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 VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.
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State of Nebraska, County of Douglas: I, Dwight Williams, circulation manager of the Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, say that the average daily circulation, less spoiled, unused and returned copies, for the month of December, 1911, was 50,119.

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

About time for congress to play ball.

Goodness, girls, have you forgotten already that it is leap year?

Oh, what a difference a separation from the pie counter makes.

Iowa will wait for the convention to see whether Cummins is a corner or a goner.

To show that it pins its faith to the old-fashioned styles, Arizona will send a Mr. Smith to the senate.

What a pity the Connaughts did not postpone their visit to see America until the base ball season opened.

It seems to take that Manchu dynasty a long time to fall off the throne after it sustains the death blow.

Mr. Carnegie did not include poker in his list of acceptable amusements, no, nor any other game of chance—to him.

It seems as if the technicalities of the law still afforded a fine playground for professional criminals in Nebraska.

Of course, the opposition will insist that the Taft victory in the Fourth Oklahoma district was not significant.

New York City's growing debt has passed the one-billion mark. Never mind, Omaha is doing tolerably well in that direction.

The English are such observing folk. The duke of Connaught notes marked changes in New York since he saw it last in 1862.

The list of shining lights in the new local organization of republican insurgents contains a lot of familiar names. There's a reason.

The Wilsons seem to have the better of the debate and it begins to look as if the Harveys will have to do a lot of hard rebuttal to win.

It is to be hoped our new democratic reform sheriff will keep out of South Omaha. He might find something there he is not looking for.

Dr. Woods Hutchinson ought to be able to poll the full socialist vote and then some—he says four hours a day is enough work for any man.

In condemning Governor Wilson for being a schoolmaster, Colonel Watterston should remember that that was also Champ Clark's profession.

The duke of Connaught, it is said, gave no interviews to reporters, but that will not prevent him from being extensively quoted in the New York papers.

The fellow who gets the short end in the distribution of an estate is quick to discover that the testator was not of sound mind when he made his will.

Senator-elect Ollie James weighs 230 pounds, standing still. When he trains his voice on republicans, he approximates a ton.—Nashville Democrat.

But the damage he does is at least sixteen pounds lighter than his weight.

Before the camera those county treasurers present a picture of a self-satisfied lot. The custody of public money must make a man feel all puffed up by the confidence reposed in him.

The privilege of heading the Roosevelt delegation from Nebraska unquestionably belongs to John O. Yester. He saw it first, and this attempt of jealous rivals to crowd him out would be ingratitude worse than that of Mr. Bryan to Mayor "Jim" or Woodrow Wilson to Colonel Harvey.

Our Formidable Primary Ballot.
 Efforts are said to be under way to relieve the primary ballot to be voted in Nebraska next April of some of the so-called dead wood that threatens to make it so cumbersome as to impede the intelligent voter. It is possible something may be accomplished along this line, but the number of offices for which nominations are to be made cannot possibly be reduced without changing the law. In this city and county each voter will be called upon presumably to make upwards of sixty cross marks on his ballot. Here is the list:

- Preference for president.
- Preference for vice president.
- Preference for United States senator.
- Three presidential electors.
- Four delegates-at-large.
- Two district delegates.
- Two district alternates.
- National committeeman.
- Congressman.
- Nine state officers.
- Five state senators.
- Twelve state representatives.
- County attorney.
- County assessor.
- County commissioner.
- Four school board members.
- Two water board members.
- Five constitutional amendments.

There may be others that we have overlooked, and additions to the list may also yet be made to fill vacancies occurring in other offices ordinarily elected in off years. Assuming that there will be an average of three candidates for each place on the ticket, which would not be excessive judging from past experience, our voters can draw a picture of what they will encounter when they ask for their primary ballot.

The Smuggled-in "Chineses."
 The tempting mark always presented by the poor "Chineses" is again called to mind by renewed demand for more stringent exclusion laws voiced in the report of the commissioner of immigration. According to information percolating through this authority, the bars which we have erected are not keeping out of the United States all the yellow undesirables, but, on the contrary, large numbers continue to break through the lines surreptitiously, and the complication of identification stands in the way of stopping the smuggling of coolies on steamers at San Francisco and across the Mexican and Canadian borders.

It is within the range of probability that our exclusion laws are not all-right, and yet it will be hard to stir the country up to a pitch of excited fear against a Yellow Peril invasion. The census does not show that the number of Chinese in this country constitutes a dangerous factor even in the few places where they are concentrated and congested. It is well known that the Chinese government is as averse to letting Chinese laborers emigrate to this country as we are to have them in, and it is a fair inference that the exclusion laws are not violated by the smuggling of Chinese any oftener than are other laws against different kinds of smuggling. Our present exclusion laws are designed to shut out all the undesirable Chinese, and our immigration machinery ought to be able to control the situation in conjunction with the Chinese government, whether it be a monarchy or a republic.

The Merritt-Rockefeller Case.
 The Merritt brothers, who have achieved some fame through their ore holdings along the Mesabe range, have had a pretty full and free hearing before the people: they have aired their case in the newspapers, before a congressional committee and in the magazines. Ordinarily, it would be admitted that they have at least been allowed to state their side to the jury. And it probably would be admitted that up to the time they completed their statement, public sympathy and credence were all with them. They succeeded, undoubtedly, in making most people believe that Mr. Rockefeller cheated them out of millions upon millions in the ore deal. They hit upon a happy phrase in saying that "Mr. Rockefeller seemed to us a kind-hearted gentleman; he greeted us with a smile, but we cannot conceive how in hell, within these few months, without spending a cent of money above our board bill, we could have gone to New York and lost all those millions."

Now, comes Mr. Rockefeller's almoner, the "Rev." Frederick T. Gates, who, the Merritts aver, acted as Mr. Rockefeller's agent in stripping them, with a very comprehensive statement of Mr. Rockefeller's side of the case. It is prepared with great system and published in high grade pamphlet form and distributed over the country. This much must be admitted by an impartial reader of that document, that it seems to throw the burden of proof back upon the Merritts. It certainly leaves something for them to explain before any unbiased jury would care to return a verdict convicting Mr. Rockefeller. Documentary evidence is submitted, burdensomely detailed, by Mr. Gates to sustain what he says, the import of which may be put in a nutshell, thus: The Merritts were wild speculators, they owned about 25,000,000 to 50,000,000 tons of ore (not 700,000,000 tons as claimed in their controversy) and owed something like \$2,000,000 when the panic of '92 caught them and values fell. They finally sold to Mr. Rockefeller, who gave them more than they had

been offered by any other available purchaser and they closed the deal amicably and with perfect satisfaction. Then after making certain ugly charges about the motives prompting recent actions on the Merritts' part, Mr. Gates adds: "The charge of fraud and the lawsuit set up afterwards owe their origin wholly to the prominence and wealth of the financier who purchased the Merritt holdings in 1894."

Encouraging the Settler.
 Efforts being made in congress to modify existing land laws, to the end that the way of the settler on government land may be made easier, should not be neglected. Conditions that surround the homesteader have so materially changed within a very few years that the government is justified in any reasonable effort to encourage such of its citizens as will undertake to utilize the vacant acres. The broad areas that formerly attracted millions no longer exist; what is left is but the remnant of a magnificent empire, and the least desirable of it at that. To bring this unwilling land to a state that will support its occupant is not an easy task, and may not always be accomplished.

Irrigation laws have been framed with the utmost liberality and the government has been most enterprising in its support of the reclamation work that has made millions of desert acres fruitful. In this respect nothing is left to complain of. But all who seek homes in the undeveloped regions can not secure them under the conditions that surround the irrigation projects. Lack of means is the most common obstacle, and very often one that is insurmountable. And in those sections where it is yet possible to entice land without the aid of irrigation, this lack of capital is still more effective as a hindrance. In this light, the proposal of Congressman Kinkaid that the land office return to its former practice of permitting constructive occupancy of the land, within reasonable limits, is a wise one. It will enable the settler to hold his land while he is earning means on which to subsist during the time here it is developing the claim to a point where it will afford him a living.

No very great danger exists that the government's interests will be seriously jeopardized by such a course, while it is certain that many settlers will be greatly aided thereby. And the encouragement of the settler in the west today is one of the most important of governmental functions.

It seems that hardly any big stunt can be pulled off in any part of the world without having Omaha represented in it. When the Olympia was rammed off Southampton, a delegation of Omaha tourists were on board, and now the collision of the Cleveland entering the harbor of Honolulu finds a company of Omaha globe trotters right on the spot.

The New York World refers to the agreement of Joe Folk and Champ Clark to abide by the choice of the state democratic convention as to the favorite son candidacy for president as "the new Missouri compromise." It is a compromise, though, that really cuts little figure.

Folks should remember that they can legally sign petitions for only seven candidates to go on the primary ballot under the new commission plan of city government. It is easier to sign, though, as often as asked rather than to offend the solicitor.

From Ohio comes the news that a sharper called "the king of bunco men" has been sentenced to the penitentiary. We refuse to admit the validity of the claim in view of the late exploits of one Mabray in our neighboring city of Council Bluffs.

"How bad was Babylon?" demands the New York World, in defense of that ancient city and New York, with which Mayor Gaynor makes invidious comparisons. Well, according to the things they tell about old Belshazzar, it was bad enough.

True, a special prosecutor would not be needed to assist the grand jury if our county attorneys were hot for the job. But, then, neither would a grand jury be needed if our county attorney were up and on the firing line all the time.

One is reasonably safe in denying as a base canard the report that Candidate Hearst has secured the support of certain newspapers in Boston, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

A Dangerous Money Trust.
 Washington Post.
 The most dangerous money trust is a congress that wastes the public funds for political purposes and retrenches on the necessities of government.

Is Wilson a Papist?
 Pittsburgh Dispatch.
 There may be a cologne and editor hailing from Nebraska who has grounds for a deliberate opinion that Governor Wilson's latest phase is not so much that of a schoolmaster as of a pupil.

The Kasecock Deep.
 Chicago Record-Herald.
 A Connecticut man has made the announcement that he cannot support Woodrow Wilson because there are thirteen letters in the New Jersey state-man's name. Colonel Harvey has another reason for discounting his efforts to secure Governor Wilson's nomination.

Looking Backward This Day in Omaha
 COMPILED FROM BEE FILES
 JAN. 26.

Thirty Years Ago—
 The second annual ball of the Ancient Order of Hibernians' band took place at Masonic hall, the committees in charge being: Arrangements, James Douglas, William Ansell, P. J. Carroll; reception, Thomas Boland, Dennis Carroll; floor, John Clair, James Kenny, John Sheehan, James Bolin and P. J. Carroll. Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Himebaugh entertained a number of their friends at Nineteenth street.

An informal commerce party was given by Miss Anna Cray in honor of Mr. Cray's birthday. Those present were Misses Cray, Jewett, Paddock, Balcombe, Lou and Carrie Jams, Shiverick, McCormick and Sharp; Messrs. Barkala, Jewett, Annin, Remington, McCormick, Garlick, Redick, Cray and Davis. Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Perine were at home to their friends at their residence on upper Dodge street.

Returning delegates from the Grand Army of the Republic encampment at Lincoln report the following new roster of officers: S. J. Alexander, department commander; L. W. Osborn of Blair, senior vice commander; J. S. Miller of Aurora, junior vice commander; Dr. M. J. Galan of Grand Island, medical director; P. Hearst of St. Paul, chaplain; J. O. West, Sam B. Jones, J. C. Bonnell and H. G. Townsend delegates to the national encampment.

A man named James Hyde fainted on the postoffice steps yesterday and was carried to his rooms by Captain J. J. Neigh and Postmaster Hall.

The Union Pacific rewarded the long and faithful services of Conductor Kelly by promoting him to be general superintendent of the Kansas Central division.

An advertisement announces that Loder, Weil & Co.'s famous crackers have just been received at J. B. French & Co.'s.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Maul are east on a visit.

Max Meyer has gone east to be absent two weeks on business.

Mrs. L. W. Towns of Kansas City is visiting her cousin, Mrs. J. M. Metcalf.

D. P. Fosdyke, formerly with Crutchshank & Co. is stopping over on his return from the coast before going to New York.

The ninth anniversary of the Turner society was celebrated by a concert and ball, for which credit is due the Omaha Ladies' society and a committee consisting of M. P. Wilford, C. C. Shaeffer, H. Keasler, Ed Casper and B. Weinbagen.

Twenty Years Ago—
 Ex-Sheriff John F. Boyd, died of apoplexy early in the evening. Announcement of his death created a profound shock on the streets. He was "an exceptionally genial and courteous man," and had hosts of friends, moreover he had been in excellent health.

Richard Smith returned from Cleveland, O., where he attended as a delegate of the sixteenth annual convention of the National Builders and Traders association.

E. Barbach's carpenter shop at Thirtieth and Pratt, was slightly damaged by fire.

Yale's crack base ball pitcher, Alonzo A. Stagg, delivered an address in the evening at the Young Men's Christian association on "The Modern Athlete."

After the lecture the local Yale alumni gave Mr. Stagg a reception at the Omaha club. Among those in attendance were: C. E. Holmes and Mr. Geishardt of Lincoln; Judge J. S. Clark, Paul Charlton, John E. Patrick, Augustus Kountze, Walter Preston, William G. Doane, C. C. Turner, V. P. Caldwell, Fred Preston, Robert Patrick. Representing the Young Men's Christian association were: Rev. W. J. Harsha, Messrs. Ober, Gees, Shelton and Smith.

Dr. E. E. Bioghan was severely bruised while getting in his buggy at Fifth and Pierce streets, where he had called on a patient. His horse began to back just as he started to climb in, throwing the doctor to the ground and continuing to back until he trampled upon the doctor's prostrate form.

Ten Years Ago—
 The mercury went to 3 below, the wind was high and the snow deep.

B. C. Peters gave out a statement that the year opened with promise of activity in farm land sales and prices exceeding anything previously known in Nebraska.

Mrs. Annie Goodrich, widow of St. John Goodrich, died at her home, 528 South Twentieth street, at 6:15 p. m., after ten days' illness, apoplexy being the immediate cause. She was 85 years old and the last of a family of twelve children. With her husband, she came to Omaha in 1850 and they conducted the Farnum house, for a while, a hotel on Harney street between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets.

Rev. L. Groh, of Grace Lutheran church, said in a sermon that God, himself, established marriage in Paradise, as the means of man's highest temporal happiness, adding that "Hastily to make engagements and hastily and lightly to break them is an abomination."

Mrs. Sarah Noll, 75 years old, died at her family residence, 128 South Nineteenth street, being survived by Adam and Miss Ida Noll of Omaha, Thomas Noll of Chicago, and Mrs. Livingston, another daughter, of Kansas City.

Judge A. N. Ferguson advocated government ownership of public utilities in an address before the Philosophical club.

Army Gossip
 Items of General Interest to the Service Gathered from Various Sources.

Two Retirements.
 Major George W. Ruthers of the subsistence department will retire from active service on March 19, and Captain William R. Grove will be promoted to major as a result. The vacancy in the grade of captain will be filled by detail of a coast artillery officer. The detail in the subsistence department of Captain Edward Anderson of the cavalry, will expire on March 21, and a cavalry officer will be detailed in his place.

Army Uniform Changes.
 It has been a great surprise to members of the house military committee to encounter any objection on the part of army officers to the pending legislation which prohibits changes in the uniform of the commissioned personnel except by permission of congress. Yet, during the last week, two officers have expressed themselves as opposed to such prohibition by statute. General William H. Carter believes that the legislation should give authority for the changes in uniform to be made by a board of five officers, four of whom shall be of the line and one of the staff. Colonel R. L. Bullard of the infantry, told the committee that there should be no such legislative interference with the type of uniform. He said that he thought a check in the tendency toward frequent changes had been accomplished by the mere threat of legislation, but the members of the committee were not much impressed with any such assurance, especially as failure to enact the pending legislation after its serious proposal and its incorporation in the army appropriation bill, might very well be accepted by the military authorities as according them the privilege of making further changes so objectionable and expensive to army officers. The pending clause is likely to remain in the bill.

Army and Navy Mileage.
 The president's commission for economy and efficiency in government business has touched with its airy fancy the sordid problem of the cost of official travel. The annual cost of such movement to the government amounts to about \$2,000,000. It has been found that a great saving can be effected by purchasing mileage books instead of buying trip tickets and that economies can be accomplished in other directions, such as doing away with travel vouchers and discontinuing an affidavit regarding travel expenses required by the comptroller. It is understood that the commission has had some information compiled concerning the relative cost of adopting actual traveling expenses as an allowance in place of the payment of mileage. Some reckless claims have been made in favor of the change. The best obtainable information appears to operate as a discouragement to the project, which is not new by any means. It may be added that it is utterly impossible for any one to arrive at anything like an accurate estimate of the "saving" which would be effected by doing away with mileage and substituting actual traveling expenses. In some instances, the latter system would cost the government a great deal more than mileage. But one can only tell relative cost.

Summer Manuevers.
 The Army War college has perfected the tentative and preliminary plans for the mobilization of the organized militia, and a representation of the regular army in joint exercises to be held during the summer of 1912. This is assuming, of course, that congress makes an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the purpose. This money is spent entirely with the militia, and the army receives a special allotment to aid in its expense of movement necessary in the part it shall play in conjunction with the militia. With the shortage of funds for army purposes, it is necessary to limit the number of commanders to be employed this year in these joint exercises. The phraseology of the law, however, is such that the army must be included in the plan. The program has been divided into three main parts, corresponding with the geographical divisions of the regular army. In the eastern division there will probably be a series of campaigns, to include all the states in the division, with the exception of Ohio. If there is a camp it will probably be located in New York state. Much the same idea will be carried out, in all probability, in the western division, with the concentration of troops, if such occurs, in the neighborhood of San Francisco. In the central division the militia commands will be accommodated at four camps, one in the state of Ohio for the benefit of the troops of that state, and the others at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo.; Sparta, Wis., and Leon Springs, Tex.

Military Academy Visitors.
 There is not likely to be any change by congress in the board of the Military Academy. That board is now made up of five members of the senate military committee and seven members of the house military committee, who visit West Point during the academic year. The visit of the board in 1911 was for a period of about twenty-four hours, and only three members of each committee appeared on the scene. General Barry, superintendent of the Military Academy, has expressed his regret that the board should be so brief in its visit, which came to the academy annually during the graduating exercises, has been done away with, and he adds: "The members of the military committee of the house and senate should visit the academy and be familiar with its conditions and wants, but in addition thereto it is believed that the best interests of the academy will be subserved by adding senators and representatives other than members of the two military committees and, in addition, at least three distinguished citizens of the country, and that such a board or a proportion thereof should be present during the graduating exercises, beginning June 1 and ending with the graduation of the class."

Just What He Likes.
 Kansas City Times.
 A clean bill of health is given by the congressional investigating committee to Dr. Harvey W. Wiley. And if there is one thing the pure food expert likes better than another it is a clean bill of health.

Getting into Deep Water.
 St. Louis Republic.
 After sending a message to congress telling of the millions that may be saved by efficiency in the government service, to promote which he asks a big appropriation, the president said that his next communication to the legislative branch would be in favor of civil pensions. It will take a great deal of efficiency in this country to pay civil pensions.

WILSON AND THE COLONELS.

Chicago Tribune: It's a poor presidential campaign in which Colonel Henry Watterston does not become prominently mixed.

Springfield Republican: Colonel Watterston is reluctantly obliged to confess that he does not find Woodrow Wilson to be a second Samuel J. Tilden. Mr. Tilden was both a leader and a statesman. He drew young men to him—and he held them.

St. Louis Republic: We do not believe it will hurt any democratic candidate for the presidency to decline the support of J. P. Morgan, even if by so doing he loses the favor of Colonel Watterston. In the contest upon which we are about to enter we do not think that any democrat should be shot in the back.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: The whole incident is particularly interesting as illustrative of practical politics of a desire to present to the public not the actual relation of one individual or element to the other, but the ostensible relation that will best suit the purpose of the manipulators. It reflects no particular credit on any of the participants.

St. Louis City Journal: Colonel Watterston is a "high type of the chivalric and clean minded southern gentleman." He is not patient of treachery, and he abhors demagoguery. He has given his hand to Colonel George Harvey and he has appeared before the world as Harvey's friend. That is in the nature of his manhood. In the presence of the two colonels, who know both how to write and speak the English language, the late president of Princeton, now governor of New Jersey and democratic candidate for president of the United States, through the faith and works of Harvey, looks a pigmy, with

Arbitration Logic and Pain. Springfield (Mass.) Republican.
 Senator Sawyer's conclusion that the pending arbitration treaties should be approved by the senate without amendment is significant of a change in opinion on the democratic side of the chamber since the Lodge majority report was originally filed. The Maryland senator is one of the best constitutional lawyers among the democrats and his views ought to have weight with those of his colleagues who desire to act in an unprejudiced manner. Such speeches as that by Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, in opposition to the treaties, could have been confidently expected at any time down to 1910, but now their sound ridiculousness and the cheapness of their argument does not fill one with pain.

BREEZY TRIFLES.

"A drop of ink makes millions think," remarked the ready-made philosopher.
 "Yes," replied Senator Sorghum, "but you want to limit your use of ink to drops. As soon as you go to spreading it around in quarts they're liable to get too tired to think."—Washington Star.

"I was so scared yesterday when my husband came home so angry. He has such a temper, and even when we have company, I am afraid he will explode."
 "Hush! I'm not afraid of my husband exploding. It's the waterbuck that worries me."—Baltimore American.

"That man indulges in shocking language."
 Influence of his friends. He's a telegraph lineman.—Baltimore American.
 "What makes you think our great public men don't work as hard as they need to?"
 "By the photographs," replied Farmer Cornshead. "When I was a young fellow the big men in politics didn't take nearly as much time to get shaved as have their hair cut."—Washington Star.

"It is odd what a contradictory disposition is always made of a successful resolution calling for a dinner."
 "What is that?"
 "It is carried and laid on the table, too."—Baltimore American.

"Did you hear Congressman Wombat's speech?"
 "I did that."
 "What did he say about those charges of grafting which have been brought against him?"
 "He didn't touch on that subject. But he said the constitution must and shall be preserved."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

IN THE DEEPS.
 New York Sun.
 His wife adorned the chairs they own with gaudy bows and sashes.
 And wore to him who touches them—be ware her angry flashes!
 And all the sofas in the house you'll find with cushions weighted.
 And even the piano stool trimmed and decorated.
 He listens as she points with pride to the artistic features,
 But he is full of grumbling and the saddest of all creatures.
 Oh, said the sequel to this tale of which I am the teller—
 There's only ease for him upon the roof or in the cellar!

When he sits down to dine a decorative scheme he faces!
 The tablecloths are all adorned with costliest of lace.
 The spoons and forks are silver and the glass as fine as any.
 And the dishes are of Sevres and they cost a pretty penny.
 She lauds the exhibition and her chatter never ceases.
 The while he'd like to smash it in a hundred thousand pieces.
 Her cooking's an uncertain thing and puts him full of worries.
 And when he's bent on eating to a restaurant he hurries! —New York Sun.

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