severely, being distributed over a vast area of comparatively scant population. The disaster to Paris is concentrated destruction, transforming the gay capital into a flood ravaged city. Above the city the flood spread over the Seine valley to a width of twenty-five miles, while through the city a restricted channel with innumerable bridges and several islands acting as obstructions forced the flood over all barriers. The loss is estimated at $200,000,000, a sum almost treble the next highest recorded flood loss, that of Toulouse, France, in 1875.

The devastation being wrought by the overflowing Seine, while sufficiently terrible to excite the imagination even of the most practical and commonplace of mankind, is but a trifle in comparison with some of the disasters which have resulted from the sudden rise of streams flowing through densely populated countries. With the exception of an extensive conflagration or earthquake shock, nothing is more suggestive of the majestic, irresistible power of nature and the impotence of man than the rising of a great river. Originating in causes but imperfectly understood by man, coming with a force which the ingenuity and strength of man can not control, the flood has been, in all ages, the emblem of supernatural strength. The strongest works erected by the most skillful engineers are swept aside by the might of the waves, embankments are leveled as though a giant hand had passed over them, smoothing down the wrinkles on the face of nature, while the remorseless water carries away, in a moment, the results of the labor of years. It is, therefore, not a matter of surprise that men stand in speechless awe as a strength that can be neither resisted nor directed manifests itself in their presence.

With the exception of the Danube, the Rhine and the Russian rivers, the streams of Europe are mostly short, but all the more dangerous on that account; for, although almost dry in the summer season, in times of heavy rain they become torrents which do immense damage. The Spanish peninsula has suffered terribly at times from the floods in its short and rapid streams. In 1617 over 50,000 persons perished in Catalonia from a sudden rise in the rivers of northeast Spain; in 1787 2,000 were drowned in Navarre. Torca, a city of Murcia, in Spain, was totally destroyed in 1802, while the great floods of 1879 in Murcia, Andalusia, Alicante, Almara and Malaga, by which over 2,000 houses were destroyed and 1,200 lives were lost, are still fresh in the public memory. The south of France is under substantially the same conditions as the Spanish peninsula and destructive floods have been extremely common. In 1840 the Saone rose to a height that had not been exceeded in 238 years. Over 60,000 acres of arable land were covered by the Saone and the Rhine, Lyons was inundated, in Avignon over 100 houses were destroyed, and upwards of 300 at Marseilles and Nimes, while the loss of life went up into the thousands. A general flood season recurred in 1846, the Loire rose twenty feet in two or three hours, a railroad viaduct, which cost 6,000,000 francs, was swept away, and the total damage done by this stream alone was estimated at $20,000,000.

The short rivers of Italy must be credited with a great deal of damage; 264 inundations of Rome by the Tiber are noted since the foundation of the city, while the Po and other streams have been equally mischievous. The Danube has experienced several notable floods. In 1879, the great storm year, the city of Szegedin, in Hungary, was almost totally destroyed; out of 6,566 houses only 331 remained standing; seventy-seven persons were drowned, and many thousands rendered homeless. In 1811 the Danube destroyed twenty-two villages near Pesth, and two years later a Turkish corps of 2,000 men was surprised on a small island near Widin, and all perished. In the same summer over 6,000 inhabitants of Silesia were drowned by the floods, while 4,000 perished in Poland, and in 1819 4,000 houses in Dantzic were destroyed and many lives were lost by a flood in the Vistula. The British islands have been repeatedly devastated by floods and the instances are frequent of great damage being done by high water in the Thames, the Severn and the Scottish rivers. The destruction of the forests in Spain, France, Germany and Great Britain, no doubt, had much to do with these destructive floods, and the policy of extensive tree planting will probably in the course of a century do something to remedy the evil.

The denudation of the mountains had nothing to do with the dreadful floods which have, from time to time, desolated the lowlands of Holland. In this land, much of which has been literally reclaimed from the sea, eternal vigilance is the price of safety. But ceaseless vigilance can not always prevent accidents, and when a high sea occurs simultaneously with high water in the Holland rivers, awful calamities are apt to occur at any time. One such took place at Dort in 1421, when an inundation of the Meuse occurred while a terrific storm from the north was beating in on the shore, and sending huge billows to the top of the dikes. The waters of the river could find no outlet, and so were piled up until they finally began to creep over the dikes. The resulting disaster had up to that time no parallel in Europe; 100,000 persons were drowned and thousands of square miles of territory converted into a raging sea. This, however, dwindled into insignificance when compared with a calamity which occurred in the same country about a century later. The whole coast, North sea coast, of this remarkable country is defended by expensive dikes, which also protect about 100 miles of the Zuyder Zee coast line, the embankments being from thirty to fifty feet high, seventy feet wide at the base and having a roadway on top. Their cost is estimated at $1,500,000,000, and the annual expense of keeping them in repair exceeds $2,000,000. In 1530 heavy storms and floods prevailed at the same time, the dikes gave way and the Netherlands were submerged. Over 400,000 of the population were drowned, the loss of life was so great that in large districts of country there was no inhabitant left to claim house, land or property. Not many years later the Dutch voluntarily cut their dikes and admitted the sea to drive out their enemies, against whom they could not otherwise prevail, but the act, being voluntary, can not be reckoned among the misfortunes of nature.

What a Funny Idea.

Boston Transcript.

The latest applicant for Alaska's coal has a funny idea. Wants to pay for it!

JABS AT JIM.

Loup City Northwestern: Hairless Jim Dahlman has filed as democratic candidate for governor. If nerve were the only thing necessary, nothing could keep him from winning hands down.

Kearney Democrat: If Dahlman secures the nomination and is pitted against a county option republican, then you may expect another "Boyd campaign," in which enough republicans went to Boyd's support to carry the state and elect him governor.

Schuyler Free Lance: Mayor Jim Dahlman of Omaha has filed for the nomination for governor on the democratic ticket and proposes giving Shallenberger another run, but he will again meet with defeat and worse than he got it before.

Tekamah Herald: We never could account for the vote in Burt at the primaries two years ago, when Dahlman received more votes than Shallenberger. There is no doubt but what Mr. Dahlman will poll a large vote where he is acquainted, he is very popular with his friends and they will exert an extra effort in his behalf.

Oakland Independent: Dahlman has filed papers for the democratic nomination for governor, believing that coming out early in the game will give him a good boost. Maybe it will, but it will also have the effect of crystallizing the opposition, both in his own party and outside, which abhors his stand on the temperance question.

St. Paul Phonograph: Mayor Dahlman is not backward about it. He says that he is going to be the next governor of this state, and that Billie Thompson is going to be the next senator, indicating that he thinks the cowboy and the little giant will be too much for Shallie and the white stockinged Hitchcock. And the Phonograph is for Thompson, but agin Dahlman. Well, it always was able to take and keep a ridiculous position.

Pender Times: Mayor Jim Dahlman of Omaha has formally entered the race for the democratic nomination for governor. Jim, Jim, what evil spirit has prompted you thus—you can't cut'er—not this year.

Winside Tribune: Mayor Dahlman has filed for the gubernatorial nomination and now the people outside of Omaha will have a chance to do things to him and show genial Jim that thuglsm does not extend all over Nebraska.

WISDOM OF MR. TAFT.

Demand for Fulfillment of Republican Platform Pledges.

Minneapolis Journal.

Without identifying himself with either regulars or insurgents, but sturdily maintaining his position as the leader of his party, President Taft has kept steadily to his path down the middle of the road. He has not allowed congress or himself to forget that the party has made certain pledges to the people that must be kept. From that duty he has steadfastly refused to be diverted, and he has tactfully made it evident to the leaders in congress that they must support him in passing the measures promised by the republican platform.

The senate, which usually dawdles along while the house is perfecting the appropriation bills, has, through the smiling but pertinacious efforts of the president, been roused to the realization that there is no necessity for such waste of time, and that it ought to and must get busy on the administration measures. It is now predicted that the senate will have several of these bills ready for the house by the time the house gets through with originating money bills.

The insurgents, who had visions of a long and scrappy session of the house, in which by combining occasionally with the democrats they would make things uncomfortable for the organization, have been brought by Mr. Taft to see that their first duty is to legislate, and to legislate in accordance with party promises. The organization, on the other hand, is eager to do the president's bidding, even though some of its leaders are fain to make wry faces over some of the items in the presidential menu. Speaker Cannon has been told by his best friends, by the men who have stood by him in many a battle and have defended him lustily, that he must retire for the good of the party. Even from New England comes this advice, Representative Foster of Vermont voicing the changing sentiment of a section that was supposed to be as solid for the Danville man as its own hills.

The trend of events is thus setting in strongly in the direction Mr. Taft has steadily and sturdily urged. The president will ultimately demonstrate his worth and his power by effectuating the legislation he has promised. Those who have doubted him and worse will have to revise their opinions. Daily he looms larger in the public's confidence and affection.

Our Birthday Book

January 31, 1910.

Milton T. Barlow, president of the United States National bank, is today celebrating his 66th birthday. He was born in Greencastle, Ind., and is one of the old-timers in Omaha banking circles, but is still on the job every day. He happens also to be a member of the Omaha Water board just now.

Nathan Straus, the well known New York philanthropist, was born in Bavaria January 31, 1848. Mr. Straus, with his brothers, constitute R. H. Macy & Co., and his special form of philanthropy lies in the free distribution of milk and ice in the crowded tenement districts.

William H. Sherwood, concert pianist, is 56.

William Herbert Wheeler, who is now conducting the general insurance business formerly handled by his father, was born at Plattsmouth January 31, 1876. Mr. Wheeler was once an expert stenographer and court reporter, and spent several years at Washington as clerk to the house committee on public buildings and grounds. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska.

George H. Thummel, clerk of the United States circuit court for this district, is 62. Mr. Thummel used to practice law at Grand Island, and boasts of having been the youngest member of Nebraska's constitutional convention in 1871.

Ira A. Kellogg, who represents The Bee at South Omaha, was born at Clarks, Neb., January 31, 1874. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and has been with The Bee for five years.

Al Sorenson, the Would-Be (he says Will-Be) United States senator, is 60, but doesn't act it any more than he looks it. Neither would anyone familiar with his variegated careers suspect that he was born in Nashotah, Wis., under the shadow of an Episcopal theological seminary, but such is none the less the solemn and attested fact. "Al" was city editor of The Bee in the olden days when the city editor was the whole reportorial staff and the bouncer at one and the same time, but now he is running a weekly paper of his own called the Examiner, which boasts that it has space to sell to any candidate for political office who has

PERSONAL NOTES.

An interesting phase of the life of Hiram Warner, who has just died in Springfield at the age of 82, was that thirty-five years ago he was given up by fourteen doctors, but finally took his own case in hand and outlived them all.

Benjamin Hanford, for many years a leader of the socialist party in this country, and twice its candidate for vice president, died of a complication of illnesses at his home at Flatbush, Brooklyn. He had been ill for several years.

A police officer, recently deceased, for fifteen years had charge of the Wall street district, during which time, it is stated, not so much as a 10-cent piece was stolen there by an "outsider." The street extends privileges only to the initiated.

In a recent test of spook athletics two men held the medium's hands and feet, yet she succeeded in tickling their ears with her toes. A person capable of pulling off such a stunt is wasting valuable time and losing good money in neglecting to "elevate the stage."

Mrs. M. E. Read has just celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of her service as passenger agent at Ardmore Station on the Pennsylvania railroad. She is said to have performed her duties in a manner highly satisfactory to both the public and the railroad.

The Los Angeles woman who claimed to have been blessed with quadruplets, following two sets of triplets and a pair of twins, has confessed that she has had but one baby and that died in infancy. The rest of the brood represented raids on orphan asylums. Mother love seldom devotes itself to working up such a fake as this.

Lloyd-George will visit this country next year as the guest of American Welshmen. He will be accompanied by Sir Samuel T. Evans, the solicitor general; Mr. W. Abraham, M. P., and Mrs. William Jones, M. P., and, according to the Druid, the organ of the Welsh people in America, a banquet will be given in his honor which President Taft is expected to attend.

Uncle Sam is to have a new "globe trotter." Jacob M. Dickinson, secretary of war, who recently returned from an extended trip to Porto Rico, Cuba and San Domingo, has been chosen by President Taft to make the official excursions of the present administration. His next trip, which probably will be made early in the summer, will take him to the Philippines and Hawaii.

PENNIES AND RURAL POSTAGE.

Changing a Custom Common on Rural Routes.

Washington Star.

Occasionally a figure is quoted in our national affairs that emphasizes the magnitude of the country. The latest of this kind is the statement that during the last year approximately 300,000,000 pennies were taken by rural free delivery carriers from the boxes on their routes where they had been deposited with letters in lieu of postage stamps, in accordance with a rule permitting the patrons of the routes to post letters in this manner. That means that 150,000,000 letters were written and posted in the rural districts in twelve months for which the writers had no stamps at hand. Considering the comparative lack of epistolatory enterprise on the part of rural residents this is a significant item. It suggests that the rural free delivery stimulates correspondence. Nevertheless the postal authorities find that the deposit of pennies in the boxes tends to delay the collection and delivery of the mails and consequently instructions have been issued to all rural delivery postmasters informing them that after the 15th of February the practice will be discontinued. After that date the farmers will have to buy stamps. There will probably be much grumbling, but eventually the change will be beneficial.

WHITTLED TO A POINT.

"My husband is like a rooster in one respect."

"Indeed?"

"Yes. When he gets up early he crows over it."—Judge.

"It is a wonder that a barber is generally loquacious."

"Why so?"

"Because he is always cutting other men short."—Baltimore American.

"Let's go to the theater."

"I've nothing to wear."

"Then we'll go to the opera."—Lippincott's Magazine.

"Mr. Smith," spoke up the young lawyer, "I come here as a representative of your neighbor, Tom Jones, with the commission to collect a debt due him."

"I congratulate you," answered Mr. Smith, "on obtaining so permanent a job at such an early stage in your career."—Success Magazine.

"So you are studying telepathy?"

"Yes," answered Senator Sorghum; "my object in life has been to find what people are thinking and then say it first. Any reliable system would simplify my labors immensely."—Washington Star.

"Do you see that very stout woman over there?"

"The one with three chins?"

"That's the one. Well, I never see her without feeling that I owe her the deepest gratitude."

"Did you some great favor, eh?"

"Yes. Refused to marry me when she was a girl."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Visitor—It must be a gigantic task to run a great newspaper like yours.

Editor—Not at all. It's the easiest thing in the world. Dozens of my friends, as well as perfect strangers, come in here every day to tell me how to run it.—Chicago Tribune.

The orator was urging the men to quit work. "Strike for your altars and your fires," he concluded.

"Well, I don't know," said a thoughtful auditor. "If you will show me how striking will pay rent for the altars and buy coal for the fires I'm with you."

Unfortunately at this juncture an executive session was ordered.

THE CUCKOO CLOCK.

A. W. Chamberlain in New York Sun.

Ah seen him in de cunnel's hall,
Whar he's own house hang on de wall,
Dat teenchy li'l buhd.
He push he's atttick shutteh back
An' pop he's hald out, lak'er jack,
An' say de quares' wuhd:

Cuckoo! (Listen!)
Cuckoo! (Hear 'im?)
Cuckoo!

Dat ain't de rain crow callin' from
De watchmelon row;
Depen's on jes' de time ob day
How many times he crow.
Erway erlong to'de evenin' time,
When red sunbeams slant low,
De fiel' han's stop dey wukkin' an'
De wol's jes' movin' slow,
Dat buhd sing from he's windehsell,
Cl'ar an' sweet ex er honey bell,
Cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo,
Cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo!
Ah wondeh whut's dat kin ob buhd?
Ah wondeh whut's he's name?

Dat house a clock, my mammy say,
De buhd, he tell de time ob day—
Gol, buhds inside ob clocks!
Hit s'prisin' dey doan' scotch dey heels,
Er cotch dey feddehs in de wheels,
An' stop de ticks an' tocks.

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Cuckoo! (Hear 'im?)
Cuckoo!

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