

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE
 FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
 VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR
 BEE BUILDING, FARNAM AND 17TH
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 Chicago—141 Marquette building.
 Kansas City—Reliance building.
 New York—24 West Thirty-third.
 St. Louis—422 Fivco building.
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CORRESPONDENCE:
 Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed Omaha Bee, Editorial department.

DECEMBER CIRCULATION:
49,044

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 for the month of December, 1912, was 49,044. DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 21st day of December, 1912. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

If Omaha wants dollar gas it can have it—with only a few strings tied to it.

The Lumber Dealers' association never talk prices at their meetings. That goes without saying.

Our old friend, the double shift for firemen in Lincoln, bobs up again in the legislative halls. Go to it!

The Burlington not only denies having committed any unfriendly act toward Omaha, but promises not to do it again.

According to Nebraska experience each succeeding legislature is ready and eager to cut off needless employees of future legislatures.

The slogan "lower water rates next month, nor next year, but now," seems to be like a party platform to get in on, but not to stand on.

It is now proposed to make the State Railway commission appointive instead of elective. My! Wouldn't the railroads and other corporations like that?

The Bee ventures to express the hope that when the court yard and approaches of our new county building come to be laid out, they will not be made to conform to the pictures carried on the county stationery.

The purpose of the proposed workmen's compensation act is to relieve the victims of industrial accidents without litigation. The lawyers of Omaha have gone on record in favor of a workmen's compensation act providing it does not stop litigation.

Governor Morehead is trying to get his appointive troubles off his hands so as to clear the decks for attention to other public business. He evidently does not figure that the legislature as constituted, one house democratic and the other republican, will add to the number of places at his disposal.

Organized Arson.
 Arson plots identical in character of operation are being simultaneously investigated in Chicago and New York. Confessions secured implicate associations of incendiaries, insurance brokers and unscrupulous agents of apartment houses. In New York 25 per cent of the fires are charged to arson, in Chicago 15 per cent. If successful and unpunished, the criminals would naturally, in time, extend their operations to other cities. Such a condition must strike in on every community with an appeal for action to protect endangered life, to say nothing of property. It might be well for the federal government to assist the state and local authorities in ferreting out the culprits. A community of interest between the Chicago and New York operations should, it seems to us, afford sufficient cause for co-operative action by federal agencies.

Omaha as a Trade Center.
 The decision of the big Montgomery Ward concern of Chicago to establish a branch house in Omaha is gratifying recognition of this city's strategic location as the natural distributing center for the largest and richest section of the west. It is especially gratifying as proof that outsiders are beginning to appreciate Omaha's commercial importance, and yet it was inevitable that the shrewd captains of the mail order business should see the advantage of getting closer to the territory best reached from this point. Four cities—Omaha, Minneapolis, Fort Worth and Denver—have been selected by the Montgomery Ward people, who have appropriated \$15,000,000 to forward

a campaign of extension, and it may be confidently predicted that the Omaha house will become one of the largest of the branches for the reason that a growth unsurpassed by that of any section of the country is with certainty assured the trade tributary here.

An Effort Worth Making.
 When The Bee published the fact a month ago that the Burlington had arranged to transfer several hundred employees from Omaha to Chicago, the World-Herald, evidently irritated at missing out on the news, rushed to that railroad's defense, with such belittling advice as this, after The Bee had urged defensive action: "Count twenty and sit down and think it over."
 There can be no valid complaint (by Omaha against the removal order). It is very doubtful if Omaha could stop the proposed transfer if it made the most violent effort. It is still more doubtful if it would pay to make the effort even with the assurance that it would be successful.
 But the business men of Omaha, believing with The Bee that Omaha's commercial interests were menaced and that it was not a time for mush and milk talk, proceeded to "make the effort." Now that the effort has brought promised results, the do-nothing organ exclaims:
 "The Omaha Commercial club should be congratulated on the eminently fair and sensible manner in which it has handled the matter of Omaha's just grievance against the Burlington railroad."
 So we see how in one month "no valid complaint" may develop into "a just grievance." After this it may pay the do-nothing organ not to get mad without first counting twenty.

Three Bites at a Cherry.
 It is possible to take three bites at a cherry, but it is not the usual and accepted fashion of table etiquette.
 It is proposed to take South Omaha, Dundee, Florence and East Omaha into Omaha, by forceful annexation so far as the benefits, without the burdens of the water department of the city are concerned, but not to annex them for the purpose of sharing the benefits and burdens of the park department, police force, fire force, sanitary department and other branches of the municipal government. And this is favored by the World-Herald as a chimney top champion of home rule.
 If our suburban neighbors can secure piecemeal the benefits and advantages of the service rendered by the various departments of our city government, why should they ever consent to become an integral part of the city, pay city taxes, and assume their share of the city debt? No, we repeat, the way to solve the water problem besetting these outlying districts who want pipe extensions, and low water service, which will require additional outlay of Omaha's capital, is for them to come in and become part of Omaha.

Looking Backward This Day in Omaha
 COMPILED FROM BEE FILES
 JAN. 18.

Thirty Years Ago—
 The proposition is under consideration by the State Board of Agriculture to locate the state fair at Omaha again for the coming two years.
 A coyote created some commotion on Tenth street before it was captured.
 The hall of Pioneer hook and ladder company in the city hall is draped in "Old Billy," the veteran horse of the Merchants' Express company, is dead. He was 29 years old and had been in the express service for twelve years.
 Pools on the senatorial race are being sold at the old ball pool headquarters of J. E. Blake.
 Thomas A. McShane, until quite recently engaged in the grocery business on Cummins street, a brother of John A. and Felix McShane, died at his residence, leaving a wife and two children.
 Edward Walsh, the well known contractor, is rejoicing in the arrival of his first born, a little girl.
 Misses Jessie and Frankie Barton left on a visit to Washington to be absent about two months.
 L. H. Mickel, a salesman in Samuel Burns' grocery store, is quitting to take a position as traveling salesman for Sills & Isaacs.
 Miss Henning of Evansville, Ind., is the guest of Miss Shears for a few days.

Twenty Years Ago—
 C. H. Holcomb of Kansas City, Oliver W. Mink of Boston and S. H. H. Clark, officials of the Union Pacific, registered at the Millard.
 Nebraska's World's fair commissioners met at the office of General Garrison. Among the matters discussed was the state's appropriation of \$50,000 for an exhibit at Chicago. It was felt that this amount would be insufficient to meet the needs and a plan was proposed of asking Governor Boyd to authorize an additional sum.
 Mrs. Jennie M. Foreman, 30 years of age, died at her home, 1724 Leavenworth street.
 Among the licenses to marry granted during the day was one permitting Nema Frederick Sorenson Stohr to make Emma Johnson his wife.
 The revival services at the Methodist church in South Omaha, where Rev. Mr. Dawson had been preaching about the eternal fires, were cut short when fire of another kind broke out and burned part of the building, entailing a loss of \$3,500. Rev. Mr. Dawson left his pulpit and plunged into the fight against this fire, giving the firemen sturdy assistance. He left for home covered with ice, the water from the hoses freezing on him. Councilman James Bulla seems to have been the first to detect the flames. The disaster was traced to the careless firing of a temporary janitor, a youth named Smith, the regular man being off duty for the night.

Ten Years Ago—
 Louis Henderson, the florist, who resides in South Omaha, was held up by three thugs at night near his home and robbed of \$65 in cash and a valuable watch, but escaped with \$10 in cash, which the trio overlooked.
 Rev. E. Combe Smith at First Methodist church, took a few hot shots at the coal barons, speaking to the text, "The Coal Famine from the Ethical Standpoint."
 Men interested professed to have received word from E. C. Hurd, the Ohio capitalist representative, assuring them the Omaha-Lincoln interurban railway would be built forthwith.
 Bert Williams and George Walker, the old reliables, were twisting people inside out with laughter "In Dahomey" at the Boyd.
 George S. Hixcox, a former Omahian, who was in the federal bureau of animal industry, stopped in Omaha en route to Lincoln, where he said he would urge Governor Mickler to take action looking toward more rigorous enforcement of live stock inspection rules in western Nebraska. Mr. Hixcox said they had been poorly enforced there.

In Other Lands
Discredited War Correspondents.
 The prolific genius who presided over the fiction factory at Mole St. Nicholas during the Spanish-American war, and whose stories of phantom fleets, boom-boom guns, invisible sea battles frequently thrilled the country, no longer fills sensation's niche of fame. Like a discredited fool he has been pulled from his perch and consigned to the junk pile. A flock of imitators hanging on the fringes of the Balkan war so far outclass the sensationalist of fourteen years ago that his work appears rankly amateurish by comparison. Rumor qualified the inventions of the former, thus hedging a thrill with a smile. The sensationalist of today weaves an isolated incident into a great battle, drops in a picture or two, and the achievement is complete. To the elders in this hazardous calling, who have won distinction by sobriety, intelligence, and integrity, the action of the sensation-mongers not only discredits the profession, but marks the degradation of the war correspondent. Writing to the New York Evening Post, Francis McCullagh, a reputable correspondent who accompanied the Turkish army on its retreat from Lule Burgas and accidentally rode into the advance guard of the Bulgars puts the blame on the craze for sensation. The reading multitude craves the thrill of the headline and the picture, and the one who will provide both, regardless of means, is the one given the assignment. One hundred and thirty correspondents, with their special and equipments, required a special train to transport them to the front. A conspicuous member of the front. A conspicuous member of the army without permission, violated the agreement in order to "scop" his associates. On the Bulgarian side very few correspondents were allowed with the army. Full 200 were held at Sofia, whence all grades of sensationalism were sent home. Camera batteries, moving picture takers in formidable automobiles, disreputable amateurs togged out as boy scouts seeking adventure, constituted a majority of the wounded gather and pad the Bulgarian's opinion of the enormous number of correspondents rushing to the Balkan war, the disgraceful conduct of many members of the press, the amazing lack of reliability "makes the presence of any recognized correspondent on the firing line of the next great European war seem to me inconceivable."

South African Politics.
 General Botha represents for the independence of the republic and accepted the responsibility with a large heart. General Hertzog fought for his heritage with equal vigor, but declines to keep step with the new music. As ministers of the South African union the question of co-operating in the naval defense of the empire developed a radical divergence of views between the two warriors, and the ministry resigned last month. A new one formed, with General Botha again as premier. By this simple method the country was relieved of a kicker. In Parliament, however, General Hertzog remains at the head of a strong party faction of irreconcilable Boers opposed to imperialism, immigrants and Englishmen, and for the Dutch first, last and all the time. Success of the new ministry depends on the skill of Premier Botha in maintaining party divisions on political rather than racial lines.

Smasher and Shadow.
 In spite of great strikes, industrial unrest and political disturbance, British commerce for 1912 reached the tremendous total of \$4,161,562,385, an increase of \$49,000,000 over the previous year. Government revenue from all sources has increased proportionately. From two sources of revenue untouched in the country, death duties and income tax, the revenue totaled \$27,250,000. Only 2 per cent of the members of organized labor was unemployed. In all lines the year was one of booming trade and general prosperity. Strange to say, the sunshine of trade revived is shadowed by discouraging records of poverty, particularly in London. Pauperism seems to be a chronic condition of life in the submerged section of the metropolis of the empire. Figures published in the Times show that the poor law guardians on December 14 were providing for 110,292 persons, a ratio of 24.4 thousand of population. The Times points out that the statistics it quotes relate only to legal paupers, but adds that "if the others, who are in receipt of public relief under another name, are added the number is, approximately, doubled." In Liverpool, Glasgow and other big towns income tax, however, but London seems to be growing steadily worse. As the Times says, "there seems to be something essentially wrong with London." Yet while abject men are receiving relief, employers are advertising in vain for labor.

Italy's New Provinces.
 Peace broods over Tripoli. The Arabs have receded into their desert haunts and most of the Turkish soldiers are gone. A program of colonization has been announced by the Italian government, and a decree issued, creating the provinces of Tripolitania and Cirenaica under civil government directly responsible to the minister of colonial affairs. The military administration will be quite distinct from the civil and will be directed by General Ragni in Tripolitania and General Briccola in Cirenaica. At home the government has found a big source of cost of the conquest to be \$24,000,000. The war extended over 31 days, from September 25, 1911, to October 15, 1912; this cost averaged \$32,000 a day. In the autumn the average daily cost had been estimated at \$420,000. To Turkey the war is estimated to have cost \$120,000 a day; the Transvaal war cost England \$1,000,000 a day; the Manchurian war cost the two contestants upwards of \$2,000,000 a day.

Less Majestic.
 Some of the Frenchmen in the conquered provinces of Alsace-Lorraine are reminded occasionally that flouting German imperialism is not only a waste of breath, but also inconvenient and unprofitable. Henri Schatz, an engineer by profession and an obstinate rebel, has been sentenced to four months in jail for less majestic. He took part in a meeting of the Souvenir Francaise at the time when the Kaiser had made his famous threat to let the disaffected Alsatians know the rough side of imperial rule. There was a bust of the Kaiser in the room, and Mr. Schatz said, "In this way we shall know the rough side of the emperor," and turned it face to the wall.

The Bees Letter Box
Responsibility for Crime.
 OMAHA, Jan. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: Collier's, the "Sainly Weekly," in commenting upon the statutory crime committed by a negro in Washington, D. C., on Christmas night, quotes from the Washington Times as follows:
 "When the prisoner was arraigned he replied to the court's demand for a plea: 'I just don't know how to plead.'
 "Did you do this act or not?"
 "I don't do so much liquor that I don't remember."
 Collier's suggests to the Times to investigate what brand of liquor this negro drank and to print the manufacturer's name and picture in its columns with the legend:
 "This is the man who profited by the crime and who, being a respectable citizen of Louisville or Baltimore, or some other salubrious manufacturing town, was probably sitting snugly and happily at the Christmas table in the bosom of his family, etc., when the crime was committed."
 That the view from Collier's sanctum toward the liquor traffic is obscured by clouds of prejudice has been patent to most of its readers for some time, but as the self-proclaimed harbinger of truth upon them with such grossly misleading comment as contained in this editorial. Does not Collier's know that in at least nine cases out of ten where a criminal pleads drunkenness he lies in order to shield himself from the graver consequences of a serious crime? But assume that this negro pleaded truthfully, and also that whiskey, instead of beer or patent medicine, was the intoxicant.
 Since about three-fourths or more of the value of all whiskey sold goes for internal revenue tax to pay the expenses of the national government, the man "who profits most" is Uncle Sam, whose picture in connection with this crime would, if Collier's suggestion were followed by the Times, be most appropriate, because he reaps the lion's share of the income from all liquor sold. The retailer, who may be either conducting his business properly or be a joint keeper of municipal politics, would be next in line. If the one who did sell this particular negro liquor had not done so, someone else would. Where there is a demand there is always, somewhere, a supply. Stop the demand (by education) and see how quickly the supply will cease. The intelligent manufacturer of today recognizes that drunkenness is the greatest enemy of his business, and if he could know in advance what particular portion of his product was to become the cause of drunkenness or excess, he would rather destroy it than to sell it for many times its cost. Surely the manufacturers of explosives would rather have destroyed that particular lot of dynamite which blew up the Los Angeles Times, could they have foreseen the outrage.
 The proneness of Americans to interpret the term "morality" as applying only to matters of sex or drink is unfortunate, but why always put the blame upon liquor? It does not require much study or penetration on the part of Collier's to know that the baser passion of sex is incited more by men engaged in its own line of business—publishers—than by the manufacturers of liquor. Suggestive literature is the cancer that reaches out its tentacles to ruin the morals and happiness of tens of thousands of young people of both sexes every year, and what evil is left undone by such a called literature, calculated to just approach the border line of the obscene, is completed by alluring posters and pictures of rotten theatrical announcements, and by the performances themselves, as well as by certain dances invented specially to cater to lewd instincts. And I dare say that all these authors and publishers and playwrights and theatrical managers are very respectable and sober people, happily ignorant of the Christmas tale, of the lives wrecked by such nefarious business, and enjoying probably the respect of Collier's and other righteous, but superficial thinkers; and yet their principal stock in trade is lascivious suggestion.
 On the other hand very much more than 50 per cent of all liquor sold is used temperately and with good effect, other methods of liquor are perfectly legitimate ways, socially, and much of it beneficially, by hospitals or as medicine, being in many cases indispensable. Yet its manufacturers must be pilloried as the instigators of crime because a black brute pleads drunkenness as an excuse for rape, and because of an opportunity for Collier's to crown itself with a halo of righteousness, and to fawn editorially for playing upon the emotions of sentimental people.
 A. L. METER.

No Appointive Railway Commission.
 YORK, Neb., Jan. 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: I notice with a good deal of interest Representative Hockett's constitutional amendment calling for the appointment by the governor of railway commissioners instead of by election as at present. This amendment is all wrong; suppose we get a rotten man for governor, what are the people up against then?
 The right way is to elect as at present and pass a law so people can recall the railway commissioners if they do not do their duty by the people who pay them their wages; also put in amendment to primary law providing that all candidates be compelled to file the same day, thereby preventing the interests from bringing out dummy candidates to defeat the men that don't represent their interests.
 Keep the power in the hands of the people, where it belongs.
 WILLIAM COTTON.

JOLLIES FROM JUDGE.
 Mrs. Grammerney—I notice you always go south for the winter.
 Mrs. Park—I've found it's safer to depend on the temperature than to trust to the janitor for steam heat.
 "Sometimes I get into an air pocket," explained the aviator, "and can't get out for the longest time."
 "I got caught in one Christmas week," said the pretty girl thoughtfully, "and by some odd chance it was located right under the mistletoe, too."—Kansas City Journal.

HIS WAY.
 Detroit Free Press.
 His politics ain't mine at all. I can't see anything his way.
 I don't agree on any point that you Brown makes, but I don't say That Zeke ain't right.
 An' start a fight
 An' give it to him good an' strong.
 His views ain't mine.
 He says I opine
 I ain't so smart I can't go wrong.
 I don't set up myself as one who's led the time to learn it all.
 I don't profess to be correct in all things on this earthly ball;
 I say I deny
 Jeff Br. deny
 Weren't made to get along.
 He says a lot
 That I think rot.
 An' yet it may be I am wrong.
 Jim Peters is a Catholic, an' I'm a Presbyterian.
 An' it's a cinch that I can't see religion 'cep' the way he can;
 But I don't say
 'The only way'
 To reach the white-robed angel throne,
 An' heaven's throne,
 Is mine alone.
 It's possible I may be wrong.
 I believe in thinking all things out, an' then decidin' which is best.
 An' 'th' t' the light I have, an' trustin' God I do the rest;
 If others see
 Things differently,
 Accordin' to their share of light.
 For all I know
 Things may be so,
 I may be wrong, they may be right.

Do You Know How the Rayo Lamp Breathes?
 OUR experts have made a scientific study of it, and a RAYO breathes—or takes in air—in just the right way and just the right quantity to give the best light. Every detail of construction of the famous Rayo Lamp has been determined with the same care.

As a result, it is the best lamp made.

For Best Results use Perfection Oil. Ask about quantity price and iron barrels for storage.

Ask to see it at your Dealers.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY
 (Nebraska) OMAHA



Have you ever visited FLORIDA?

If so, you're going again; and if you want to get the greatest possible comfort and enjoyment out of the trip, see that your ticket reads over the FRISCO LINES, and take the

Kansas City--Florida Special
 OUT OF KANSAS CITY AT 5:35 P. M. EVERY DAY.

It's as fine and as safe as a train can be made. The coaches are all-steel, electric-lighted, and equipped with electric fans. The sleepers are of the latest design. The dining cars are constructed of steel, and the meals are served under the management of FRED HARVEY.

If you have never visited Florida in winter, you have missed more than you realize. Better post yourself right away on what Florida has to offer—its perfect winter climate, its grand hotels, its hundred-and-one outdoor sports.

Last Chance to See the Panama Canal Work
 before the water is turned in. Eight personally-conducted tours in the steamship "Excellence," from Key West to Colon, returning via Kingston and Havana. The vessel is new, built in Scotland during 1911-12 especially for touring the tropics. It is equipped with wireless service, electric lights and fans, and all modern conveniences and luxuries. It will leave Key West January 7th and 21st; February 4th and 18th; March 4th and 18th; April 1st and 15th. An eleven day trip, including meals and berth stateroom, and port, for \$110. Stopover privileges granted at Colon, Havana and Kingston. Fares, Train Schedules, Pullman and Steamship Reservations, and Descriptive Literature may be obtained by calling upon or addressing

J. C. Lovrien,
 Division Passenger Agent, Frisco Lines,
 Waldheim Building, Kansas City.



Over the Seas

An indoor golf school has been started in London.
 There are 2,500 women students in the colleges of Germany.
 Sweden is providing a peat fuel in baked form at \$2.75 a ton.
 Moving picture theaters are proving tremendously popular and profitable in Mexico.
 About 50,000 lobsters are eaten daily during the season in England, and they come mostly from Nova Scotia and Norway.
 Regular commercial wireless service has been established between San Francisco and Honolulu, a distance of 2,500 miles.
 There are about 100 gas stoves in use in Hong Kong, the Chinese cook preferring their old methods, preparing the food over charcoal and wood stoves.
 In one of the Spanish cities a co-operative society has been formed which is to have a central market, where all sorts of foodstuffs and fuels may be procured.


Did you draw a mouth?

You will have another chance to show your skill beginning

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22nd

Watch for it

Prizes in the first contest will be announced Sunday



People Talked About

Bob McManahan the "fog horn of the Ozarks" called the figures for the ancient square dances which decorated the inaugural ball of Missouri's governor.

A Missourian in Washington sketches Governor Elliott W. Major as "the homeliest man in the executive chair." Any state brave enough to compete with Missouri's beauty?

The Kaiser took this year his annual Christmas walk in the neighborhood of the Sans Souci park, Berlin, and having handed a gift of money to every person he met on his way, returned to the palace when he has emptied his purse.

With the retirement on January 1 of Herman Engle, secretary of Reed Lodge of Masons of Evansville, Ill., there was closed a period of continuous service on his part extending back to 1871. By holding various offices at the same time he has served 114 lodge years, which is thought to be a record.

Prof. Harry Thurston Peck of New York has gone into voluntary bankruptcy, with assets at zero and liabilities away up. The latter consist of the claims of Father Quinn for \$9,000 for breach of promise of marriage, and \$100,000 damages for libel, two bills fat enough to put the average professor in the poverty straits.

J. P. Morgan has been recognized as a patron of art by the Catholic university, because of his generosity in the purchase, at a cost of about \$400,000, of Coptic manuscripts collected in Egypt by Dr. Henry IV. Evans, the orientalist of the Catholic university, and by M. Chassinat, head of the French Institute of Archaeology, Cairo.

The club women of San Francisco are giving Judge Charles L. Weller a hot run for his job. The Judge would lead the ball bond of an immoral wretch from \$3,000 to \$1,000, whereupon the w. w. jumped the town. While attempting to defend his course at a mass meeting of indignant women the Judge was hissed from the platform. Recall petitions are now reaching for the judge's scalp.

Elmer E. Adler of Billings, Mont., the West Point cadet who shattered the ring against marriage, was arrested on returning to the academy from his honeymoon and stripped of his rank as sergeant. His resignation was not accepted. Adler's bride is Florence E. Davis, a belle from Buffalo, N. Y. The wedding took place January 8.

WHAT EDITORS ARE SAYING.

Boston Herald: Here comes a Paris newspaper which tells its readers that Woodrow Wilson owes his success in politics to his skill as a bass ball player, and particularly to one championship game that he saved by a wonderful one-hand catch. All of which is probably as true as lots of things that our own newspapers tell us about Paris.

Pittsburgh Post: Mexican rebels are reported to have kidnaped a federal general and his staff. Coming right on the heels of the story that conditions were improving in Mexico, this news is hard pressed.

St. Louis Republic: Recent events involving a well-known denizen of East Aurora indicate that a great many highly moral notions which he vended throughout the country will come down off the walls.

Quaint Bits of Life

Complaint has been filed with the postmaster at Guthrie, Okl., by John Anderson, a farmer, because Luther Anderson, a rural mail carrier, refused to accept for parcels post delivery a live hen which Anderson tied to his mail box with the destination address card fastened to its leg.

William Peck, who had been operated on for lung trouble and given up as an incurable consumptive, went to his home in Sayre, Pa., believing that he could not be cured. He was seized with a violent coughing spell and coughed up a wisdom tooth, which for two years had been embedded in his lungs.

An engineer on a Long Island engine pulled at a scold's-belt passenger standing on a station platform when the train was passing it. The passenger took this as an intimation that the train was going to slow down for him and tried to board, with the result of losing a leg and the railroad having to pay \$5,000.

Elbert Gillham has quit the job of teaching a dog a new trick. The dog knows many tricks and Gillham was trying to train the dog to toss a coin from his nose and catch it in his mouth. Each time, after doing it, the dog would swallow the coin and the lessons became too expensive for Gillham to continue them.

One of the courts in the middle west has divorced Hart from Hart—that is, two Harves without "E's"; and in Missouri one Merry was authorized to leave another Merry because they were an inharmonious twin. But in Wayne county, Michigan, the court accomplished what is generally believed to be impossible. It separated a Kiss from a Kiss.

"It is my desire," said the young woman, addressing the man behind the counter, "it is my desire to obtain a pair of circular elastic appendages capable of being contracted or expanded, by means of oscillating burnished steel appliances that sparkle like particles of gold leaf set with Alaska diamonds, and which are utilized for keeping in position the labellings of the extremities which make delicate forbids me to mention." The clerk lived to repeat it.

Organized Arson.

Arson plots identical in character of operation are being simultaneously investigated in Chicago and New York. Confessions secured implicate associations of incendiaries, insurance brokers and unscrupulous agents of apartment houses. In New York 25 per cent of the fires are charged to arson, in Chicago 15 per cent. If successful and unpunished, the criminals would naturally, in time, extend their operations to other cities. Such a condition must strike in on every community with an appeal for action to protect endangered life, to say nothing of property. It might be well for the federal government to assist the state and local authorities in ferreting out the culprits. A community of interest between the Chicago and New York operations should, it seems to us, afford sufficient cause for co-operative action by federal agencies.

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With the retirement on January 1 of Herman Engle, secretary of Reed Lodge of Masons of Evansville, Ill., there was closed a period of continuous service on his part extending back to 1871. By holding various offices at the same time he has served 114 lodge years, which is thought to be a record.

Prof. Harry Thurston Peck of New York has gone into voluntary bankruptcy, with assets at zero and liabilities away up. The latter consist of the claims of Father Quinn for \$9,000 for breach of promise of marriage, and \$100,000 damages for libel, two bills fat enough to put the average professor in the poverty straits.

J. P. Morgan has been recognized as a patron of art by the Catholic university, because of his generosity in the purchase, at a cost of about \$400,000, of Coptic manuscripts collected in Egypt by Dr. Henry IV. Evans, the orientalist of the Catholic university, and by M. Chassinat, head of the French Institute of Archaeology, Cairo.

The club women of San Francisco are giving Judge Charles L. Weller a hot run for his job. The Judge would lead the ball bond of an immoral wretch from \$3,000 to \$1,000, whereupon the w. w. jumped the town. While attempting to defend his course at a mass meeting of indignant women the Judge was hissed from the platform. Recall petitions are now reaching for the judge's scalp.

Elmer E. Adler of Billings, Mont., the West Point cadet who shattered the ring against marriage, was arrested on returning to the academy from his honeymoon and stripped of his rank as sergeant. His resignation was not accepted. Adler's bride is Florence E. Davis, a belle from Buffalo, N. Y. The wedding took place January 8.

Over the Seas

An indoor golf school has been started in London.
 There are 2,500 women students in the colleges of Germany.
 Sweden is providing a peat fuel in baked form at \$2.75 a ton.
 Moving picture theaters are proving tremendously popular and profitable in Mexico.
 About 50,000 lobsters are eaten daily during the season in England, and they come mostly from Nova Scotia and Norway.
 Regular commercial wireless service has been established between San Francisco and Honolulu, a distance of 2,500 miles.
 There are about 100 gas stoves in use in Hong Kong, the Chinese cook preferring their old methods, preparing the food over charcoal and wood stoves.
 In one of the Spanish cities a co-operative society has been formed which is to have a central market, where all sorts of foodstuffs and fuels may be procured.