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.

It looks as if it were up to Postmaster Thomas.

Open primary or closed primary—that is the question.

Evidently the rain still falls on the just and unjust alike.

Eternal vigilance also seems to be the price of togas in several states.

Dr. Cook is to lecture in Des Moines. On the commission plan?

Russia evidently thinks it is a good time to kick China while she is down.

A man of few opinions runs a big risk by becoming a good story teller.

It is reasonable to assume that City Clerk "Dan" Butler has proved a satisfactory alibi.

Mr. Bryan's new lecture, "The Fruit of the Tree," must be real juicy.

It seems superfluous to add, however, that Senator Bourne spoke with burning words.

Perhaps Russia is just trying to tease Mr. Carnegie into giving it a peace prize not to attack China.

It is now believed that if "Billy" Sheehan's eyes were brown instead of blue he might have done better.

A Philadelphia woman advocates "clubs" for girls. Men at least could duck them better than they can hatpins.

The mention of pork barrels in Kansas seems to make a lot of lips smack in that good old Sunflower state.

Captain Peary might worry more, however, if it were some one else than "Macon of Arkansaw" who called him a faker.

If some of those Mexican officers could load their names into the guns and shoot them the insurrection might become ominous.

The president of Vassar says "college girls are lovely." Huh, any ordinary man without a college education could tell that.

Still, the former mayor of Seattle can scarcely be expected to come out in favor of woman's suffrage and the recall at the same time.

Those young "statesmen" out in New Mexico seem to understand a lot about modern methods of politics in the way of making constitutions.

Mobile people are trying to figure out why a citizen of that town eloped with a young woman cashier. Could it have been that he needs the cash?

Omaha will entertain the State Federation of Nebraska Retailers next month. All who come are assured of seeing a live exhibit of what a real market town is.

Those boy scouts who met in Washington might have done a welcome service by scooting around and finding out what the senate was going to do on the reciprocity plan.

The new president of the Missouri Pacific will have to live in St. Louis. We presume, however, he will be permitted to seek relief once and a while by running up to Omaha on an inspection tour.

Delhi, Tex., is the place for Mary Garden. When the mayor objected to Salome on the stage he was tossed out of the theater by a group of cowboys, who could find no objection to Salome or any of her family.

Speaking of the initiative and referendum, of the thirty-two measures submitted to popular vote in Oregon at last year's election, eleven, or more than one-third, were proposed amendments to the constitution.

Annexation and Reciprocity.

Canadian reciprocity evidently has encountered a new obstacle in Congressman Bennett's resolution proposing annexation of Canada by the United States. Congressman Bennett knows, as well as anyone else, that annexation is a subject to which Canada would not even listen at this time. But there is a possibility that agitation of a proposition repugnant to the national spirit of the Dominion might work fatal injury to the cause of reciprocity. Its effect would no doubt have been greater earlier in the negotiations, before Canada had committed itself to the Taft plan and before the house had endorsed it. It is surprising to find Champ Clark, after his avowal of friendship for Taft's plan, using the Bennett resolution as a means of attacking reciprocity by ridiculing it. It betrays an insincerity on the part of the democratic leader.

Those who favor Canadian reciprocity are not likely, however, to let Canada be deceived as to the purpose of the move for annexation. And yet, in spite of all their reassurance to Canada that this country is not advocating reciprocity as an opening wedge to annexation, they may have a hard time satisfying the Canadian mind on that subject. Our neighbors to the north are a little suspicious of our aggression, anyway, and are so doggedly ambitious of their own national development that it is not surprising if they become skeptical of our unselfish intentions.

Before Canada entertains any proposal to become a part of the American republic she is much more likely to undertake her own independence as a nation separate and distinct from Great Britain. At least that is the tendency of the national spirit so steadily growing at present. England is, no doubt, disturbed about that far more than about the contingency of annexation by the United States.

Russia's Notice to China.

Russia says nothing about world peace in its note to the nations regarding the Chinese situation. It simply announces its intention of making a military demonstration on the frontier of China, which is tantamount to an act of war, if that nation does not come to time on the terms of the St. Petersburg treaty, which Russia charges it has openly violated. This is aside from the main issue, except to remind us that we have not yet progressed very far on our way to the coveted goal of universal peace.

Russia's notification may be regarded as a semi-ultimatum, and China, if it is wise, will see to it that the ultimatum does not come. It is not yet certain how far outside powers could consistently go toward requiring Russia to settle its dispute peacefully. It must first be determined how far China has gone in violating the treaty, to which the czar refers.

But in any event a Russian war with China at this time would be deplorable. The empire is not prepared for war at all. Its arms are not adequate and its finances are unsettled. Its internal affairs of state are in the process of change. And besides all this, it is just now cursed by the most appalling famine of its history. This alone is an affliction far too grave to warrant it in going to unnecessary war and it should by all means serve to restrain Russia's aggression and arouse a better spirit. Russia, of course, is not insensible to all these hardships and handicaps of China's and may have been prompted to take advantage of them. Fair play and humanitarian interests demand peace, not war, between these nations. Meantime little Japan, which is quite as ambitious in the east as Russia, is yet to be heard from. Its recent close commercial affiliation with China might make possible some sort of military alliance for defensive purposes if it believed itself the ultimate good of the Russian advance.

Is it a Harriman Victory?

The overthrow of the Gould mastery in Missouri Pacific by the Kuhn-Loeb and Rockefeller forces looks like a victory after a long, hard struggle of the Harriman allies. If it is it means additional strength to the Union and Southern Pacific in that fight for conquest along the Pacific coast and gives them a new advantage over Mr. Hill from the south.

Here, however, enters into consideration a very potential factor. Only recently it was claimed that Hill had formed an alliance with Gould whereby the Minnesota magnate was to help along with the Western Pacific, the new Gould road to the coast. This would give Hill new resources of competition with the Harriman lines. Now, it remains to be seen how near true this story may have been and, if true, whether Harriman ascendency in the Missouri Pacific will carry control of the other Gould interests. If it should later extend to the new coast line it would just about bottle up the Pacific country against Hill, except for the upper coast, and even there the Harriman people have already gained a foothold by projecting a line into Seattle.

Another interesting possibility arises in the denouement of this plan, and that is the election of Howard Elliott as president of the Missouri Pacific to succeed George Gould, which has been rumored. Mr. Elliott is now president of Mr. Hill's Northern Pacific. Of course, all the facts will not come out until the election of the Missouri Pacific this coming month, but it is now apparent that the displacement of Gould is to work important changes in the railroad world. That defeat has not been accomplished without Titanic effort. Wall street smiled at young Gould away back in 1892, when he succeeded his father, and because it failed to find in him the easy prey it thought he was it decided on unfriendly methods. He has held his own in the grab-bag process that since has ensued, but evidently has lost at last.

Everybody's Business.

The adage that "what's everybody's is nobody's business" is nowhere so strikingly exemplified as in local public affairs. The indifference of our business men, taxpayers and property owners to the vital problems constantly arising in the city hall and court house is notorious, and questions that involve the expenditure of thousands, and even millions, of dollars are passed by until the discovery is made that the bills must be paid out of their own pockets.

Our people had ample warning of the costly tangle in which the purchase of the water works has become involved, with a judgment of over $6,000,000 staring us in the face and court orders issued for special taxes to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars of deferred hydrant rental, but it was a case of everybody's business being nobody's business.

It cannot be said for certain, but indications bid fair for a repetition on a small scale in the matter of the disputed bills for gas street lighting if, rather than reach a settlement, the chances of the courts are invited.

In the pending charter changes, too, we may see many important matters that are everybody's business and therefore nobody's business. As The Bee has pointed out, the increased limits of appropriations will open the way to increasing the city's tax rate half again, with little promise of getting more for the money. Yet the prospect is treated with unconcern, although it is morally certain that when the higher taxes are due a general outcry of resentment and indignation will be heard.

Omaha is, we believe, one of the few cities of its size and pretensions with such indifferent public sentiment. In other cities business men's organizations, civic societies, improvement clubs and similar bodies keep constantly in touch with every phase of local affairs and are keenly alive to the demands of the public in all these matters. They make everybody's business somebody's business and accomplish something in time instead of merely complaining after the fact.

Switching Again.

The current issue of the Commoner prints a message wired by Mr. Bryan in answer to a request for his opinion as to the endorsement of Mr. Sheehan for senator by Chairman Norman E. Mack of the democratic national committee, as follows:

> Do not care to discuss any person's position. Am a believer in the election of senators by direct vote of the people, and regret that the system is not now in operation. In its absence I trust that the democrats will, as nearly as possible, reflect the wishes of the voters. Each state has the right to such representatives as it desires, but in every state the representatives should voice the sentiment of the whole people, and not the sentiments of the special interests which have too often succeeded in forcing their special agents upon the public through their ability to control legislatures.

This is an interesting sidelight on Mr. Bryan's change of position with reference to senatorial deadlocks. It was only a few years ago that he traveled all the way to Kentucky to lecture the democrats in the legislature there on their duty to accept the decree of the caucus which had nominated former Governor Beckham for United States senator. In this instance the democratic insurgents in the legislature refused to follow Mr. Bryan's advice and Beckham was beaten by a coalition of republicans and democrats. It is to be noted now that Mr. Bryan is careful not to apply his admonition to the Kentucky democrats to the democrats in the New York legislature, who in caucus have nominated Mr. Sheehan, and that he is also careful not to say anything against Mr. Sheehan or encouraging to the democratic bolters. On the contrary, he suggests that each state has a right to send such representatives to the senate as it desires, presumably seeing no objection to Mr. Sheehan if he could only prove that Tammany influence controls a majority of the Empire state democrats. Mr. Bryan plainly does not care again to go through in New York the humiliating experience he had in Kentucky.

One member of the legislative investigating committee, which has been looking into charges of election frauds in Omaha, declares that he is satisfied that there have been violations of the law, but is surprised that there are not more of them disclosed. The reason there are no more election frauds is the vigilance of The Bee and other newspapers constantly alert to expose crookedness and throw the searchlight of publicity on suspicious places. Fear of newspaper exposure prevents more election fraud than any other one thing.

Harriman lines carried 49,000,000 passengers last year with, it is recorded, not one fatality. If that is a correct statement it is high time to admit that intensive railroading has made a big advance in this country. As a matter of fact that general effort railroads are exerting to protect human life is most encouraging and should inspire the closest co-operation on the part of the traveling public.

According to the official Catholic directory the number of Catholics in Nebraska is estimated at 122,510, which would be a trifle over 19 per cent of the total population. Nothing very menacing about that. We only wish that all of our inhabitants made as good and desirable citizens as the Catholics, who are helping to build up Nebraska.

According to his sworn statement of campaign expenses, it cost Senator-elect Reed of Missouri $10,490 to capture the job. The successful candidate for United States senator in Nebraska does not swear to spending anything like that amount, but he could probably match Mr. Reed's figures if he were equally conscientious.

Mr. Bryan's unqualified and unconditional endorsement of the recently adopted Arizona constitution, with all its new-fangled attachments, should be conclusive on Vice Chairman Chris Gruenther and Attorney General For-A-Little-While Arthur F. Mullen.

Pathos of the Parting.
St. Louis Republic.

Goodby, George, and take keer of yourself!

Silence Promotes Safety.
Chicago Record-Herald.

Vote buying in two more counties of Cannon's district is to be investigated. Up to the hour of going to press the suspected voters hadn't said a word about their intention to stand pat.

How Did They Do It?
Washington Post.

Declarations by railroad officials that passenger traffic is conducted at a loss make it harder than ever to understand how the business managed to keep up when passes were issued.

Send Out the Cake, Please.
New York World.

The Harriman lines carried more than 49,000,000 passengers in 1910 without a single fatality among them. Railroad management that accomplishes this is deserving of public recognition and generous public praise.

An Inspiring Trip.
Baltimore American.

President Taft's western trip was really inspiring. Here we have a president who is not content merely to propose measures for the public welfare and to sit in his easy White House chair while congress rejects or passes them at its pleasure; instead, he is mightily concerned that the reciprocity treaty shall be made, and undertakes a fatiguing trip to convince the people that the measure is directly in their interests.

Another Medical Triumph.
Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

The success of the antimeningitis serum discovered by the Rockefeller institute can no longer be in the slightest doubt, now that the institute announces that the serum will "take its place with vaccine and diphtheria antitoxin as an approved agency for the protection of the public health." It is an immense triumph that the mortality from cerebro-spinal meningitis has been reduced to less than one-third of what it was before the serum was used, and it may be added that triumphs of this character in the conservation of the public health go far to counterbalance the harsher aspects of the vivisection methods in use in such an institution.

RECIPROCITY MARCHING ON.

Philadelphia Record: The heavy majority in the house of representatives in favor of the Canadian reciprocity agreement is a fair reflection of the sentiment of the country.

Indianapolis News: What difference, Mr. President, does it make whether the Canadian reciprocity agreement is put into effect by the votes of democrats or the votes of republicans? None whatever, sir, to the plain people, we can assure you.

St. Louis Republic: Speaker Cannon dodged the vote on reciprocity, though Mr. Taft delayed his dinner to him at the White House an hour and said he would have been glad to make it a breakfast instead of a dinner to get the bill passed. Probably he would have been willing to make it lunch next day, provided Uncle Joe had been smoked out.

Chicago Record-Herald: Cannon's influence in the republican house of representatives seems to be just about as strong as it will be after the democrats have a working majority there. A few years ago it would have been considered absurd to suppose that a measure of any kind could go through the house against the speaker's wish. Evidently "Uncle Joe" has worn out his power and popularity.

New York Tribune: Although Senator Bristow of Kansas is talking about the dubious value of the Canadian reciprocity agreement and Representative Calderhead of the same state voted in the ways and means committee against reporting the McCall bill favorably, sentiment in Kansas seems to be against them and with the president. The lower branch of the Kansas legislature adopted a resolution the other day "instructing" the two senators to vote to carry the agreement into effect and "requesting" the representatives from the state to do likewise.

Political Drift.

Arizona approved the new state constitution by a four-fifths vote.

Francis K. Pendleton, just appointed to the bench in New York, is the son of George H. Pendleton, known to the middle west as "Gentleman George."

With one eye centered on Albany, the other on Oyster Bay, the New York Post exclaims, "The old guard does not die, and the man surrenders who said he never would."

The number of aspirants for mayor of Chicago jumps from seven to eleven—four democrats, three republicans, two socialists and two without pure party labels. A great free-for-all scramble is assured at the primaries.

Baltimore plans a hustling but passing campaign to raise a fund of $100,000 and secure the democratic national convention next year. The Denver prize purse is now the democratic minimum, and the Monument city expects to reach if not raise the limit.

The legislature of Pennsylvania is giving favorable consideration to a bill for a law imposing a fine of not more than $5,000 and imprisonment not exceeding five years, where a promoter is convicted of misrepresentation. The measure aims at get-rich-quick swindles.

"Peggy O'Brien" is mosing around the senatorial deadlock in New York, and the fact forecasts a change for the better. Peggy is the girl who last fall campaigned through the congressional district in which Oyster Bay is situated, and turned a republican majority into a democratic sweep, sending her husband, Martin W. Littleton, to congress. Even Roosevelt, when he viewed the republican upset in Oyster Bay, had to admit that Peggy is a political peach.

In Other Lands

Side Lights on What is Transpiring Among the Near and Far Nations of the Earth.

The unequivocal deliverance of the British prime minister regarding the purpose of the government to grant "full self-government" to Ireland as soon as the obstructive veto of the House of Lords is removed, carries an overflowing measure of cheer and satisfaction to the legion of Irish home rulers at home and abroad. Similar high hopes were entertained on many former occasions, only to be dashed ere the wine of liberty touched the eager lips. But the present situation more closely approaches a cinch than any previous battle for Irish self-government. The country has spoken decisively for a restricted veto of the lords. Once that restriction becomes a law, the sole obstacle to home rule is removed. Close observers of the situation in London are practically unanimous in asserting that the peers cannot save themselves from the fate they invited by resistance to progress, and must consent to reduced powers of legislation or be overwhelmed. Indeed, there would be little opposition to home rule at the present moment if the tories—peers and commoners—could square the concession with their past implacable opposition. That they are preparing for the inevitable outcome of the session is evident in the moderated tone of party organs. One of the powerful influences supporting the mandate of the electors is the desire for closer relations with the United States. Practical politicians on both sides of the water realize that such an understanding is impossible while the unsettled Irish question keeps alive the enmity of Irish-Americans. "There is no ideal in politics," says the Manchester Guardian, (speaking of an unlimited treaty of arbitration between England and the United States), "comparable with it for nobility and grandeur, none with such splendid promise for the future of civilization, and the first and most certain step to its realization would be the settlement of the Irish question."

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Immigration has become the most profitable industry developed in Italy in the last decade. The lamentations heard in former years over the country's loss have turned to rejoicings, and immigration agents are welcomed where formerly they were hooted out of the country. All this because golden sunshine has healed the wounds of broken home ties. Statistics of the Italian emigration bureau shows that a stream of $100,000,000 a year is pouring back into the country, part of the fruits of Italian industry in North and South America. That sum is definitely traced. Much more comes in ways other than through the postoffice and banks, swelling the total, according to other authorities, to $250,000,000 a year. A surprising feature of the report is the statement that 70 per cent of the emigrants return home within a year, and the remainder, with few exceptions, within five years. This is particularly true of the emigration to the Argentine Republic. The same authority places the number of Italians in North America at 1,750,000, and in South and Central America at 2,500,000. The savings of the home-comers range from $200 to $2,000. According to this official showing, Italy has stumbled on a source of wealth far more profitable than the tourist graft.

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Insurance can be had in Great Britain on almost any proposition, from a lordly back down to the weather on coronation day. The government believes there is room for more and has included in its legislative program two propositions supplementing the present old age pension system. One is insurance against unemployment. The other is Mr. Lloyd-George's proposal of compulsory universal insurance against invalidism for all wage earners whose income is less than the income tax minimum of $800 a year. This, we are told, will apply to about 10,000,000 persons. It will cover all ages between 16 and 70, the old age pension system coming into force at the latter age. The minimum amount of insurance, which will be fully guaranteed by the state, will be $125 a week. All risks will be accepted by the state on all lives, good and bad. The contribution requisite to provide the benefit will be computed by government actuaries, and will be assessed one-half against the person insured, one-fourth against the employer and one-fourth against the state. In this respect the system will radically differ from that of old age pensions, under which the beneficiary makes no contribution.

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Discontent and criticism are the chief signs of welcome for the French workmen's pension law which goes into force next July. The state and the workmen jointly contribute ta the pension fund, and the contributions of the latter are to be collected by the employers. Pensions begin at the age of 65. Both features are sharply condemned. Owing to the strained relations existing between large employers and their workmen, the collection of the contributions by the former is likely to increase the friction, while the age limit is considered too high for the multitude of employes engaged in hazardous occupation. Efforts are being made in the French chamber to reduce the age limit to 55 years, but the ministry is not disposed to consider changes until the law has been given a practical test.

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For some time to come the tomb of the famous Ananias, three days' journey by donkey from Bagdad, cannot be reached by other than primitive conveyances. The Turco-German railroad to Bagdad is halted in the distant Arabian desert, while the powers duscuss who is to control the project when it is completed. Germany and Turkey are financing the road. Russia fears that Turkey is going a little too far to the east, while England is said to have partially blocked the enterprise by obtaining control of the most available terminals on the Persian gulf. Another element of fear is the probability of the main line, or the proposed Russian branch, getting too near the borders of India. With an oversupply of native nightmares in India, England "views with alarm" the possibility of an imported one, the result of which would be the diminution of sea power as the controlling factor in the east. It is reasonable certain, however, the diplomatic talkfest ends, that the road will be built to Bagdad in due time, passing the tomb of Ananias on the way. The prospect affords some comfort to members of the distinguished order who are eager for a view of the shrine of the great dissembler.

Where Modern Facilities Fail.
Baltimore American.

This seems to be the age of missing people—so many of late have been so reported. With all the facilities of the day, the marvelous extent to which the wizard power of electricity lights up and searches every corner of the globe, the quickness of news and transportation, it would appear impossible for these disappearances to take place; yet people vanish as completely as though they never existed. All human invention has yet been unable to keep pace with the ingenuity of human crime or human self-interest.

The Bee's Letter Box

Contributions on Timely Subjects Not Exceeding Two Hundred Words Are Invited from Our Readers.

Would Liberate Erdman.

OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: There are dogs and dogs—dogs with fancy silk ribbons and combed fur—dogs neglected and distempered. The silk ribbon dog is the pet of all; the distempered fellow—no one cares a straw for him.

I cannot but think that we have an example of this in the case now pending in our local courts of Frank Erdman. Frank Erdman, the unattractive dog—so it would appear from the "brutish" confinement which he is now undergoing. Guilty or not guilty, he is another victim of deferred justice—right on our own doorstep. If a dog has an uncomely appearance is that any reason why I should forget our relationship? If he is a suspicious looking cur should that warrant his punishment? As to whether the man has done this crime the court will never know, and to take so long a time to measure up the evidence in the case is to deal unjustly towards the man. And a judge who (whether voluntarily or by force of court procedure) so becomes an accessory to such "injustice" can not be termed a judge in the real sense, but a lawyer, or, perhaps more correctly, an automaton.

When a court cannot prove guilt within a reasonable length of time it should free its prisoner; whatever be the hidden facts, justice is not frustrated thereby.

WILLIAM WEETMAN.

Initiative and Referendum.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have received a personal letter from Chris M. Gruenther, vice chairman of the democratic state central committee, in reference to the 5 per cent referendum petition and also note his public statement in the World-Herald and the editorial endorsing Mr. Gruenther's position in the same paper. And I also note his objection, not only to the per cent required for the referendum, but his further objection to the method of amending the constitution as proposed. I cannot help but believe that the attack on the per cent required for the referendum is only preliminary and incidental to the main and serious attack on the method of amending the constitution, and I wish to reiterate with all the force at my command that it is the corporations and vested interests who are demanding that the bill be so amended as to make it practically impossible for the people to amend the constitution.

First as to the per cent required for the referendum. If Mr. Gruenther has given any study to this proposition, he knows that 5 per cent for the referendum is the per cent in every state which has a practical initiative and referendum law, and he must further know, if he has examined the question, that it is agreed by all friends of direct legislation that nowhere has the referendum been abused by reason of the per cent contained in any of said states. Nevada alone requires 10 per cent for the referendum, but does not have the initiative. Arkansas, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota and Colorado, each and all require 5 per cent only for the referendum, and the experience in those states do not justify the fears of Mr. Gruenther in respect to the per cent required.

Now in regard to the statement of Mr. Gruenther that "it is amazing that anyone should fail to see the necessity of distinguishing between the constitution and statute law," every state, with one exception, that has adopted the initiative and referendum in full, has provided that the constitution may be amended by a mere majority of the votes cast on the proposition, and do not require a majority of all the votes cast at the election.

Furthermore thirty-four states in the union amend their constitution by a mere majority of the votes cast on the proposition, and only ten states, including Nebraska, require a majority of all the votes cast at the election, and of these ten states most of them have old constitutions, which the people in vain have been trying for years to amend without avail. Nebraska has tried about twenty-three times to amend its constitution, but not until the fiction of counting straight votes was adopted, was it able to pass an amendment, notwithstanding the fact that many amendments proposed received an overwhelming majority of the votes cast upon the proposition. The constitution of Nebraska provides that if an entirely new constitution is proposed, then a majority of the vote cast upon the proposition is sufficient to adopt and yet the conservatives argue that if a specific amendment is to be made, the constitution becomes so sacred that we must have at least 51 per cent of the entire vote cast to adopt the amendment.

The objections raised to the proposed measures now before the legislature have not come from the people generally, not the masses, but the classes; not from the progressives, but from the standpatters, and the men and the party who are throwing obstacles in the progress of direct legislation will, in my judgment, have reason to regret it in the near future. The people of this state are capable of self-government, and know what they want, and they are going to have it, and we will continue this fight to the last day of the session before we concede a single point to those who say they are for direct legislation, yet are doing everything in their power to secure a law that will be unworkable and of little or no benefit to the people who are demanding direct legislation.

C. M. SKILES.

SUNNY GEMS.

"Nobody wants to play bridge with Mrs Bean. She talks all the time."

"I suppose she's quiet when she's dummy?"

"Quiet! She talks twice as much!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Surgeon—I was very much cut up over the charges you made against me about that operation.

Patient—You weren't half as much cut up as I was, doctor.—Baltimore American.

The Joker—There is an epidemic of smallpox in the southern end of the city. Why not send some of your force down to investigate.

Detective Captain—But, man, that disease is contagious.

The Joker—Won't hurt them. They couldn't catch anything.—St. Louis Times.

"I think," said the astronomer, "that I have discovered a new canal on Mars."

"Is that so?" replied the New Orleans man, absentmindedly. "I wonder what town's going to get the celebration?"—Washington Star.

"Sometimes a virtue con be exaggerated until it becomes a vice," said the earnest adviser.

"I see exactly what you're comin' at," replied Tarantula Tim. "Whereas four aces is a blessin' an' greatly to be admired, five of 'em kin create untold dissension."—Washington Star.

WHERE ARE YOUR PATCHES?

He was facing a good, old farmer,
And was asking for a job;
The farmer looked him over.
And his head he wisely bobbed.
"Turn around a minit, sonny;"
Then he slowly shook his head;
"I guess I ain't a goin' to need ye,
your patches aint in front," he said;
"For the boy what has his patches
Down in front, on his knees—
Then I know thet he's hard workin',
And thet he's agoin' to please.
But ther one what's got the patches
On behind—well, he's no good—
For he'll be settin' on the wood pile,
'Stead of choppin' up the wood."
So, my boy, when for employment
You are asking, you must mind;
"Are your patches on in front
Or are your patches on behind?"

Crawford, Neb. ZULA ACKER.