THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss:
Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the average daily circulation, less spoiled, unused and returned copies, for the month of January, 1911, was 45,826.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS,
Circulation Manager.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of February, 1911.
(Seal.) ROBERT HUNTER,
Notary Public.

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

Mr. Groundhog's six weeks' notice has not yet expired.

Give New Orleans credit, anyway, for being a good loser.

One of the difficult things to decide is whether to take next summer's vacation trip this winter.

The "city beautiful" and hideous billboards disfiguring the principal streets do not go together.

The University of Nebraska will import its foot ball coach from Yale. No patronize home industry rule governs on the foot ball field.

From the way quick action was had on the reciprocity bill the new rules of the house seem to be just as expeditious as the old rules.

Champ Clark ought to explain, every time he begins to make a speech, whether he wants what he says to be taken seriously or not.

Conceding that the fireless cooker may be all right, still the fireless furnace is an exasperating annoyance at this season of the year.

If she does not show up soon Dorothy Arnold will be in the Willie Whitla class by being discovered in every city on the continent.

The Mexican revolution may be written down a failure so far because it has not given us a single war correspondent of the first magnitude.

It is to be hoped George Gould's retirement from the Missouri Pacific presidency will not affect the international matrimonial market injuriously.

Our old friend "Jim" Hill is out publicly for Canadian reciprocity. The agreement ought to be ratified if only to make Mr. Hill take a more roseate view of the future.

The National Piano Manufacturers' Association of America is in session in Chicago with more than 1,000 members and camp followers in attendance. Harmony or discord?

King George might help pay expenses for his coming coronation from a new and untouched source of revenue by subletting aviation privileges over the route of the royal procession.

With so many statesmen eager to throw the constitution into the discard it is not strange that a play for notoriety should be made by calling the Declaration of Independence "historic garbage."

Preparations for the banquet to celebrate Mr. Bryan's birthday are going forward. We would wager that we could name at least ten distinguished democrats of national reputation who will not be invited.

That Danville grand jury seems to be able to get along just as well without the aid of a prosecutor. Which goes to show that under certain conditions the helpful prosecutor is a hindrance to the finding of true bills.

Omaha has furnished presidents for a number of big railroads, and all of them have made good. A requisition on Omaha from the Missouri Pacific for a suitable successor to President George Gould could be easily honored.

The railway mail service unrest has been allayed by adjustment of the complaints of the men by the postal authorities. This will be sad news to political agitators trying to keep the controversy stirred up to make political capital out of it.

The real puzzle is to devise an initiative and referendum scheme that will enable the people to get good laws in defiance of the "special interests" without enabling the "special interests" to obstruct or defeat laws objectionable to them.

Reciprocity in the Senate.

The fate of the agreement for reciprocity with Canada now turns upon the action of the senate on the bill, which has passed the house by such a decisive majority. The overwhelming preponderance in favor of the measure recorded in the house cannot fail to exercise a powerful influence upon the senate, and yet it is well known that the opposition to reciprocity is much more strongly entrenched in the upper branch of congress, and, furthermore, enjoys there parliamentary advantages for obstructive tactics which do not prevail in the lower house. It is known, too, that while the democrats in the house were unanimous in carrying out their caucus decree for reciprocity no such unanimity or party discipline exists among democratic members of the senate, and the democratic side on the final vote may be expected to be as badly divided as the republican side.

In one respect, at all events, the president has made a tactical stroke in so arranging the reciprocity agreement that it may be put into effect by the enactment of legislation rather than making it in the form of a treaty which would have to be ratified by the senate. Treaty ratification requires a two-thirds majority of the senate, while an ordinary legislative majority in each house may enact the measure to put the agreement into effect. If a two-thirds vote of the senate were needed in this case it would be an almost hopeless task to secure it, but it may be possible, if a vote on the proposition can be forced, to prevail on a majority of the senators, quite irrespective of party lines, to record themselves in its favor. Until the time for a vote is agreed on the danger will remain of postponement and filibustering over the 4th of March, when congress expires by limitation. Fortunately, the friends of reciprocity in the senate include as good tacticians and as experienced parliamentarians as are to be found among its opponents, and they should be able to force a showdown which alone will gauge the strength of the reciprocity proposal.

Expensive Vanity.

One of the most menacing faults of the day is the tendency to live beyond one's income. It cuts a much larger figure in the mooted matter of "cost of living" than the average person thinks. As a people we have got into the habit of living well, and that is right, for our supremacy as a race requires that we live well. But there are numerous vague and wholly fallacious ideas of what living well really means. It should not mean living beyond one's income. When it does it means trouble for the person who does it.

Young people starting out in life find the expense of maintaining a household very heavy and sometimes let the discouragement of it weigh them down into serious error. They complain that their income is not large enough for their outlay and doubtless they are right, but when they cannot increase the income the only thing to do is to diminish the outgo. Too often habits are indulged for which there is no legitimate excuse. Expensive habits that are not essential are the ones to cut off. By applying the pruning knife intensively and extensively most any couple, without regard to age, might effect a satisfactory equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. And that is generally the only way they can do it.

Nothing is more pitiable, not to say ridiculous, than the spectacle of a proud young pair striving against insuperable odds to keep up with associates of unlimited means. Such misguided people have no right to complain of the times or the cost of living. There never were times that would enable an impecunious man to keep up with the pace set by a man of unlimited means.

Problem of City Government.

With all the proposed and accepted reforms in state and national government the one common demand of the present is for a better system of municipal control, a system more responsive to the real needs of the community. This is the meaning of the embrace by so many cities of the commission form of government. This particular form is as yet experimental and has as strong opponents as it has advocates. The first city in the country to adopt it has, after about fifteen years, rejected it. But that may or may not constitute an argument against the system. The central fact is that other cities are willing to take it up in the hope, more than the assurance, that it will offer the solution of the problem.

But in the meanwhile the demand for larger local self-government goes on and must go on until it has been reasonably supplied. In several states now legislatures are grappling with this matter. Legislatures seem to have a natural aversion to enlarging municipal self-control, evidently in the fear that it will detract from their authority over the separate municipalities. The problem is an old one in Nebraska. Omaha has long sought relief from legislative charter tinkering and it would undoubtedly be better off from every standpoint if it could get the relief. It is a peculiar fact that in Wisconsin two bills for a broader measure of home rule have recently been defeated by the legislature. In Connecticut a similar bill is pending.

While, of course, it is desirable that the state exercise a restraining influence over the smaller units of population, it is nevertheless true that greater freedom of action by cities is necessary to insure their normal growth and development. The city is in the end responsible for its progress and its inhabitants understand their needs better than outsiders possibly can.

Boon for Winter Wheat.

One by one the winter wheat states seem to be winning out in their contest with the weather man. Oklahoma is the latest victor. Its farmers, who had begun to lose hope entirely, are now jubilant over the prospect of a good crop, counting on favorable weather hereafter. The prolonged drouth, dating since last August, has just been broken by a heavy rain. People have a right to become dubious under such conditions as prevailed in that state. Unfortunately, or fortunately, as the case may be, Oklahoma is not favored with any great amount of snow, so that it must depend on its rains entirely. It is different with Nebraska and other more northern states that produce a great deal of winter wheat. Our farmers had begun to get uneasy ten days ago because their ground was getting very dry and the late snow and sleet came just in time to do a vast amount of good. Then nature became doubly bountiful and added a good rain to the other elements, giving us a precipitation that will do much to counteract the effect of the dry period. We may now look forward with much more complacence to the remainder of the winter and spring. Oklahoma had very little time of grace left, however, for a drouth of six months' duration is a very serious thing and the farmer there has a right to rejoice at its termination.

Initiative and Referendum.

It would be amusing, were it not so pathetic, to see the patron saints of the initiative and referendum, who were so loudly proclaiming its virtues in the last Nebraska campaign, now hedging and running to cover on the plan which has been formulated in the legislature for submission to the people. Two great democratic legal luminaries, Attorney General For-a-Little-While Arthur F. Mullen and Vice Chairman Chris Gruenther of the democratic state committee, ably supported by the local democratic organ, are frantically endeavoring to convince the law-makers that they are over-stepping their pledge to let the people rule. The real difficulty they encounter is to square their present protests against unconditional initiative and referendum with their former pen and word pictures of its beauties. The particular points now made are, first, that the initiative should not include the right to initiate constitutional amendments, and second, that the referendum should not be available on a low percentage petition inviting "special interests" to hold up legislation enacted for the public good.

But what is the initiative and referendum which the people of Nebraska were promised in the late party platforms? Is it not the same plan by which, we were told, Oregon had achieved ideal popular government? The Oregon initiative and referendum is thus described in the famous speech of Senator Jonathan Bourne, jr., claiming for his state "the best system of popular government in the world today":

Oregon's initiative and referendum amendment provides that the people reserve to themselves the power to propose laws and amendments to the constitution and to enact or reject the same at the polls independent of the legislative assembly, and also reserve power to approve or reject at the polls any act of the legislature. An initiative petition must be signed by 8 per cent of the legal voters as shown by the vote for supreme judge at the last preceding election, and filed with the secretary of state not less than four months before the day of election. A referendum petition need be signed by only 5 per cent of the voters and filed with the secretary of state within ninety days after final adjournment of the legislature which passed the bill on which referendum is demanded. The legislature may itself refer to the people any act passed by it. The veto power of the governor does not extend to any measure referred to the people.

If any advance has been made in the perfection of the initiative and referendum since Oregon's departure it is probably to be found in the form incorporated into the new constitution of Arizona, to advocate which William J. Bryan traveled all that distance to make speeches in its favor. The Arizona initiative and referendum provides that under the initiative 10 per cent of the qualified electors may propose any legislative measure, and 15 per cent may propose any constitutional amendment. Under the referendum either the legislature or 5 per cent of the qualified electors "may order the submission to the people at the polls any measure, or item, or section, or part of any measure, enacted by the legislature, except laws immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, or for the support and maintenance of the departments of state government and state institutions." If the Arizona constitution embodying the initiative and referendum in this form could command the unqualified endorsement of William J. Bryan, naturally the bill put forward at Lincoln to redeem the democratic platform pledge in Nebraska should command the endorsement of ex-Attorney General Mullen, Vice Chairman Gruenther and Senator-elect Hitchcock's newspaper.

The democratic World-Herald and the psuedo republican Lincoln Star are pillorying Congressman Norris for being the only member of the Nebraska delegation in the house to record himself against Canadian reciprocity. We disagree with Congressman Norris on a great many subjects, including his opposition to reciprocity, but we admire a man who shows the courage of his convictions even though to do so he has to vote on the same side with "Joe" Cannon, Dalzell and other high tariff priests. Congressman Norris at least answers to roll call without running away to Europe and lets people know where he is at.

Nobody would propose making up an election board by shaking names out of a wheel for a rural voting district because the main safeguard of honest elections consists in personal acquaintance of the election officers with the voters. The same principle holds good in city elections where strangers in the election booth would be even more exposed to being fooled and imposed upon. The requirement that every election officer must have resided at least one year in the voting district in which he serves is a salutary one.

The problem of providing proper election machinery to facilitate voting and prevent fraud in thickly populated cities is not exclusive to Omaha, but is present in every large city. It has been tackled, and in a large measure solved, by legislatures of other states. The election laws of Illinois, Missouri and Minnesota will doubtless furnish all the necessary raw material to frame a satisfactory law for Nebraska.

The Omaha Ad club thinks the commission form of government would be a good ad for Omaha. So it would if it gave us men to manage our city government of real business ability and integrity. It would be a bad ad if it simply changed the official titles and increased the pay of incompetents or time-servers, who now hold down too many soft berths in the city hall.

President Taft has vetoed the resolution to reinstate the West Point cadets dismissed for hazing. The president's service as secretary of war evidently failed to predispose him toward clemency for such culprits. It is a safe guess, however, that the punishment will be more far-reaching by reason of the inability of the expelled cadets to crawl back under the tent.

According to Cardinal Gibbons, "Wizard" Edison's mind is maimed. He refers, of course, to Edison's mental attitude toward religion, although a few more "maimed" minds able to apply science successfully to the practical problems of life might be tolerated.

Candidates for the mayoralty nomination in Chicago are using up columns of space apiece to tell why they want the job. If they would only say they need the money the other reasons might be foregone.

That Iowa will try the Oregon plan of electing United States senators next time carries with it no guaranty of improved caliber of senators, but it is warranted not to produce deadlocks.

How the Game Works.

New York Tribune.

And so the penetrative power of our ordinance is greater than the defensive power of our armor plate. This means simply that the conditions will be reversed in a little while, and so on, ad infinitum.

Record Breaker in Prospect.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

What the governor of North Carolina said to the governor of South Carolina may not be a circumstance to what the governor of Ohio may one of these days feel like saying to the governor of New Jersey.

A Model of Its Class.

Kansas City Times.

In the interest of "economy" the legislature thinks seriously of abolishing the school of medicine at the University of Kansas. This is the same legislature that adopted a resolution urging congress to pass the Sulloway bill, which will add $50,000,000 a year to the pension rolls.

Back to Local Option.

Springfield Republican.

The return of the state of Alabama to the local option system is the logical outcome of the failure of the antisaloon forces to carry a prohibition constitutional amendment. It seems clear that the antisaloon movement in the south and west, which was so formidable a few years ago, has passed through the period of its greatest strength—at least, for the present.

A Reflection on the Nation.

Philadelphia Record.

In an opinion of Judge Lacombe, of the United States court in New York, on the immigration laws, he said that it was a cause of regret that such Draconian provisions could be found in the code of a Christian land. While the law is bad enough, its administration by the bureaucrats on Ellis Island in arbitrarily separating immigrant families is more barbarous. Yet there are people who think a few more turns should be given to the screw of the immigration laws.

People Talked About

Directions that her body be cremated and the ashes strewn over the grave of her husband at Bergen, Norway, are contained in the will of Mrs. Sara C. Bull, widow of Ole Bull, the violinist, which has just been filed for probate in Biddeford, Me.

During the year 1910 S. W. Hogan, a farmer, living near Monticello, Ia., shipped 221 carloads of hogs. In all there were 16,123 animals, for which he was paid $300,634.94. This does not include two carloads that were shipped on the last day of December, nor a great many hogs that were supplied to the local butchers during the year.

General Alexander Stewart Webb, who died in New York the other day, is the last of the group of division commanders of the civil war. Grandson of an officer of the revolutionary war and a graduate of West Point, his record as a soldier was worthy of his forbears. He participated in the battles of Bull Run, Yorktown, Seven Days, Mechanicsville, Hanover, Antietam, Shepardstown, Snickers's Gap and Chancellorsville and was awarded the congress medal of honor for bravery in the "Bloody Angle" at Gettysburg, when Pickett's charge was checked and destroyed. After Gettysburg he fought in the battles of Bristow Station, Robinson's Tavern, Mine Run, Wilderness, Spottsylvania and Petersburg, being brevetted as major general of the regulars after the latter action.

Around New York

Ripples on the Current of Life as Seen in the Great American Metropolis from Day to Day.

Madison Square Garden is again on the bargain counter. It has been off and on the market for over twenty years without a buyer. When completed and open for business in 1889 the structure and equipment had cost the owners $3,000,000. It can be bought today for $3,500,000. "Thus," says the New York Commercial, "the phenomenal spectacle is presented of a plot containing thirty-two lots in the very heart of New York City and covered by an expensive structure gaining only $500,000 or 16⅔ per cent in value in twenty-two years. Had the plot never been built upon at all, these thirty-two vacant city lots would no doubt be worth themselves around $4,000,000 today. It is the steadily losing venture through twenty-two years and the fact that whoever buys the property now must raze the garden and erect something else in its place before the investment can be made to pay that operate to keep the valuation down. In all probability Madison Square Garden is doomed—it must 'go.' As it stands, it is a monument to the public spirit of a few patriotic citizens who have been unwilling to see New York City without a public hall adequate for holding the largest gathering of people and equipped for holding the most pretentious amusement and social functions."

"Whenever I get out of a train at the Grand Central or the new Pennsylvania station I can't help missing the old locomotive," said a traveler quoted by the Sun. "Ever since I was a child one of the pleasures of a railroad journey was to look over the locomotive which had been pulling my train, but somehow I don't get this pleasure out of the electric motor.

"The trouble with the motor seems to be that it's too businesslike. It is plain and prosaic beside the old locomotive. Why, you can't even see the driving wheels, and might as well be looking at a huge soap box for all the interesting parts you can see.

"From habit, I suppose, I always look to see what's been pulling me when I finish a railroad ride, but when I see one of these motors at the Pennsylvania station I sigh for the old locomotive it has displaced. The motor doesn't make a sound after it gets in, just as though it had been no exertion at all to pull you under the river, but how different the locomotive! You always find it panting away like some living being, getting its breath, as it were. Then there's the engineer leaning out of his cab window watching the traveler leave his train, the vitalizer of the whole thing. You don't feel so drawn to the motorman somehow.

"Doubtless the motor is the superior of the locomotive in many ways, but it never will be as interesting, and with its coming seems to have gone some of the romance of railroading for the traveler, a romance which centered in the engine. I guess there are others just like myself who miss this feature when they arrive at New York."

Apartment house tenants and telephone users will be much interested in the outcome of the case of a New York business man who has applied to a justice of the supreme court for an injunction restraining his landlord from interfering with the installation of a private telephone in his apartment. There are two switchboards in the house with an operator on duty day and night, and the landlord first set up the plea that the tenant's connection with these was quite sufficient in the way of service and forbade him to put a private telephone in his apartment; the tenant replied that he seriously objected to having the switchboard operator hear all the details of his business and domestic affairs, and insisted on the installation of an independent telephone in his apartment; the landlord figured it out that it costs on an average to maintain the service $1.50 a month for each tenant, and so he charges his privacy seeking tenant $18 a year for the privilege of renting an independent instrument in his own apartment; the case hinges on the right of the landlord to exact this charge.

The lease has no provision for or against the installation of private telephones, and in consequence the right of the tenant to do it would seem to be perfectly clear. It may be, however, that the fact that the apartment was already provided with such an instrument will be a factor in the suit, and then would arise the question of a tenant's right to privacy—to protection against the possibility of injury from the wagging tongues of eavesdropping switchboard operators. As far as is known, this is the first case of the kind to get into the courts, and a most important precedent may be established by the decision of it.

The little old blind man was sitting on his stool near Broadway and Forty-ninth street, playing his wheezy accordion. A newsboy came along.

"Got any pennies, mister?" he asked.

"Look in the cup," replied the blind man.

The boy did so. There he saw seven pennies. "Kin I have change for a nickel?" he asked.

"Sure, take it," was the blind man's reply.

The boy dropped the nickel in the cup and took some pennies. He thanked the man and moved away.

"Aw, Jimmie," said another newsy, "you only got four pennies."

"I know it."

"What did you gib him de penny fer?"

"Jist done it fer luck," said Jimmy. "An' den, dat old man don't hardly git enough to eat. I seen where he lives, yist'day. De lan'lord was after him fer de rent den."

And Jimmy hurried away.

"My hat is off to the traffic square men," said a punctilious public official, who rather dislikes policemen. "Sir Walter and his velvet cloak had nothing on the mounted man at Fifth avenue and Forty-second street. It was the busiest hour on the avenue and the motor vehicles were crowded behind him like logs in a river jam, but he held them up for a good two minutes extra so that a rheumatic old fellow could get across without hurrying. The best the old man could do was a tortoise shuffle, and he was quaking and glancing around in terror as he worked across the street. When he got to the mounted policeman that limb of the law leaned over and spoke to him quietly. 'Take your time, sir,' he said. 'Take it easy. No hurry.' The old man was mightily grateful, if the taxi drivers did swear a little."

The coroner's office in New York is inspiring a bill to be presented at Albany regulating the sale of firearms. The shooting of Mayor Gaynor and David Graham Phillips by men mentally deranged has prompted this proposition. Rigid accountability, it is proposed, is to be exacted of dealers in deadly weapons, the sale of which to irresponsible persons is to be prohibited. This may seem an unpractical idea, but the coroner's chief clerk points out that since the passage of a law safeguarding the sale of carbolic acid, suicide by that medium has been very much reduced.

JABS OF THE PARAGRAPHERS.

Boston Transcript: "Don't," says the colonel to young men, "attempt to reach a high station by climbing up on other people." The backs of the pews will do.

Chicago Record-Herald: Miss Margaret Damm, an American girl who created a furore when she sang in Berlin, is coming home. By a supreme effort we are able to refrain from making the obvious comment.

Philadelphia Bulletin: Dr. Eliot of Harvard is of the opinion that a normal family should consist of eight children, although he is silent on the question of properly rearing the eight with food and clothes at top-notch prices.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: An apparatus for exterminating the housefly has been invented by a Massachusetts college professor. By and by one microbe will kill another until there's nothing left but professors, and they'll be easy to fix.

Baltimore American: Colonel Roosevelt has been advising young men not to climb up on others to success. This advice might be interpreted in differtnt ways as to what climbing up on others means, but the colonel himself is a very striking instance of the survival of the fittest.

New York World: Governor Baldwin's idea of a newspaper as "proof, one-quarter of a column; probabilits, one column, possibly a little more; and lies, the rest of the sheet," is scarcely suggestive of judicial calm and fairness or the wisdom ordinarily expected from the governor of a state.

MR. BRYAN NEXT YEAR.

A Democratic Convention Would Not Be Complete Without Him.

Washington Star.

Victor Rosewater, republican national committeeman from Nebraska, expresses the opinion that Mr. Bryan will head the delegation from that state in the next democratic national convention and practically decide the delegation's course there. The peerless leader has not been as much injured at home by recent events as his opponents at a distance have been led to believe. His party friends are still proud of him, and still disposed to follow him.

Let us all hope that Mr. Rosewater's judgment may prove correct. The next democratic national convention would not be complete without Mr. Bryan. It is going to be an interesting body, but his presence will add to the interest. What he shall have to say both as to candidate and platform should be worth the attention of every delegate in the hall.

There are those who will believe that Mr. Bryan will journey thither with only purposes of "scrapping;" that he will present himself as a trouble-maker, and that if turned down, either as to the nominee or the platform, he will sulk or bolt.

But there is nothing to warrant this. Mr. Bryan was turned down at St. Louis in 1904 on every proposition, and yet supported the convention's action. He stumped a wide section of the country for Judge Parker, and said what he could for a ticket and a deliverance of which he did not approve. It is to be presumed that he would be regular again under similar circumstances.

Mr. Bryan probably has some very pronounced views as to what his party should do next year. He may be more anxious than in the months preceding the St. Louis meeting seven years ago. The situation now is more promising for the democracy than then. And so he may be in even more aggressive form next year than when opposing the nomination of Judge Parker on a platform which he knew Wall street was dictating.

But, even so, Mr. Bryan should be at next year's convention, and accorded a respectful hearing. It is not believed that he desires the nomination for himself, though should he take the stage at a critical moment in a clash of aspirants he might, as at Chicago in 1896, create a frenzy. He is neither as young nor as handsome as then, but he still knows the art of playing upon an audience, and especially one torn with differences, a little weary from efforts to settle them, and in such a state, somewhat at the mercy of a star performer.

Mixup in Political Beds.

Philadelphia Record.

Strange things happen. The one democrat in the ways and means committee who voted against reciprocity represented a Louisiana purchase constituency! And Lorimer falls back into the arms of a Texas senator as a forlorn hope! And Johnny Dalzell locks horns with Secretary Knox!

LINES TO A LAUGH.

Doctor—I am sorry, dear madam, but I have bad news about your uncle. I must prepare you for the worst.

Prospective Heiress—Oh, doctor, you don't think he is going to get well?—Baltimore American.

"Strange how some people are ready at any time to chase after fires."

"Look, isn't that a fire engine crossing the square?"

"Sure. Come on, let's see where it is."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"First they compel us to give up our money," said the vociferous agitator, "and then they compel us to put up with such little comforts as they may find it convenient to provide!"

"About whom are you talking," asked the common person, wearily. "The trusts or the street car conductors?"—Washington Star.

First Fish—Let's go down to the Mississipi and wash.

Second Fish—You're on.—St. Louis Post Dispatch.

"And why, Tommy, do you suppose Diogenes was so anxious to find an honest man?"

"Pa says he probably wanted to sell him a gold brick."—Houston Post.

"It was Cicero, I believe, who said that whatever one does one should do with all one's might."

"Was it? I wonder if he would recommend that a man who was falling downstairs ought to fall down with all his might?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

"I see that Emma Calve is quite ill at Cobe, Japan."

"That's too bad. Some idiot will at once assume that this is another good reason for starting the Japanese war."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Two oysters were in a big pot full of milk getting ready for stew. Said one oyster to the other:

"Where are we?"

"At a church supper," was the reply.

Whereupon the little oyster said:

"What on earth do they want of both of us?"—Milwaukee Free Press.

"Do you get out of life all that is in it?"

"I fear not. I only belong to four bridge clubs. Two of my afternoons absolutely go to waste each week."—Pittsburg Post.

The family man was passing through the market when a sign attracted his attention. It read: "Poultry Dressed in the Latest Style."

"What do you mean by poultry dressed in the latest style?" he asked the marketman.

"Why are you blind?" said the dealer, pointing to the plucked chickens with their legs tied. "Don't you see they are all hobbled?"—Yonkers Statesman.

A SONG FOR SOLONS.

Portland Oregonian.

Ho, gallant solons, 'neath the state house dome,
There are voices calling, calling, from the ones back home,
And a thousand institutions throughout our mighty state
Are urging on a thousand claims, and none of them can wait,
And a thousand things divert you from other legislation,
Demanding several thousand each for their appropriation;
Then for these impecunious institutions, small and big,
Dig deeply in your coffers, but remember, as you dig:

CHORUS.

To keep your foot on the soft, soft pedal;
Go slow, don't dig too far;
For cash has legs, and it surely can skedaddle,
If the lid is left ajar.
Munificence is lovely, but don't give it too much slack;
'Tis a virtue one should measure by the volume of his stack.
So keep your foot on the soft, soft pedal,
And please don't dig too far.

Perhaps the time may come some day when, in the poet's words,
We will be rich enough to heave our loaves at the birds,
And the coffers of the commonwealth will compass an amount
That would put the jaded Croesus on his back to take the count.
Perhaps when Uncle Ben's master mind the nutty problem cracks,
And we sit impaled in paradise upon the single tax,
But until that millennium, Oh, gallant solons all,
What time you dig, responsive to our many-throated call:

CHORUS.

Just keep your foot on the soft, soft pedal;
Go slow, don't dig too far;
For cash has legs, and it surely can skedaddle,
If the lid is left ajar.
Love the impecunious wherever you can spot 'em,
But while you love, remember the cash box has a bottom,
And keep your foot on the soft, soft pedal,
And please don't dig too far.

(N. B.—The melody should wax the more fortissimo,
The deeper in the cash box the appropriations go,
And should make a brave crescendo on the diapason stop,
As the bottom of the coin case comes the nearer to the top.)