

THE DAILY BEE.

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CORRESPONDENCE. All communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to the Editor of this paper.

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Sworn Statement of Circulation.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Circulation figures. Rows include dates from Dec 1 to Dec 11, 1887, with corresponding circulation numbers.

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 30 day of December, A. D. 1887.

(SEAL) N. P. FEIL, Notary Public.

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OMAHA failed to get the convention—so let the city hall be built at once.

The fast trains seem to be giving satisfaction to the traveling public.

They are arresting bogus butter men in Philadelphia. The custom is a good one and should be limited in many other cities.

The real estate boom in Wichita, Kan., has subsided and the inhabitants are now booming beer. They are trying to see how much of the beverage they can guzzle in defiance of the law.

A GEORGIA court has held that a publisher of a newspaper cannot be compelled by the grand jury to testify in a case where he had pledged himself not to reveal the source of his information.

SAN FRANCISCO has a larger assortment of wicked officials than any other city in the union. The latest expose is that of a judge who granted fraudulent passports for the importation of Chinese women.

GENERAL SHERIDAN proposes to move Fort Omaha ten miles from the city. He says the soldiers should have a society of their own and not mix with the Omahogs. But would ten miles be anything to a soldier?

A TOWN in Arizona has been swallowed by an earthquake. Many lives were lost. Those who are now rushing that way to obtain the gold mines recently discovered in its territory, should be prepared to be taken in.

THE sub-tropical exposition, to be held at Jacksonville, Fla., commencing in January and continuing until May, is now in the hands of the boomers. Seminole Indians, alligators and real estate agents constitute the greater part of the attraction.

THE Panama canal is rapidly becoming a grave for the world. It has swallowed up Americans, Europeans, Ethiopians and now a large party of Chinese have been contracted for. The ditch will no doubt also be Du-Lesseps' last.

BROOKLYN has developed a new variety of political misdeed. A young man who recently passed a civil service examination and obtained a high standing can neither read nor write. He hired a substitute to do the mental drudgery of the occasion.

AN effort will be made during the present congress to prohibit the introduction of private bills in open session, and require that such measures shall reach the appropriate committees through the medium of a petition box. This would be a good innovation, as both time and money could thus be saved to the government.

THE New York Central has put a "vestibule train" on the track to run between New York and Chicago. The platforms of the cars are enclosed, making one long open car, from which passengers cannot fall. Heat is supplied by means of steam and hot water. There are some things which the slow-going east do quite as well as the west. The arrangement would be a good thing to imitate by western railroads.

THE St. Paul Pioneer Press notes the fact that the slot in the cable line at that city is playing the mischief with horses. It states that the calks in horses' shoes are readily caught in it, with the result, if the horses are on a trot, of throwing them, and sometimes breaking their legs or tearing off their hoofs. There have been numerous accidents there of this sort, and the advice is given to drivers to take the precaution to reduce the speed of their horses to a slow walk across the cable line. A similar warning may not be amiss to drivers in Omaha in crossing the cable line. We infer that the dangerous slot in St. Paul is wider than that in the cable line in this city, but it is possible that accidents may have occurred here similar to those that have occurred at "St. Paul," and therefore drivers should "go slow" in passing over the cable line.

At the Mercy of the Railways.

The BEE recently mentioned the fact that the business men of Helena and Butte City, Montana, were using the old freight wagons whenever practicable, claiming that in this way they could have goods sent from adjacent towns and camps much cheaper than the railroad company would do the same work.

Thomas J. Price, of St. Paul, was recently interviewed by a St. Louis paper, and his account of the ravages of the railroads upon the people of the northwest furnishes ample food for reflection. The condition of affairs in Dakota is equally as frightful as in Montana. Mr. Price, after personal observation, says the following:

The farmers of Dakota are, as usual, in a very bad position as regards their crops. Whether the season is good or bad makes little difference to them, as the railroad companies have so arranged matters that they reap whatever profit is to be derived, leaving the farmers with a bare living. The condition of affairs at the present time is a fair sample of the manner in which the farmers are being treated. Fully 4,000,000 bushels of wheat are now harvested, and much of it sacked, but it cannot reach a market as there are no cars to haul it, and no prospect of any being obtainable. This refers to the lands along the Manitoba road, with which I am personally acquainted, but I understand the same condition of affairs prevails elsewhere. The farmers are generally in debt and can not afford to carry their crops until transportation can be obtained, and no one wants to buy the grain with this uncertainty hanging over them. Here the railroad company, or rather its directors, step in to offer a low price for the wheat. The farmer is obliged to sell, and when once the transfer of all the wheat in a certain district is made, it is astonishing how easy it becomes to obtain enough freight cars to handle the grain. Hill and Ryan, the St. Paul millionaires, make hundreds of thousands of dollars every year, and others make smaller but still very considerable sums. The plan is to pay the farmers just enough to prevent them from abandoning their lands, and so hold out hopes that in future no lack of transportation will occur. The plan works admirably for the railroads, but is highly disastrous to the farmers.

The situation in Nebraska is somewhat different than in Dakota, yet there are many of our people who remember when just such a programme was enacted here, year after year. And it is not much better yet. The remedy lies only with the people. It takes years to accomplish the desired end. Yet by electing honest men legislators laws can and finally will be enacted, effectually checking the raids of the public highways and the highwaymen who manipulate them.

English Opinion. If the London press, in commenting upon the president's message, would give fair and intelligent consideration, there would be no reason to apprehend any ill effects from the discussion. The newspapers of London, however, have chosen to talk of it as a free trade manifesto, and this misrepresentation of the character of the message is not only misleading to the English public, about which we need feel no concern, but it is being employed in this country to influence popular opinion, and will undoubtedly have great effect upon all that portion of the population which is prompt to array itself against anything that receives English approval.

It is very easy to understand the motive of the London press in taking a false view of the message. There is a large and growing element in England that is greatly dissatisfied with the present fiscal system and is demanding a change. If this discontented portion of the English people can be made to believe that the president recommends a policy for the United States that would be a material approach to that of England it would do much to silence the demand for a change in the English policy, and all the leading papers of London desire that there shall be no change. It is hardly possible, however, that the deception they are practicing can be maintained, and so soon as it shall be exposed there is very likely to come a reaction that will give the fair traders a very vigorous boom.

The politicians in this country who are making use of this English opinion are also likely to find in due time that they are giving it a much greater value than it really possesses. It will have perhaps a lasting effect with some, but the great majority of the reading people of this country form their own opinions, and such will not be persuaded that the policy recommended by the president means free trade or any material approach to it. The message explicitly declares that the tariff duties cannot now be wholly dispensed with, but must be maintained for many years in order to provide a part of the revenue of the government. He also insists that in any readjustment of the tariff reference must be had to the duty of preserving the industries of the country and protecting labor in the enjoyment of ample work and liberal remuneration. There is no possibility of any man of intelligence and candor misunderstanding or misconstruing these sentiments, which clearly imply the continuance of a reasonable protection. With a right understanding of the motive for the misrepresentations of the London newspapers no one ought to be influenced by the expressions of English opinion on the president's message, or the manifest absurdity of associating Mr. Cleveland, as a champion of free trade in the United States, with Cobden, the great apostle of that policy in England.

A Troublesome Loophole. The effort that will be made by the representatives of the Pacific coast in congress to secure additional legislation for restricting Chinese immigration is confronted by the troublesome fact that however drastic a measure might be adopted it would be likely not to prove entirely effective in keeping out the objectionable people so long as their coming to this continent receives the encouragement of the Canadian government. It is stated that since the establishment of the Canadian line of steamers across the Pacific, Chinese merchants in Victoria have been busily engaged in preparations to import Chinese men from Hong Kong in large numbers, and that considerable money has been invested in the business. It is also said that since the completion of the Canadian Pacific railroad fully four

thousand Chinamen have found their way from Victoria to the United States. It is understood that at the next session of the Canadian parliament an effort will be made to repeal the \$50 tax now levied on Chinamen entering the Canadian domain, in the interest of the Canadian Pacific railroad company. Referring to this phase of the situation, the San Francisco Chronicle says:

Its grave feature arises from the seeming inability of our government to cope with the evil. The whole stretch of country from Vancouver to Montreal is available for the illicit transit of Chinamen into the United States; it is impossible to guard so long a line. And when United States officials do catch Chinamen in the act of smuggling themselves into this country, what are they going to do about it? When this question was put to the government at Washington in reference to some Chinamen who had surreptitiously crept into Washington Territory, and whom the Canadian authorities refused to take back without the payment of \$50 head money, the sapient reply came: "Put them in jail." Nobody in the interior department was aware that such a doom would suit the Chinese. It is suggested that we ask Canada to adopt our exclusion act. We can ask, and why should they comply? The Dominion parliament is not concerned about excluding Chinese; it knows they will not stay in Canada; but it is very gravely concerned about building up a Canadian Pacific line of steamers and a great Canadian seaport at Port Moody to rival San Francisco. Sir John Macdonald would tell Mr. Bayard that Canada will take care of her own interests, and will leave the United States to take care of theirs. The difficulty presented by this feature is obviously important and serious, and it is not easy to see how it may be avoided.

The Shooting of Ferry. The strong feeling of dislike and distrust entertained by the radical republicans of France towards Jules Ferry found a not unusual expression in the attempt to assassinate him. Whether it shall be shown that the act of Aubertin, was, as he claims, in pursuance of a conspiracy, or was merely the conception of a rash zealot, the incentive must still be traced to the bitter hostility of the radicals toward Ferry, whom they fully believe to be insincere in his professions of republicanism and more a friend to Germany than to France. There is very likely no justice in this view. Ferry prefers peace to war, and his influence has been exerted to avoid hostilities between France and Germany. He has undoubtedly been willing to make some concessions in the interest of peace, a thing extremely distasteful to nearly all Frenchmen, and especially so to the radicals. His course in the Tonquin matter was regarded as humiliating to France, and it cost him a great loss of popularity. But whether just or otherwise the view of Ferry held by the radicals is deep-seated, and the event of Saturday shows that the threat of civil war in case of the election of Ferry to the presidency was not meaningless.

Jules Ferry is a very able man, and undoubtedly patriotic and conscientious. The assumption that his relations with Bismarck give the man of blood and iron an undue influence over him is doubtless without warrant. But being largely held, it has very greatly impaired the usefulness of Ferry as a statesman, and it is not probable that he will ever reach any official dignity outside of the chamber of which he is a member. It is thought that the attempt to assassinate him will diminish his unpopularity and undoubtedly there will be many to sympathize with him who have been his opponents. But the element that distrusts him is not likely to find any reason for giving him its confidence in the fact that the assassin did not accomplish what he intended. Ferry will get well, and when he resumes political activity the hostility to him will be renewed with, perhaps, increased bitterness.

Words Not Effective. The Chicago News continues to read the riot act to "coal robbers" and "land robbers" and "gas thieves." Yet it is to be regretted that all these polished gentlemen who prey upon the public continue to exist and do business at the old stand with their same charming candor. There was a time when it would have been considered a trifle out of place to notice a company of men engaging in business that was deemed respectable, and refer to them as robbers, and thieves and conscienceless plunderers, but in these days when centralized capital constitutes the motive power that moves the world, no other terms would properly describe them. The question is, shall custom continue to tolerate daylight robbery, and must the poor always pay their earnings to the rich and not get value received? What good result can come from naming these men thieves unless the theft be proven and the violators of law made to pay the penalty of their crimes? If it is not a crime for capital to pool and prey upon wage-workers and the poorer classes, let a law be enacted to make it such. If it is now a crime, then let the powers act and bring to justice the blood-sucking leeches who grow more impudent as they grow richer. Something must be done, or what might prove an undesirable reaction is inevitable.

PHILADELPHIA has enjoyed a little boom on the leprosy scare starting a few weeks ago. Now comes the St. Paul Globe and says that there seems to be good reasons for believing "a form of leprosy actually exists in certain portions of the state. Though not the terrible disease which has decimated the population of the Hawaiian islands, it is nevertheless allied to it, and should receive as careful attention from the authorities. The disease exists exclusively among those Scandinavian immigrants who, at home, were accustomed to an unvarying fish diet, and has not yet been observed among those of that race who were born in this country." The Globe calls upon the state board of health to investigate the matter fully, and reminds that body, which seems to be but little interested, of the fact that in other countries where leprosy exists it is regarded as distinctly contagious, and the moment the disease appears the unfortunate victim is at once isolated from the rest of the community.

OMAHA cannot fail to derive advantage from the better knowledge which its candor has given the country of its present commercial position, its extensive resources and its almost boundless possibilities. The youngest of the metropolitan cities of the west has made a showing, not a fact of which was overstated, of progress almost unprecedented in the history of rapid and substantial municipal growth in this country, and of the possession of all the condition of future prosperity unsurpassed by those of any other city in the west. These facts have been sown broadcast, and they will not be ignored or forgotten by the enterprise and capital which are seeking more promising and profitable fields.

Nebraska Jottings. Talmage reports a petroleum well. The Grand Island Light and Fuel company has increased its capital stock to \$150,000. William Duffey, who grabbed a timepiece from Fremont, was caught by the forelocks in Lincoln. R. M. Frost, of Tecumseh, assaulted Slocumb recently, and was fined \$610 for doing so without a special permit. A. M. Emerick was thrown from his wagon by a runaway team, near Grand Island Friday, and instantly killed. The Hastings Gazette-Journal tips a foaming tanker to Omaha and salutes: "Here's hoping for better luck next time."

The losses to insurance companies caused by the recent fire in York were \$17,682. A young man named Cunningham, son of a railroad contractor, was arrested at Blair street, charged with stealing \$450 from a butcher. Holt county boasts of twelve newspapers and reaches for the pennant as a literary paradise. Modesty is contagious in that blooming land. Fremont's packing house was inaugurated last Saturday. Myerson & Buchanan, of Omaha, are the lessees, and will endeavor to carve from 700 to 1,000 porkers a day. The Omaha Granger is tear-stained and troubled and sore in the interior department. The editor missed a wedding feast where the tables "groaned with good things." One of the operators at Oregopolis tried to sidetrack the moon at the junction of the O and C and followed the cigars to keep the boys from rolling off the trains when the subject is mentioned. The Hastings Gazette-Journal struggles painfully against the growing conviction that Blaine will lead the republicans to victory in the coming election. He will lead them as he did in 1884—into the ditch. The prohibition spirit is said to be quite strong in Washington county, but the Blair Pilot has not yet heard one of the coldwater farmers refuse to sell corn at an advanced price to the distillers. The News gives assurance that Norfolk's future is beyond question, yet she needs for immediate consumption a cracker factory, carriage factory, implement factory, packing house and a few other frills to give color and variety to the town. The Elkhorn Valley road stands a good chance of losing the bond bonus voted by Wahoo. The state auditor refuses to register the bonds, claiming that the village trustees had no authority to issue the call, as Wahoo was then a city of the second class. Curtis, Frontier county, decorated Judge Mason with commission eggs on his recent visit to the town. The railroad commissioner intended to investigate the relations of the B. & M. to the county seat fight, but his remarks on the subject are too light to warrant a reprint. The postmistress of Blair is about to fit up a private room for the accommodation of a bunch of gawky gum chewing girls who flock to the postoffice lobby when the males arrive. The attraction seems to be mutual, and with a little more care might be made to take the halter without bucking. The sad news comes from across the sea that twenty snacks were lost in a recent gale. Evidently the old governor's boat was vigorously worked, and the painful result is left to the imagination of those who are fond of the words to express the sensations that course through an amorous form when a hot toe fans the spinal base of a retreating lover. Johnson county witnessed a singular union of "franks" recently. A Mr. Schlimmer, of the city, six feet tall, and as slender as a shadow, waddled to the altar with a darling ducky of 340 pounds by his side. The bride was the widow Jane Walden and went through the ceremony without bursting a smile or a button. Mr. Stimmer, the minister, who had to content himself around the throbbing sections of his partner and have two feet to spare to keep off the flies at his Missouri home. The Yankton Press continues a staunch advocate of a railroad to Omaha, and will not be deterred until the two cities are connected by bands of steel. The Press says: "Omaha will accomplish destiny in time, but it is losing millions by procrastination. The valley of the Jim is wide open and Omaha needs to build the hopper to secure the products of its acres and to furnish its people with the necessities and luxuries of life. There is no good reason why the valley of the Jim should be compelled to go to Chicago when Omaha is so near." The Holdrege Nugget pains an intelligent public by inquiring why it is that the BEE distances all competitors in reaching that city. The answer is easy. The BEE never sleeps. Every hour of the day and night its live is a busy workshop, where the news of the world is put through the varied processes before being presented to its army of readers. And the demand is so great for its teeming pages that no obstacle can for an instant block the path to its patrons. While pretended rivals are grinding out consumptive editions on hand presses, the BEE rolls out at a gallop of 30,000 an hour. It is the "flyer" of western newspapers, regularly scheduled and always on time. It has no competitor.

make a team of nuisances of unequalled strength. The management of the insane hospital at Clarinda wants an appropriation of \$200,000 to build an addition of six wards and a kitchen. Dakota. There are 352 newspapers in the territory. The Illinois Central track has reached the southern border of the territory. The biggest boomers of Cass county have raised \$20,000 to enforce local option. Artesian water has been struck at a depth of 250 feet on Schlemmer's ranch, near Rapid City. It has been shown that there is an increase of 9,000,000 bushels this year in the Dakota corn crop. The roofing slate recently discovered in the Black Hills is pronounced by experts to be of good quality.

A MOVING TOWN.

Virginia (Nev.) Enterprise: Virginia, Nev., from the Chollar and Potosi mines to the Ophir on the north, and from what is known as the Virginia ledge on the west for an indefinite distance on the east, but including a line from the C. and C. shaft north and south, seems to be an animated mass of sliding and raising and falling earth. Some sixty feet above Summit street, commencing at the Savage and running to the Chollar, the point of departure between the moving earth and the firm country rock is clearly marked, without a break, at an angle varying from two feet to nine or ten feet in depth. It is plainly visible from every part of town, and ninety-nine persons out of every hundred believe it is a road built there by the county or the water company, and winds around and follows little gulches and around the mountain as regularly as though it was built for an even railroad grade, and the wall it exposes is as clearly defined as any miner wants to look at. At the Ophir "blows" are crops, just below their shafts, the lowest of these are situated. The water works system of Virginia and of the mining companies runs north and south, with lateral lines, on the principal streets, and is crossed out by all the cross streets. If the reader will consult a map of Virginia and follow the following description he will see exactly how she is a-wiggling: The water-tanks are all situated on the firm west country. From the Savage to the Ophir the water-pipes all pull apart on every street until they get to C street, and from there they jam together. This pulling and jamming is considerable. Where the water mains leaves tank one and crosses the break noted above the pipe pulled apart and the east side sank two feet and traveled east nearly three feet. At the corner of Flower and D streets, where Chief Pennison recently put a fire main, the pipe was found jammed five inches. The Ophir company have had to put in a new pipe on Carson street several times. On Sutton street, Union street and Taylor street Chief Pennison has had to do the same thing, and the milling company, which recently put a 16-inch main down Taylor street, has already had to repair it several times. The nature of the street, by the Chollar works the west country must be much further west than it is north of it, for their water tank and their entire system, as well as that of the city, is moving east so regularly and even that there is but little difficulty to keep things in repair around there.

The pipes that run north and south from the Savage to the Ophir on B and C streets are just about alike. At the junction of Flower and C and a corresponding point on B street the water pipes jam right together. Four hundred feet north they pull apart and at points 400 and 300 feet still north they again pull apart and sleeves have to be put in to hold them together. Opposite the Bank of Nevada the pipe pulled apart, and a mere to Sutton avenue the movement east is steady and slight. At Sutton avenue they jam and crowd so much that pieces have to be cut out to shorten them. Once they jammed right into a tank and a new pipe had to be put in. From Sutton avenue north everything glides smoothly with the country. While things are restless enough on the surface there is genuine activity underneath. This, in fact, so great that it is almost unbearable. Of course, all this disturbance is due to the immense quantities of rock which have been taken out of the mines since the first hoisting plant was set upon the lode. It is impossible to account for all the movements of the surface by the observations that have been made underneath, but the greatest depressions and longest slides visible on top are invariably opposite or in the neighborhood of paying mines—mines in which the rock has been heavily worked. All the old maps which have been made of the Consolidated Virginia, and California mines during bonanza days, to cite particular instances, which are now only about ten years old, are to-day absolutely worthless, so far as they may be consulted for the purpose of making connections or re-opening old drifts and stopes. As the Irishman would say, "They are not there." They have moved. How much have they moved? The map shows that from a certain wall to another, giving two points that are almost impossible to mistake, the distance is 354 feet. Since the fire has been extinguished the points have been found; the walls are there as plain and as eyes ever saw them, but they are not there any more. The reader who does not believe it, let him go and see for himself. A stop is made in the map as having sixteen sets of square timbers—112 feet—was found. The timbers for the sixteen sets are all there, but so jammed that the sixteen sets are now four inches wide, and an entire stop is not more than ten feet wide. And so it is all through the workings.

The reader could form a fair idea of the immense pressure that is brought upon stopes and drifts by seeing them when a stop is bulkheaded, timbers are put in about as thick as they can get, and everything fitted neatly. On the 1,000 foot level of Consolidated Virginia there is a drift, one side of which is all right now, and the other for a distance of about 100 feet, and the other side does not move at all. The moving side is planked. The rock is taken away and the planks are set sixteen inches from the walls, and the water pipes are set between the planks and the timbers. The moving rocks press against the planks and crush the pegs until they reach the timbers, when the same work has to be all done over. The timbers are set four inches wide, and a smooth as a slate, and which seem immovably firm will sometimes commence to crumble and crack. When the mine was full of oxide gas the subtle fluid came right out of wells of this kind, and it was not much that it so dangerous and difficult to handle.

This agitation will doubtless go on as long as mining work is done on the lode but it will always be of the same character that it is now. There will be no change in all the time as the mining is not done too near the surface, and so long as proper timbering is done. So timid people need lose no sleep on account of our immense mining operations. The hold burglar made life an unbroken nightmare in Des Moines. Together with prohibition constables, they

make a team of nuisances of unequalled strength. The management of the insane hospital at Clarinda wants an appropriation of \$200,000 to build an addition of six wards and a kitchen. Dakota. There are 352 newspapers in the territory. The Illinois Central track has reached the southern border of the territory. The biggest boomers of Cass county have raised \$20,000 to enforce local option. Artesian water has been struck at a depth of 250 feet on Schlemmer's ranch, near Rapid City. It has been shown that there is an increase of 9,000,000 bushels this year in the Dakota corn crop. The roofing slate recently discovered in the Black Hills is pronounced by experts to be of good quality.

A HOOSIER HERMIT. He Has Plenty of Money but Lives in Solitary Wretchedness and Squalor. A Plainfield, Ind., correspondent writes: There is situated four miles from here an oddly constructed hut of two rooms. The hut is situated some distance back from the public highway, and to the casual observer passing along cannot be seen at all. The place is completely shielded from all view by a dense growth of bamboo, which of itself is a curiosity in this climate. A well-worn path is the only passage that leads up to door of this rude dwelling, where lives one of the most amusing and eccentric characters to be found in Indiana. The name of the person is John Moon, and his age, as judged from appearance, is about eighty years. He is yet young, and in summer often makes long journeys on foot, attending all the fairs, public sales and shows of all kinds for many miles around, where he is well known. He goes barefooted both winter and summer, and is fond of boasting that his feet never knew a covering. Of his early life but little is known, except what he chooses to tell. He came to this country many years ago, when the country was new, and entered 160 acres of the richest farming land, which he yet retains. He was never married, and is not known to have any living relative. Up to a few years ago he worked industriously on his farm, and must by his labors have accumulated a small fortune, but he always asserts, when asked concerning his wealth, that he is a poor man. It is supposed that he has his treasure buried, from the fact that the business of his place has often called upon to exchange gold coin for silver and paper currency by him. Evil disposed persons have upon more than one occasion made nocturnal visits to his farm and hunted for the money, but have never succeeded. This extremely peculiar individual claims that he is a boyhood days and those of his early manhood were spent in the Rocky mountains, and he has considerable evidence in the way of hunting relics to support his declarations. His lonely hut, which is only occupied by himself, is a veritable curiosity shop, and possibly a good store for any person who is so lucky as to gain admittance thereto.

A reporter recently happened in the vicinity of Moon's premises, and determined to pay a visit to the abode of this strange character, both for the purpose of satisfying his own curiosity, and securing, if possible, a morsel for the readers of his paper. The old hermit, or miser, was found in a small inclosure adjoining the hut feeding his poultry, and he seemed somewhat surprised when he was flocked around him without a word. His income from their sale alone must amount to considerable. Your correspondent, by playing the role of a hunter and complimenting the flourishing condition of his poultry, finally succeeded in gaining admittance to the old man, and upon expressing a desire to view the interior of the mean hole, was unceremoniously invited inside. The rooms were almost entirely devoid of furniture. An old cupboard, with a few pieces of old crockery and cooking utensils; a broken-backed chair, an iron pot or two completed the list. The style and number of the decorations, however, were astonishing. Over the door, which was the single entrance to the room, was the old blue-rock rifle, which, the old man said, was his constant companion in all of his hunting exploits in the "Rockies." No carpet covers the rough-hewn board floor, but instead there are thrown carelessly around numerous bear, panther, buffalo, and many other animal skins and hides. With each specimen an interesting tale of daring bravery is connected, which Moon, when in the right mood, is very fond of relating. He entertained your correspondent with a few of his wonderful stories, which, if space would admit, would make good reading for those adventurously inclined. Ranged upon shelves around on all sides of both rooms were the mementoes of his early travels. A few were from Mexico; where he claims to have spent a few years; but the greater part of the curiosities were from what was then the "wild and unsettled west." They embrace collections of Indian darts, tomahawks, stone axes and various other relics of the primitive warfare of the west, kept as a remembrance of the California gold excitement of '49, of which Moon was an active participant.

It is surmised by some that he prospered and became a wealthy man in some secure place upon his farm. One of the curiosities that interested your correspondent most was several pairs of elk's horns of tremendous size, which ornamented the walls of the rooms. It was the departure of his attentive but somewhat suspicious visitor the queer individual extended a polite invitation to partake of a frugal repast which he had hastily prepared. The bill of fare consisted of hard biscuits and fried squirrel, well seasoned, and a few pieces of old-fashioned corn. The meal was relished. It was served standing, there being no seats to occupy in the simplest manner. Upon leaving your correspondent was heartily enjoined to call again. Moon, like most of the persons of his character, considered by the people of this section as authority upon weather prophecy.

A Story of Stolen Diamonds. Chicago Herald: Last winter social circles were startled by the publication of a paragraph which announced that a well-known Washington society lady had been robbed of a set of diamonds valued at \$20,000, the thief being said to be a well-known man in social circles. In a few days names began to be mentioned in connection with the robbery, and Mrs. Scott-Townsend, who the culprit was said to be John Schuyler Crosby, a well-known man about town. Mrs. Townsend is the daughter of W. L. Scott, of Erie, Pa., the millionaire congressman, while Mr. Crosby is of a prominent New York family, and served for some time in the war on General Sheridan's staff. He was appointed by President Arthur as governor of Montana territory, and subsequently was made first assistant postmaster general. Both he and Mrs. Townsend denied the story but it found many believers. It has now been discovered that the diamonds were stolen by a servant in the employ of the robber, who after the theft, escaped to California and recently opened negotiations through an attorney for their return, his price being \$5,000 and a promise that he should not be prosecuted. It is understood that the person who first put the story in circulation. This will invite a well-known female newspaper writer and the wife of a prominent democratic functionary, in whom the correspondent is said to have obtained her information.

Mystic Jewels. But when the ring was not plain in the fingers of some of the selection of the stone was in question the dominance of fashion was absolute. In the fourteenth century an Italian writer set forth the characteristics of the various gemstones, and the month in which it was proper to wear particu-

ular stones. The idea took, and for some time it was the fashion in several Italian cities to have the precious stones of the ring determined by the month in which the bride was born. If in January, the stone was a garnet, believed to have the power of winning the wearer friends. If in February, hering was set in an amethyst, which protected her from poison, and from slanderous tongues. The bloodstone was for March, making her wise and enabling her with patience to bear domestic cares. The diamond for April, keeping her heart innocent and pure, so long as she wore the gem. An emerald for May made her a happy wife, while an opal for June gave her health and protection from fairies and ghosts. If born in July the stone was a ruby, which tended to keep her free from jealousy, her husband while in August the sardonyx made her happy in the maternal relation. In September a sapphire was the proper stone, it preventing quarrels between the wedded pair; in October a emerald, which changed to a ruby when love home. The November born bride wore a topaz, it having the gift of making her truthful and obedient to her husband; while in December the turquoise insured her faithfulness. Among the German country folk the last named stone is to the present day used as a setting for the betrothal ring, and, so long as it retains its color, is believed to indicate the constancy of the wearer.

The Duke of Yau-tepec. Correspondence by Fannie Ward: Yonder goes the duke of Yau-tepec, a wealthy young sugar planter, whose ancestral acres stretch away beyond the limits of the vision. He bestrides a magnificent steed, the pace of which is here and there a gallop, and he wears his gorgeous saddles and trappings that cover the animal almost out of sight must have cost a moderate fortune. Observe how gingerly he holds his gold-headed whip, and how the big diamonds sparkle in the corners of his eyes. Beside him in a velvet saddle are his pair of pistols, and protruding from the sash of crimson silk, which his short black jackets imperfectly conceals, His pantaloons, light as two candle molds, are decorated with double rows of genuine half dollars up the outside seam, and his boots are so close as to overlap and braided together with gold cord. The pointed toes of his tiny shoes are thrust into silver stirrups of enormous size, and from his heels dangle silver spurs that ten to twelve inches long, and which his great sombrero of white felt has a gold cable large as your thumb would round and round it, and its broad, thick brim bears a heavy arabesque of gold. His horse is so perfectly trained that the rider never uses the rein, but uses his slightly to the right or the left to indicate his wish.

The mozo, or groom, who rides behind at a respectful distance, forms an admirable foil to the gorgeousness of his master, who, he constantly eyes with an air of excessive self-dignity, as one who says: "There he goes; just look at him! Ain't he daisy? His huacales covers 1,000 square miles, and that white sombrero cost \$100 if it cost a cent." The mozo is a good rider more soberly dressed, with a neat collar, though his sombrero is equally broad (six-cent piece), instead of half dollars. Besides the dagger and brace of pistols which he sports in his cotton sash, he wears a pair of silver spurs, and a mecate, a stick in the saddle-sheath. This warlike rig, though scarcely needed now, is a survival of the time when personal defense was a matter of daily necessity.

How a Landlord Beat Three Lawyers. Atlanta Constitution: Not far from the city of Montgomery, in the state of Alabama, on one of the roads running from that city, lives a jolly landlord by the name of Ford. In fair weather or foul, his jokes are never soft, and he will have his joke whenever possible. One bitter, stormy night, or rather morning, about two hours before daybreak, he was aroused from his slumbers by loud shouting and knocking at his door. He turned out and snuck against his will, and was greeted with a word or two. "It was dark as star, and as he could see no one he cried out: "Who are you, there?" "Three lawyers from Montgomery," was the answer. "We are benighted and want to stay all night." "You say you want to accommodate us so far, gentlemen. Do anything to oblige you, but that's impossible."

The lawyers, for they were three of the smartest lawyers in the state, and ready to drop with fatigue, held a consultation, and decided that they could do no better and were too tired to go another step, they asked: "Well, can't you stable our horses, and give us chairs and a good fire until morning?" "I can do that, gentlemen." Our learned and legal friends were soon drying their wet clothes by a bright fire as they composed themselves to pass the few remaining hours in their chairs, dozing and nodding, and now and then snoring, and the host, in attendance as they waited till daylight did appear.

The longest night has a morning, and at last the sun came along, and then in due time a good breakfast made its appearance; but to the surprise of the lawyers, who thought the host was so kind and willing to accommodate them so far, gentlemen, none but themselves sat down to partake. "Why, Ford, I thought your house was so full you couldn't give us a bed last night?" said one of the lawyers. "You say you want to accommodate us so far, gentlemen. Do anything to oblige you, but that's impossible."

"You asked me to let you stay here all night, and I said it would be impossible for the night was night, and you were snoring, and I thought if you only wanted beds why on earth didn't you say so?" "The lawyers had to give it up. Three of them on one side, and the landlord alone had beaten them all.

Black Hills Tin. The anxiety to know whether this country contains a really valuable tin mine, one that can be worked practically, is not confined to Americans by any means. It is shared by a goodly number of Europeans, who happened to be stockholders in the company formed to work the Harney peak mines in the Black Hills. A committee of the investor-venturers, just before they sailed one of them, John Taylor, a banker, told William E. Dodge, of New York, that he thought the mine a good one, while another, a Mr. Price, considered it valuable. "No doubt there are indications of tin there," said Mr. Dodge to-night, "but the general impression here is that the deposit is of no commercial value. The company established something of a plant two years ago, but do not know that any tin was ever taken out. There have been a good many 'pockets' of tin found in this country, but none of them has ever paid for working; but when we do get a good one, we are going to get it, and we are going to get it to go to England for capital to develop it."

Leland hotel, Chicago.

Carroll has a cheese factory boxed. Fort Madison want a street railway. Fayette county will have a rope; pull in January. A man orphan asylum at Dubuque has 116 inmates. A financial cyclone has demolished the base ball park at Creston. Cedar Rapids people kept their digestion in trim last month with 17,500,000 gallons of water. A double-headed calf, native born, has been added to the industrial freaks of Butler county. A number of farmers in Cherokee county propose to organize a grain shipping association and dispense with middlemen. The hold burglar made life an unbroken nightmare in Des Moines. Together with prohibition constables, they