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ADVERTISING: All communications relating to advertising should be addressed to the Editor, BUSINESS LETTERS. All business letters and remittances should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: State of Nebraska, Douglas County, etc. George H. Teasdale, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of copies of the Omaha Daily Bee, Morning, Evening and Sunday for the month of December, 1917, was as follows:

Circulation table with columns for Date, Total, Paid, and Unpaid. Rows include dates from 12/1 to 12/31.

Total 62,872. Law returned and unsold copies, 12,220. Net total sales, 50,652. Total for year, 1,450,000.

KEEP IT BEFORE THE PUBLIC.

The aggregate carrier delivery circulation of The Evening Bee is double the aggregate carrier delivery circulation of the Evening World-Herald and more than six times greater than the aggregate carrier delivery circulation of the Morning World-Herald in Omaha and South Omaha.

The carrier delivery circulation of The Evening Bee reaches 7,934 bona fide subscribers that are not reached by the Evening World-Herald and 7,016 subscribers that are not reached by the Morning World-Herald.

More than 4,000 carrier delivery subscribers to The Omaha Evening Bee and The Omaha Morning Bee are not reached either by the Morning World-Herald or the Evening World-Herald.

It goes without saying that the number of copies of The Evening Bee or The Morning Bee sold by these two newspapers exceeds by a very considerable number of World-Herald dailies, morning and evening, sold by dealers and newsboys.

Men are finally beginning to realize that going on an official bond in Nebraska is not merely a meaningless formality.

The Chicago railroad that first absorbs the bridge arbitrary will be the road that will have the best claim to the business of Omaha shippers.

King Ak-Sar-Ben has incorporated under the laws of Nebraska. We believe this is the only example of incorporated royalty in these parts.

Kentucky reports the advent of the cyclone season. Since politics became so dreadfully mixed in the old commonwealth even the seasons are awry.

Much of the congressional talk about the civil service rules is intended for the comfort of disappointed office-seekers or those who are destined to disappointment.

General Weyer has predicted an armed conflict between the United States and Spain. This would doubtless be a distinct help to him in hiding his unsavory record.

After all, public opinion appears to be a living force in Ohio, much to the chagrin of the power-hungry schemers and the traitors who bargained with them for the betrayal of the republican party.

Governor Lee of South Dakota promises a superb exhibit from that state at the exposition. South Dakota is a live, progressive state and is not going to let any opportunity escape to push itself to the front.

Business firms intending to establish themselves in Omaha during the present year will do well to make haste if they want to get suitable locations in the retail district. The good places still available are becoming fewer day by day.

Remember that the district court for Douglas county has declared that The Omaha Evening Bee is the paper of largest circulation and entitled to the publication of all notices of application for license to sell liquor in Omaha and Douglas county.

Like parent, like child. When members of the police board show open disregard for both the law and their official oaths, members of the police force may be expected to display equally small regard for discipline and orders from their superiors.

When democratic newspapers go out of their way to praise a republican character of his services to the opposition needs no explanation. It will be noticed that the democratic press can not praise Mr. Kurtz too much for his political dirty work in Ohio.

Nebraska fruit growers will hold their annual meeting this week and show what they have done in the way of producing marketable fruit in the state. Horticulture in Nebraska is not an experiment and it is deserving of much greater attention than it has ever received.

The Iowa sugar beet experts report that the best sugar industry would prove profitable in nearly every county of the state. With this assurance capitalists ought not to delay long in the matter of establishing factories. If anything is to be done for this year it must be done soon.

IS OUR PROSPERITY DECAIVING?

At the banquet given to William Jennings Bryan on his return from Mexico by a so-called Traveling Men's association, one of the toasts on the program was, "Prosperity?" The inference intended to be conveyed by the question mark was plainly that the prosperity which the country now enjoys is delusive and fictitious.

While sneering at prosperity may elicit applause at a banquet in honor of a man whose political capital consists extensively of distress and calamity, it is amazing that any man or set of men professing to be identified with commercial travelers should call in question the substantial improvement in business conditions that has taken place in the United States within the past twelve months. Nothing but the most arrant demagoguery and deliberate intent to create false impressions could have inspired the interrogation mark after the prosperity toast.

No class of people has had more convincing proof of the revival of prosperity than have the commercial travelers. No other class of wage workers was hit so hard by the financial depression that followed the crash of 1893 and no other class is now enjoying a greater share of returning prosperity.

It is not only an insult to the common intelligence of the people to decry the existence of prosperity, but an atrocious lie upon the traveling men of Nebraska to make them father such a stupid insinuation. It may do for political mountebanks of the ostrich brand to call in question the improvement in business conditions, but honest and truthful men of all political creeds must concede that the people of the United States as a whole, and the people of this state and section in particular, have substantial and indubitable evidence of the arrival of better times.

RETALIATION AGAINST FRANCE.

The recent manifestation of French commercial unfriendliness toward the United States has not unannouncedly produced a feeling that it may become necessary for this country to retaliate. A bill introduced in the house by Representative Balkamp of Chicago points in this direction, having been prompted by the plan of the French government in regard to American meat products.

The dispatches furnish no information in regard to the details of this measure, merely stating that its effect would be to give the trade of Germany, Italy and England important advantages over that of France.

It has been the policy of the French government to exclude all pork products and according to the latest information the effect of this policy has been to so stimulate pork production that France is on the eve of becoming a pork-exporting country. It is also said that France is no longer desirous of antagonizing America in this respect and that a decrease in the duties on pork may be expected soon.

M. Melme told the Chamber of Deputies a few days ago, addressing himself especially to the ultra-protectionists, that France needed the American market and intimated that reciprocity would be desirable. A Paris dispatch says: "It would appear that after the elections the Washington government will find that its efforts to extend trade between the United States and France will be met with a much more conciliatory spirit."

As is well known, negotiations looking to a reciprocity agreement between this country and France are now pending and the utterances of the French premier indicate an earnest desire on the part of that government to reach an agreement.

In view of this it is not likely that congress will be disposed to adopt any retaliatory legislation and probably the bill was introduced merely by way of warning to the French tariff commission, which proposes to increase the rates on pork. If it be a fact that France is producing all the pork she needs and may become an exporter, it can make no very great difference to the United States whether the tariff rates are increased or not.

BRYAN AND GAGE.

Secretary Gage has intimated that he may reply to so much of the speech of Mr. Bryan at the Jackson day banquet in Chicago as referred to the currency policy of the secretary of the treasury. The country would read with interest anything which Mr. Gage might say on this subject and there can be no doubt that he is fully capable of answering Mr. Bryan in a way entirely creditable to himself.

But is it worth while to go to the trouble of doing so? Is there anything so really important in the assertions and assumptions of Bryan's speech as to justify Secretary Gage in taking his valuable time to answer it?

Let us briefly refer to some of its statements. Mr. Bryan said the gold standard was adopted in the United States without any party ever asking for it, indicating the year 1873 as the time of its adoption. The gold standard was established in this country more than sixty years ago, when the democratic party was in control of the government with Andrew Jackson president.

Mr. Bryan said that in the election of 1896, 99 per cent of the voters registered their opposition to a single gold standard. Every intelligent man knows that this is not true and that on the contrary a large majority of the supporters of the republican candidates favored the gold standard. Mr. Bryan repeated his usual platitude about the destinies of the American people being in the hands of foreign financiers, unmodified by the fact that this country is today in a position of financial independence, with an enormous trade balance in its favor and with money loaned to foreign finan-

cers to the amount of more than \$90,000,000, according to the most conservative estimates. This money is loaned in London and in Berlin because it commands at those financial centers a higher rate of interest than can be obtained for it in the financial centers of the United States, where the supply of money is in excess of the demand.

Mr. Bryan asserted that republican policies had failed to bring relief to the people and he cited as evidence of this the condition of the New England cotton industry, in which a reduction of wages has been made. Every intelligent man knows that labor is better employed in this country now than for several years and that in nearly all industries it is better paid than a year ago or during most of the time under the operation of the tariff law which Mr. Bryan had a part in framing.

But what of the New England cotton industry? Simply this, that the rapid development of the industry in the south, with cheaper labor and longer hours of work, placed the cotton manufacturers of New England at a disadvantage and the only remedy was to be found in lowering wages, but the mills that did not feel southern competition made no reduction. Moreover, there has been overproduction of cotton and manufacturers have for some time made no profits. The employees very generally recognize these conditions, with which the tariff has nothing whatever to do.

Mr. Bryan has rarely made a weaker or more inconsequential speech than that he delivered in Chicago last Saturday, though in his spirit it is an entirely characteristic production.

THE CAUSE OF Bimetallism.

The monetary commission reached the conclusion that the cause of international bimetallism is hopeless. According to Senator Chandler, who yesterday had an interview with President McKinley, the president still believes that international bimetallism may be accomplished and it is his intention to again send commissioners to Europe to renew negotiations when the conditions are favorable. If this correctly states the position of Mr. McKinley it will be very disappointing to those who think the agitation of this question not merely idle, but harmful.

Upon what the president bases the hope of successful negotiations for international bimetallism is not easily seen. Mr. Chandler's statement implies that there is an expectation that the India mints may be reopened to silver, but if there is such an expectation it will inevitably be disappointed.

There is undoubtedly an anomalous financial situation in India and the London Times recently said that the monetary system of that country must either be placed squarely upon a gold basis or the mints reopened to silver coinage. There can be no doubt which one of these alternatives will be adopted. The Indian government has declared in the most positive terms against reopening the mints to silver and some of the great business organizations of India, among them the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, have petitioned for the adoption of the gold standard. The British government cannot reasonably be expected to disregard these views, nor will it do so. It is therefore entirely safe to say that the cause of international bimetallism will get no help from India.

Is there any promise of help in any other direction? The advocates of international bimetallism rely much upon France, but there is little substantial reason for doing so. The French government is willing to join in a conference to discuss the question and that is all it has really proposed to do. It will be governed in its course by the attitude of Great Britain, just as will Germany and all the other European countries. Some of the ablest financiers and political economists in France are opposed to international bimetallism, pronouncing it impracticable, and the opinion of these is quite as weighty and influential as that of M. Melme and other bimetallists, who are more or less influenced by political considerations.

There is no evidence that the great financial and commercial interests of France desire bimetallism, the demand for it coming chiefly from the agrarian element. This has influence with certain politicians, but the interests which want the gold standard maintained are quite as potent. There was really nothing encouraging in the assistance which the French government gave the American commission.

The fact is that the gold standard is more firmly established in Europe than ever and no effort this country may make will disturb it. The great commercial nations have built their financial and business affairs upon a gold basis and there they will stand. Even Russia has adopted that standard. Such being the case nothing but failure, more or less humiliating, can come from any further effort on the part of the United States to promote international bimetallism and abandonment of it will be in the interest of our financial peace and welfare.

The poperaite wisecracker profess to have discovered the reason for the failure of the Singery bank in Philadelphia. They say it is because Mr. Singery's newspaper opposed the bill in limited free coinage of 16 to 1 silver dollars. As Mr. Singery's newspaper, however, was the one property that kept paying him dividends all the time and is the asset from which the creditors expect to secure payment in full, the poperaite wisecracker are entitled to another guess.

From a number of western towns have come reports of decreased grain shipments last year as compared with the previous year, despite the larger crops and better prices. In the most of these cases increased live stock shipments are also reported, which shows that the western farmers have been learning some valuable lessons in cattle feeding in recent years.

A bill will be presented in the Iowa legislature early in the session requiring that "the American experience tables of mortality and expectation life tables be included in the arithmetics used in the public schools of Iowa." The next

will be a bill requiring every person to treat with respect and consideration every insurance agent who desires to explain the advantages of life insurance and to listen patiently and cheerfully to all insurance propositions.

Not a word in that speech on government by injunctive about the injunction proffered by the Bakery men to prevent himself from breaking his contract to sell editorial space to the republican candidate for governor in 1914 for use against the democratic candidate, whom he was pretending to support. Why such profound silence on one of the most disgraceful examples of the injunctive business to be found in all judicial history?

Edgar Howard, the Populist poperaite statesman, while rejoicing in the prospective punishment of Embreeley Barley, laments the fact that his accomplices and beneficiaries have not also the poperaite starting them in the face. Does Edgar want to see the proprietor of the local Bryan organ placed in limbo for enjoying the financial favor of Mr. Barley at the expense of the state treasury?

The project for a great transmississippi teachers' convention in conjunction with the Transmississippi Exposition is to be pushed through with energy and determination to make it an unqualified success. Everybody interested in the exposition should cooperate with the committee in charge to bring it to the favorable attention of educators of all classes in the transmississippi states.

What excuse can the police offer liquor dealers and druggists who obey the law and pay their license money, for allowing others who have failed to live up to the requirements of the law to sell without a license of any kind? What chance for the goose should be saved for the gander. If the law is to be enforced at all it should be enforced without favor or discrimination.

It is pleasing to be informed that Bill Oldham is a fixture, not only for next year's Jacksonville feed, but for all Jacksonville feeds to come. The number he has been growing smaller and smaller, until the opening week of 1918 finds these branches of industry upon a basis of permanent failure during the last year of all other lines of business endeavor.

A DESERVED FATE.

The Chicago Times-Herald: The best lesson that can be drawn from his doom is that, though heavy-footed, justice always overtakes the criminal in the end. The number of such criminals who are now in the penitentiary is a record. With the exception of the few who are on parole, the remainder are settled economic policy and the maintenance of the present monetary standard is a very marked decline in bank deposits and in the value of securities.

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A BAD COMBINATION.

Senator Stewart was not subject to such nightmares all the year his latest would be the case of a very bad whiskey or very bad eggs, if not both.

Lincoln Monument for Gettysburg.

The bill to appropriate \$50,000 for a statue of Abraham Lincoln on the field of Gettysburg is a very timely one. It is a mark of honor to the man who saved the Union and a monument to his memory.

Nebraska at Long Range.

Delinquent taxes accumulating since 1893 are being paid up in large amounts in Nebraska, and the payment of the last year's taxes is being made in general to excite remark. The prompt report comes from Kansas. Let us hope that these obligations will soon be cleared away, and that the prosperity of the state will be speedily re-established.

Education and the Garrote.

While trying to squeeze the life out of a little independent oil concern in Boston, which commands the sympathy of the entire public net in monopolistic chains, Mr. Rockefeller is being garroted by a virtuous and energetic section that a Brooklyn stock broker testified the other day in a civil court before a Buffalo surrogate, that during the last ten years he had been garroted by the power of special dividends aggregating 32 per cent annually.

A Sample Instance.

A Boston physician who formerly occupied the two positions of medical examiner for the city and health officer for the fire department was called upon to examine an applicant for appointment to the police force. The applicant, tested as to his mental capacity, was found to be sane and sane as to his mind and never had a sick day in his life. Subsequently the same man appeared before the board of health and was appointed a police officer.

The Abundance of Money.

It is easy to understand the reasons for the great abundance of money in western banks which is reported in the dispatches. The business activity which came at the overthrow of the Bryanites and the accession of the republicans to power. The safe deposit vaults and the other receptacles in which cash was hidden during the panic gave up their hoards of money, and it went to the banks and passed into trade channels. This was the case at the same time and the advance in prices of grain enabled the farmers to pay off their debts and accumulate a little surplus, and this was the case. Thus the result is in a far better financial condition at this moment than it was before at any time in the last half dozen years, money is plentiful, and everybody takes a hopeful view of the situation.

Luxurious Treatment for Jurymen.

The Thorn jury in Long Island City may be the cause of giving the jurymen a new trial. It has been proved that the jurymen were given a very luxurious treatment during their service. They were given a very luxurious treatment during their service.

TRADE'S BRIGHT PROSPECTS.

Detroit Free Press: Indications multiply that 1918 will be all right industrially and financially. The first sign of that better is the fact that the year that is gone promises to continue. The improvement may not be as rapid as the impatient might hope for, but it seems certain that it will continue.

The commercial reports are encouraging. A tone of confidence is reported, with increasing activity in many lines of business. The assumption of activity in others. Last year is declared to be the best ever definitely known in failures.

Chicago Chronicle: Dan's weekly report says that the commercial failures in 1917 not only fell off to a greater degree than any year since 1892, but that on the whole the year was the best ever definitely known in the records of commercial security. As the new year has begun with abounding confidence in all classes of merchandising, it follows that nothing but rank speculation and inflation will prevent 1918 from making an even better record than last year.

The country seems to at last have taken a fresh grip on prosperity, in the natural cycle of alternate loss and gain, and this renewed health has been amply proved to have come to the aid of the nation's business. It is a result of the political medicine men.

Kansas City Star: The trade reviews for the first week in the new year generally reflect an encouraging condition of business. Especially emphasized is the fact that the confidence of business men that 1918 is to be a year of activity in trade and industry. There seems to be no doubt or uncertainty in any line, except that of agricultural machinery, and even in that the outlook has been improved by an increase in demand for goods.

The new year has brought some large new orders to iron manufacturers, who are already working almost to their utmost limit of production, except in the case of those who are equipped with modern machinery. The number of men employed in factories in this country now is many hundreds greater than a year ago, or at least the number of men employed in the iron industry is steadily growing larger.

There is more general prosperity among farmers than for many years past. All staple farm products are selling at materially higher prices than they were a year ago and at the same time farmers have ample supplies of nearly everything to sell.

Chicago Times-Herald: The mercantile reports indicate that the year opens with a tone of confidence pervading all departments of trade and industry. The year for the year 1917, in spite of the general depression and stagnation with which the year opened, show the smallest number of failures during the last year of half averaged liabilities of \$10,477 per failure, while in the last half of 1917 the average was only \$3,853. The returns by branches of business in the last half of 1917, in all classes the failures were lower than in any previous year of which there is record.

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RESTRICTING IMMIGRATION.

Quick Remedies for Political Bills of Harper's Weekly. The demand for the restriction of immigration is of comparatively recent date. There have been at various periods occasional outbreaks of religious or political hostility to the "foreign element," but about twenty-five years ago the incalculable perilousness which immigration had rendered in the development of the country were universally recognized, and it was thought that in the same way it might render fruitful and equally important services in the future.

As late as 1864 congress passed a law for the encouragement of immigration, in 1872 legislation of a like character was at least attempted. In many states agencies were maintained for attracting immigrants from abroad. Since then a scientific method of immigration has been gradually growing up. That sentiment was stimulated by the organized efforts partly of an anti-immigration league drawing its members from various classes of laborers, partly from the labor organizations. Attention was called to the fact that the character of the immigration was changing for the worse. While formerly the overwhelming majority of the immigrants had come from Germany, Ireland and the Scandinavian countries, the tide was now running most strongly from Russia, Italy and Austria. An apprehension was excited that large numbers of European anarchists and other dangerous characters would descend upon us, shores, spreading their subversive doctrines among our people and disturb the peace of society with lawless and bloody commotions. It was also pointed out that as our public lands were rapidly being exhausted, the country was comparatively little room for newcomers. From all this it was concluded that, if not the total discontinuance, at least a severe restriction of immigration had become imperatively necessary.

That restriction has been attempted and partially effected by various legislative provisions, but the result has been to subject all other immigrants to a careful scrutiny as to their character, their physical condition, their means of support, and so on. The result has been to make it difficult in part to the economic depression which has prevailed in this country for several years, and in part to our immigration laws, which have been so restrictive that they have been able for the return of objectionable immigrants, thus imposing considerable financial risks upon them; and the talk about the "foreign element" is a mere scare tactic. It is a well known fact that many of the immigrants who have come to this country have been of a high character, and that many of them have been of a high character, and that many of them have been of a high character.

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THE CONGRESSMEN.

From far and near they hasten, A happy throng of men, With courage in each breast And a pocketbook in hand, And the sun shines out welcome And the prospect speaks of May, And the birds are singing and the flowers are blooming, Come and bid the world be gay.

But we know the hours so fleeting, Are fraught with gloomy change, That the old-time mood will triumph, Of moments so swiftly passing, That we'll not get back to the old ways, So momentary is our stay, That this promise so effluent Is the same.

THE JANUARY SALES.

Now that Christmas is over And your pocketbook is flat, Comes a period distracting, Till you don't know where you're at, For the holidays are past, Piled with bargains by the sale, And the shopper's heart is broken By the January sale.

Shirts and suits gone a-begging, Crisp brooms and lace galoes, Everything to tempt the bravest, Comes a period distracting, Well-bound books, well-known authors, Dainty yet decadent tales, Always in the greatest variety, At the January sales.

Household staples, hemstitched linen, Napery in damask blooms, Wreath of cloths with flowers and frostwork, Petticoats a-foam with laces, Doilies with delicate fringes, How the spirit writhes in anguish At the January sales.

For one's heart is broken, broken, When the pocketbook is broken, When the pocketbook is broken, One's robust health bespokes, Fortunatus, Flannel, and Mittens, Hear a tortured mortal's wails, Come and go with me shopping At the January sales!

A RUB DOWN.

Hard for a Lazy Man But Pays for the Trouble. One has often read or heard of the good effect of a quick sponge bath and rub down in the morning, but until it has really been put in practice for a fortnight the value is not appreciated.

Moderately cold water should be applied to the arms first and these briskly rubbed with a towel and the open hand until smooth, dry and warm.

Then treat the stomach, back, legs and feet separately, in the same way. One is inclined to feel a hearty, boyish desire for breakfast and if the healthy life of body thus begun is desirable to maintain, the person could, with profit, avoid coffee at breakfast and use Postum Food Coffee and some whole wheat or oat preparations.

If chemical research is of any sort of value in making clear the food value of various articles it has never done a greater service to mankind than in the analysis of Coffee and Postum.

The first shows no food value whatever, but is shown to contain the same alkaloids as tobacco, opium, whiskey, and to have a similar effect upon the human body as this famous trio have; ultimately producing in many cases, heart failure, paralysis, stomach and liver disease and other serious complications arising from a daily poisoning of the nervous system.

True everyone must be allowed the liberty of taking into his or her individual body whatever is desired, but it is a source of satisfaction to the thoughtful man or woman to know just what the real facts are about any article put into the human stomach, and upon which one may depend for health.

Coffee may be used by some persons for years and exert no particular power over a strong constitution but if one will carefully investigate the daily life of say, twenty-five coffee drinkers, scarcely one will be found entirely free from some physical ailment or directly traceable to a disordered nervous system.

People who would rather have solid days and nights of health, and easy comfortable bodies to carry around than stick to a cup of coffee each morning, can find a pleasant way by adopting Postum Food Coffee and having it made according to the new directions which makes the way plain to a most delicious, crisp and charming coffee, heavy in nourishment and entirely free from any sort of narcotic effect like common coffee.

Mr. Curtis, the president of the famous Larch Home Journal Co., says he likes Postum better than coffee. Many do, but probably a larger number consider the flavor of Postum second to that of choice coffee. But Postum is delicious and when its powerful nourishing properties are considered in conjunction with the pleasant flavor, it takes its place as a fixture on the table of thoughtful people.

creasing intrusion of the mercenary spirit into our politics, and in the other in our economic conditions, which are in some respects a more serious menace than the pretended cure was mere quackery, which solved no problem and benefited nobody, but entailed upon us very serious inconveniences and losses by curtailing the laboring force required for various necessary uses, and by thus impeding our development.

BRIGHT AND BREEZY.

Harper's Bazar: "Dinkins-Haw's four indignation, old man, thank you, but I don't feel very well myself."

Detroit Free Press: He-Darling, I have made a great fool of myself. Phillips-It's doing nicely, thank you, but I don't feel very well myself.