THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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3	24,760	19	30,380
4	24,780	20	25,755
5	24,710	21	28,440
6	24,910	22	25,640
7	25,870	23	25,840
8	24,760	24	25,530
9	24,710	25	25,715
10	24,980	26	25,810
11	24,750	27	25,980
12	32,460	28	26,535
13	25,710	29	26,220
14	26,740	30	27,030
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G. B. TZSCHUCK,
Sec'y and Treas.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 1st day of February, A. D. 1900.
(Seal) M. B. HUNGATE,
Notary Public.

Every precaution should be taken to guard the meeting of the populist national committee at Lincoln. It would never do to let an outsider get next to the provision train.

Several kinks in the new primary law will have to be amended by the next legislature. Nothing proves the practicability or impracticability of a law so well as the actual test.

Kearney has organized a Business Men's club and is preparing to strike up the old "Kearney Gait. Why not make the move unanimous and rechristen it the "Nebraska Gaits?"

The report that Boni de Castellane has borrowed money from Russell Sage, if true, disposes of the story that the Frenchman is broke. Uncle Russell is not lending money to people without plenty of collateral.

The local popocratic organ is already making fun of the name of its candidate for councilman from the Second ward—Conrad Hug. So long as it does not mix up the vowels, however, it may possibly be forgiven.

It may be difficult to push the auditorium project in the face of a political campaign, but as we are to have successive political campaigns all through the year the promoters should keep pegging right at it.

It is rumored that Aguinaldo is en route to Paris to enter in the long-distance races during the exposition. If that is the case the managers will be compelled to handicap him heavily in order to secure other entries.

The great trust-smashing attorney general is still trying to puncture the standard oil tire, but he remains in blissful ignorance of the ice trust, whose vehicles promise to roll rough shod over the ice consumers next summer.

Omaha must own its own water works. Nobody contests that—not even the water works company, provided it can get an arrangement for selling out at a satisfactory price. The only question is when to buy and how much to pay.

Mr. Macrum's wires were evidently grounded somewhere between Pretoria and this country. His memory dropped something in transmission and as a consequence his present statements do not entirely accord with the documents on file in the State department.

News from the scene of hostilities at the state house is scarce and there is a suspicion that the censor is getting down to work. Secretary of State Porter is liable to cross the river almost any time, however, and make another assault on the Board of Transportation kopje.

A leading Kansas populist declares that Jerry Simpson sold out the populist party to the silver barons. That may account for Jerry being able to wear socks since he broke into congress. If the party had only returned him for another term he might have been able to secure a change.

Thirty-six would-be pill makers have applied for permission to practice in the medicine shops of Nebraska by paying the usual fee to the state board of pharmacy examiners. How fortunate that the political medicine makers do not have to pass an examination and put up an entrance fee.

The report sent to the senate shows conclusively that while its opponents were talking and doing everything possible to embarrass the administration in regard to the seizure of American goods in South Africa the administration was busy looking after the interests of American citizens. The opposition senators are not succeeding in getting much campaign thunder which will be available for use in the campaign.

GOLD STANDARD SUSTAINED.

By a majority of 16 in a vote of 75 the senate passed the financial bill substitute for the house measure. There was one republican vote against the bill and two democratic votes in support of it. The bill as reported from the senate finance committee was amended in two important respects, one of these being a declaration that the provisions of the act are not intended to obstruct the way to the accomplishment of international bimetallism and the other permitting the organization of national banks with a capital to the amount of one-half of that now required by law in towns of not more than 4,000 inhabitants.

The latter amendment is commendable, but that relating to international bimetallism seems to us to have been wholly uncalled-for and can serve no good purpose. The most objectionable feature of the bill, however, is the refunding provision and it is upon this that the principal contest will take place in the conference committee. It is not improbable, also, that the house conferees will oppose the provision in regard to international bimetallism, though there may be no very strenuous hostility to this for the reason that it is of little consequence. There is no serious thought anywhere of international bimetallism and this declaration is not at all likely to arouse any. At all events, this feature of the senate bill will not be permitted to seriously obstruct agreement in the conference. The refunding proposition, however, will undoubtedly prove a source of determined disagreement and it is to be hoped that the house will firmly insist upon its abandonment. It is unwise and unnecessary and from a political point of view its adoption would be hurtful.

There is now every assurance of legislation unequivocally fixing the gold standard in public law and upon this the country is to be congratulated.

TRYING TO BEFOG THE PEOPLE.

Water spouts and water sprays are the principal stock in trade of the silk-stocking candidate who has been nominated for mayor of Omaha by three parties on three platforms. But the intelligent masses of all parties can neither be duped nor befogged by rainbow sophistry.

Nobody disputes the assertion that Omaha has the right to take possession of the water works this year or any other year, always providing it pays the value set upon it by appraisers confirmed by due process of law. Nobody doubts that the city could have taken possession of the works long ago if it had the ready money and was willing to pay whatever price the franchise might have been figured.

The main point at issue is, whether the city should avail itself of its contract right to take the plant at the end of the twenty-year period without paying from $500,000 to $1,000,000 for the unexpired franchise and contract, or whether it should throw away this advantage and pile up an unnecessary mortgage upon the city that will burden the taxpayers for years to come.

If municipal ownership is wanted at any cost it is not necessary to elect Mr. Poppleton mayor. The water company as well as the gas company and the electric lighting company and the telephone company will cheerfully sell at any time if they can name the price.

All the talk that the water works can be condemned by right of eminent domain and taken possession of by the city without paying the full value of the property, including the franchise, is the veriest bosh. No lawyer of any standing would stake his reputation on such a proposition. The federal courts have time and again intervened in just such cases to prevent the seizure of property without payment and it would be foolish to expect that the capitalists who have their money invested in the Omaha works would stand by without invoking the protection of the courts to enforce whatever rights they may have.

What the city must do as the first step toward municipal ownership is to ascertain by court process the exact time when its right to purchase the works under the contract without paying for the franchise can be exercised. The next step will be to secure the appraisement and find out how much it will have to pay for the plant. With public sentiment demanding this action, no mayor or council will stand in the way.

THE ALLEGED SECRET ALLIANCE.

In view of the fact that there is alleged to be a secret alliance between this government and the government of Great Britain and that a number of our people believe that such an alliance exists, the statement made by Lord Rosebery in the House of Lords possesses a significance which will command for it more than ordinary attention. The ex-premier, whose utterances are to be regarded as hardly less authoritative than those of the premier himself and who is not in the habit of making reckless statements, is reported to have said: "Last December the government made urgent overtures to two great powers, Germany and the United States, for an alliance, but those overtures were not received with such cordiality as to encourage the government to pursue." It is noteworthy that the marquis of Salisbury, in his reported reply for the government, did not refer to this statement.

A Washington dispatch states, on the authority of officials of the administration, that no proposition for an alliance has come from the British government. It will be remembered that last October Secretary Hay wrote to the chairman of the Ohio republican state committee a definite and positive denial of the allegation, contained in the Ohio democratic platform, that there was a secret alliance between the administration and the British government. It was said by the secretary of state that no such alliance had been sought on either side and that so far as the United States was concerned nothing of the kind had ever been thought of. Rosebery's statement is that the proposal of an alliance was made in December of last year and that it was not pursued because the British government met with no encouragement.

There is presented in these statements a conclusive refutation of the charge that a secret alliance exists between the United States and Great Britain. In the first place there is the positive denial of any such alliance on the part of the American secretary of state and in the second place the statement of an ex-prime minister of Great Britain that overtures for an alliance received no encouragement from this government. It would seem that this ought to dispose of the alleged alliance, for which there is obviously no substantial ground, and yet it will not be surprising to find the opponents of the administration making use of the Rosebery statement in an effort to show that something in the nature of a secret understanding really exists between the government of the United States and that of Great Britain.

THE REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

The republicans of Omaha have nominated a municipal ticket that fairly represents all the elements of the party and should receive its united and harmonious support.

Mayor Moores has been renominated despite vigorous factional opposition because the rank and file of the party recognize that he has made a faithful and efficient executive officer during the past three years and has passed through the crucial test that tries men in the discharge of duty. The preliminary campaign through which he has just passed has been a revelation to his friends by showing him to possess greater personal popularity than any other man who aspired to the office. While he will doubtless be subjected to a renewal of vindictive abuse, no unprejudiced republican will have reason to withhold his support from him.

The candidates for treasurer, comptroller, tax commissioner and city clerk will appeal strongly to popular favor and the councilmanic ticket will rank above the average. The renomination of Comptroller Westberg and Tax Commissioner Sackett is a recognition of efficient service. The candidate for treasurer, August H. Hennings, is a representative German-American of high standing in the business community, having for many years held a position of responsibility in one of the leading wholesale houses of this city. W. H. Elbourn, nominated for city clerk, has achieved prominence among the working classes and has long been an active worker in republican ranks.

The platform speaks out clearly on the issues of the hour. It pledges the republican party and candidates to a progressive policy that will favor the upbuilding of the city as opposed to the policy of obstruction and reaction and for that reason appeals to every one interested in the growth and prosperity of Omaha.

THE SUNDAY BEE.

The feature of The Illustrated Bee Sunday, which goes to every subscriber, is the reproduction of a historic photograph of a group of famous Indian chiefs. Among the well known red men represented in this interesting picture are Sitting Bull, Red Cloud, Spotted Tail and Swift Bear. While pictures of the noted Indians who participated in the Indian congress at the Transmississippi Exposition are all the rage, this one possesses a unique distinction by reason of the celebrity of the chiefs portrayed. The explanation of the picture is an interesting story in the form of an interview with Julius Meyer, who, in his early days, acted as Indian interpreter and who appears also in the group.

The Woman's clubs of Council Bluffs form the subject of an extended sketch, illustrated with the pictures of the presidents of the four leading clubs.

Carpenter's letter this week tells about the preparations in Japan for an impending imperial wedding. The accompanying pictures show the emperor and empress of Japan together with the prince imperial and the Princess Sada, who will be the future empress of Japan.

The eightieth anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony, the venerable champion of woman's suffrage, last Thursday gives occasion for an illustrated article upon her career, reproducing with it the latest photograph of Miss Anthony.

Another illustrated article tells of the increasing immigration of the Finns to this country, growing out of the recent changes in their government by Russia, with pictures of prominent places in Finland illustrative of the exodus.

Still another illustrated article tells how the Japanese, known as the Yankees of the Orient, have progressed far enough to build great steamships for their merchant marine. The launching of the Japanese steamship Awamaru, as caught by a snap shot, appears in a beautiful half-tone.

Fraternity life at the University of Nebraska is described in an interesting way with a striking pictorial design of the fraternity emblems represented at that institution.

Last, but not least in interest to our readers, are pictures illustrating current topics. Among them is a specially made photograph of William S. Poppleton, the fusion candidate for mayor of Omaha, as he appears in his office; a portrait of Peter Jansen, just appointed from Nebraska as one of the United States commissioners to the Paris exposition; a group of Blair, Neb., High school cadets; two pictures of the coming Buffalo exposition and a scene in the bad lands in western Nebraska.

In addition to The Illustrated Bee, which contains the literary and pictorial features, The Bee Sunday will have all the news of the day in the most readable and comprehensive form. Its cable letters from foreign capitals chronicle the events not only of the old world, but also of the seats of war in South Africa and the Philippines. The domestic telegraph service of the Associated Press is supplemented by special dispatches from The Bee's large corps of correspondents covering the entire transmississippi region. Its local news features are unexcelled.

Be sure to buy The Bee.

Of course the un-Patriotic league declares expressly in its statement of principles that it will not take part in any primary contest, but the patriots find themselves all lined up on the same side trying to capture the city convention. But then these same patriots last year pretended to be supporting the republican ticket while secretly and openly knifing the republican candidates for the benefit of their popocratic opponents. Practice and profession are two entirely different things with this class of alleged republicans.

The statement of Lord Rosebery in the English House of Lords ought to smother one of the principal howls which the opposition has made against the McKinley administration, that it had entered into an alliance with England and thereby abandoned the Monroe doctrine. There are wires enough stretched across the path of this and every other nation without laying out more such promenades, and the present administration has been as careful on this point as any in the history of the country.

The democratic majority of the county board insists upon retaining as engineer for the court house a man refused a license as a stationary engineer, in spite of the decision of the court holding them responsible for the employment of an unlicensed engineer, by appealing to the district court and supreme court to gain time. As an example of the love of the democrats for organized labor, whose friendship they cultivate before election and repudiate after election, this is forcible and to the point.

The impending meeting of the populist national committee at Lincoln brings out a full list of the members of the committee, most of whom were unheard of before. Having been neglected and ignored for four years they suddenly discover that they have become of enough importance for the day to be assiduously cultivated by the fusion leaders. After the meeting, however, they will again sink back into their former state of inocuous desuetude.

The tremendous vote polled at the republican primaries on a day with the thermometer hovering close to the zero point shows to what extent political interest has been awakened among Omaha republicans. It also reflects sadly upon the wisdom of the men who framed the charter and put the city election in mid-winter, making it necessary for 5,000 people to brave the cold and snow to register their preferences at the party primaries.

Variations in Temperatures.
Globe-Democrat.

London is snowed up, but still deeply absorbed in news about sweltering weather in South Africa and hot times in the neighborhood of the Boers.

Flag Raising Extraordinary.
Philadelphia Ledger.

At the rate of progress now being made it will take a considerable portion of the next century to raise the American flag over all the 1,200 or 1,800 islands of the Philippine group.

Gathering in the Strays.
Cleveland Leader.

American gunboats are raising the stars and stripes, it appears, over all the unclaimed islands in the vicinity of the Philippine group. As long as we are in the business we might as well take everything we find lying around loose.

A Sinister Reproach.
Washington Post.

We have absorbed Porto Rico and we now ignore its welfare and repudiate its claims. The president's recommendations, inspired by justice, wisdom and humanity, are disregarded, and this helpless and friendless addition to our possessions is treated almost as a hostile, and certainly as a foreign quantity. We do not hesitate to say that the situation constitutes a shameful and a sinister reproach.

Populism Judicially Ventilated.
St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Nearly every general law passed by the last populist legislature in Kansas has been declared unconstitutional. The latest is the pass law, by which the populists sought to compel railroads to furnish each shipper of a carload of stock a round-trip pass, and the courts decided that it was appropriating property without due process of law. It is a good thing for Kansas that the state has a level-headed supreme court.

Big Army Bill to Pay.
Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The house committee on military affairs has completed the army appropriation bill for the coming year. It carries $111,700,364, against $80,080,104 in the bill for the current year. The army appropriation bill for 1898-99, passed before the breaking out of the war with Spain, carried $23,193,392, and that for 1897-98 was $23,129,344. Those are figures which will never again be approached. It is doubtful if there will be very large reductions from the figures of the present year.

Ripe for the Funeral.
Minneapolis Journal.

The ship subsidy bill in its original form is dead. Whether it can be resuscitated by amendments remains to be seen. The probabilities, however, are against the success of any proposition of this kind not based upon the amount of direct service rendered in the exporting of American products. Better than all, however, would be the avoidance of any ship subsidy scheme in the interest of an industry so flourishing as that of shipbuilding, and which has so much to stimulate it in natural business conditions.

Some "Nobodies" Who Quit.
J. Sterling Morton's Conservative.

In a recent oral geyser from the depths of Colonel Bryan's vast chest of lungs and chestnuts, a remark was thrown up to the effect that "nobody" had deserted 16 to 1 since the first battle closed in 1896. Sewall, who ran for vice president as a democrat on the ticket with Colonel Bryan, who ran as a populist, is "nobody." Sibley of Pennsylvania, who was the first man named by the silver men for president, is "nobody." Sewall and Sibley have quit. They see neither hope for a party nor good for the country in the persistent advocacy of the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1, or any other ratio. That makes them "nobodies."

SAMPLE INSTANCES OF GREED.

Rapacity of Favored Combines Apparently Without Limit.
Chicago Tribune.

The Carnegie company made $21,000,000 last year and yet Mr. Carnegie is not satisfied. He wishes to get possession of Mr. Frick's interest for less than its value.

The Standard Oil company has just declared a quarterly dividend of $20,000,000, or at the rate of $80,000,000 for the year, and yet its directors are not satisfied. They wish congress to pay subsidies to the ocean-going vessels in whose earnings they have a share.

If there are any other American corporations whose profits were $20,000,000 last year or promise to be $80,000,000 this year, it may be taken for granted that the men at the head of them are no more satisfied than the Carnegies and the Rockefellers and are no more scrupulous as to the methods of adding to their possessions.

There seem to be no limits to the rapacity of corporations which have been built up at the expense of the public by excessive tariff protection, by illegal railroad discriminations or official favoritism. The men who rule those corporations may not "want the earth," but they certainly want the United States and the abundance thereof.

They and their allies on land and sea are working at the entire subjugation of the government, so that they may add more millions to their present annual revenues of $20,000,000 in the case of the Carnegie company and $80,000,000 in the case of the Standard Oil.

They try to put their creatures in all official places which touch their interests at any point.

They demand subsidies for their ships.

They insist that the money of the government be deposited in banks in which they are heavily interested, so they may be able to control the stock markets and to lend to the taxpayers the money which the latter have contributed to defray governmental expenses.

Their demands are usually complied with.

"There are three things that are never satisfied; yea, four things say not 'It is enough.'"

That may have been the case in the old Hebrew days.

Today there are the Standard Oil company, the Carnegie company, the sugar trust, the International Navigation company, the National City bank and other colossal corporations which overshadow the government itself and are never satisfied.

When will they have enough?

DRAWING THE LONG BOW.

British Fighting Contrasted with the Charge at Fredericksburg.
Boston Transcript.

The great majority of the British soldiers in South Africa are young men seeing their first service. Naturally their descriptions of the battles they have been through are those of novices. Allowance for this circumstance must be made in estimating the severity of the conflicts. To the recruit an experience may appear highly dramatic which to the old hand may be but one of the commonplaces of actual service before the enemy. Thus we read in some of these soldiers' letters of whole ranks being "mowed down," etc., and even Lord Methuen has characterized a battle as terrible, though the casualty list would indicate that the percentage of loss was not heavy enough to be regarded as anything unusual. Compared with the close-range fighting of our civil war that going on in South Africa is not particularly bloody. Not one British battalion in South Africa has had an experience anywhere equalling that of the Sixty-ninth New York at Fredericksburg in the attempt made by the federal troops to carry Marye's Heights with the bayonet. Colonel Nugent, who commanded the Sixty-ninth on that occasion, has written quite recently an account of the charge, which gives many details ignored in official reports. Colonel Nugent counted the muskets of the regiment before giving the order to charge. Two skeleton companies were held in reserve near the town, and in the charge sixteen commissioned officers and 173 noncommissioned officers participated. Two of the officers were killed and fourteen wounded, not one going unscathed, and 112 noncommissioned officers and enlisted men were killed or wounded. Sixty-one of the enlisted men came out of the charge unharmed, and joining the two companies held in reserve gave the regiment a total effective strength of three commissioned officers and 107 men for duty. The Eighteenth Massachusetts, which also took part in this charge, lost half the strength it took into action. The charge failed as we all know, but not for lack of valor or energy. There is a parallelism here between Fredericksburg and Magersfontein, but not in percentage of loss, though Fredericksburg was fought with muzzle-loaders and Magersfontein with magazine rifles.

POLITICAL DRIFT.

The expenses of New York state increased from $13,726,000 in 1889 to $22,600,000 in 1900.

Chicago's anti-trust convention number two gave a pretty exhibition of public admiration for number one. Nonpareil orators declaimed in four-slug heads.

Three ballot box stuffers in Philadelphia have been sentenced to a two-year term in the penitentiary and a fine of $500 each. Prosecutions are proceeding slowly, as the capacity of the penitentiary is crowded now.

The Atlanta Constitution names Amos J. Cummings as the man for second place on the democratic ticket. Amos is an enthusiastic ship subsidy advocate, but Tammany vouches for him, and what Tammany says goes.

Jerry Simpson has grown weary of amassing wealth in Kansas and pines for the whirl of Washington. He is going to try to break into the senate. He would not attract as much attention as he used to, when he was in the house, for Mr. Pettigrew is doing the freak act in the club and has the center of the stage.

T. Carson, the mayor of Brownsville, Tex., is known in that part of the country as the "perpetual mayor." He has held the office for twenty-one years and he cannot get out of it. He has declined renomination time and again and threatened to resign if elected, but the people have nominated and elected him in spite of it. He was the first mayor elected in Texas under the new constitution of 1879, and before that he had been an alderman for a number of years.

A political syndicate of five families controls the subdivision of Chicago known as South Town, and shakes the plum tree with great regularity and persistency. Mighty little public pap gets away from the tribe. The chief draws $10,000 a year as collector; his brother $20 to $60 per week, and a cousin a like amount. Number two draws $6,000 a year, number three $7,000, number four $1,500, and number five from $60 to $120 a week. Each has a small colony of relatives entrenched on the treasury kops.

California's new senator is a Bard of much renown, but he is not the only bard on that political reservation. One of the sweet singers of the sunny land is State Senator Boyce of Ventura, where the new senator hails from. In an apostrophe to the elect, Boyce said: "He is every inch a senator. And when he represents this golden empire in that exalted body which has been called 'An Assembly of Kings,' at the capital of our nation, every inch a Californian will have reason to be proud of the selection this day made by the republican party of this state. He will exemplify the words of that wisest of men: 'Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings, he shall not stand before mean men.'"

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

Russia's desire for Persia is easily explicable. The land of the king of kings is well worth possessing for its own intrinsic sake. It is large in extent and rich in resources. But its strategic position, from both the commercial and the military point of view, makes it of unique interest. Persia abuts directly upon Russia, both in Europe and in Asia. It also abuts upon the northern extremity of the Indian ocean. It would therefore give Russia a direct frontage upon the latter sea, as she already has upon the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans. Her great Central Asian railroad could have a terminal at Bander Abbas, or at Bushire, and make that a great commercial port, both of exit and of entry. There can be no doubt that such a port would be of vast value in the development of Russian commerce and in the rehabilitation of Persia itself. To attain that end alone it would be worth Russia's while to acquire Persia at almost any cost. But that is by no means all. It is well known that Germany has acquired important concessions in Asiatic Turkey, so that she is deemed to have a pretty strong reversionary claim upon that land. At any rate, she is colonizing Syria and Asia Minor, and is about to build a railway from the Mediterranean to Bagdad, and thus open a commercial route between the Mediterranean and the Persian gulf and Indian ocean. By getting control of Persia Russia will insure that this German trade shall have its eastern terminal under the guns of a Russian fortress.

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Chinese progress along modern lines, taking lessons from the west after the manner which has been found so advantageous by Japan, has not a cordial ally in the dowager empress, but rather a determined opponent and foe. She contests it at all points so far as she is able to do so, and her powers at times are considerable, varying according to the ministers who surround her, whom she can sometimes turn out arbitrarily and sometimes not. She now decrees a scheme of "educational unification," abolishing "the depraved and erroneous subjects of the western schools" and instituting a restoration of the old manner of study according to the precepts of Confucius. China, however, will move on according to prescriptions of destiny which the clever old lady has no power to modify. Confucian precepts not abrogated, but applied wisely to new and modern conditions. The energetic dowager may be able to close the new university at Peking for awhile, according to her reported intention, but it will open again one of these days and its teachings will be found more useful to the country than any of her decrees.

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It is asserted on what seems to be good authority that the agitation in the British press for a great standing army and general mobilization of the navy has been fostered by the ministry for reasons that do not appear on the surface. It is not the anti-British feeling that prevails among the peoples of continental Europe which causes apprehension in the British cabinet. The exigencies of the war in South Africa have created but a slight deficiency in the defensive power of the British empire, but something is expected to happen that will tax the resources of Great Britain to an extent unparalleled except by the emergencies of the Napoleonic wars. This carefully guarded secret, the revelation of which it is feared will convulse Europe, is said to be nothing less than an offensive alliance between Great Britain and Portugal, by the terms whereof the former undertakes to protect the latter against a coercive continental coalition in return for the use of Delagoa bay and Portuguese Africa as British military bases in the Boer war. The imperative need by Great Britain of a short cut to the Transvaal gives an air of verisimilitude to these rumors.

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A mission has just left Marseilles for Algiers under the auspices of Le Matin of Paris, to inspect the ground over which the French government will be urged to construct a railway to enable France to dispatch 10,000 or 12,000 troops to any point of the French Soudan, west of the Nile valley. It is pointed out by Le Matin, which six months ago got up a subscription for the purchase of a couple of submarine boats, that France possesses a vast extent of territory in Africa, but the many districts are separated from each other and can only be reached by sea. If war were to break out with Great Britain, France would find itself in a difficult position. It is therefore considered a matter of imperative necessity that all these regions should be connected with each other by means of a railway. In a recent editorial article on the subject, Le Matin said: "We must construct the route by which we might, in the event of war, throw 10,000 or 12,000 of our Algerian troops on to the English colonies in West Africa, or on the path followed by Marchand in the direction of the Nile. It is by the onslaught of our Piou-Pious that we should then reply to the insults of England's sailors. It is on terra firma that we should beat the queen's ships. Bien. Le Matin is about to carry out this program, which others forget or neglect. It is going to organize and to send out at once a mission of study which will resume and complete the interrupted work of Flatters. It knows that it may cost a great deal, and it takes this on itself, even if it amounts to a million. The work is too grand, too fine, too necessary to the security and to the prosperity of the country to be left any longer unaccomplished."

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The Trans-Persian railway, whose construction a St. Petersburg dispatch reports as absolutely decided on, will start at the northwestern corner of the empire, where it abuts on the European-Russian province of trans-Caucasus, and run southeastwardly, through the center of Persia, to a point on the Arabian sea. Its construction, under Russian auspices and at Russian expense, will make Persia almost as completely a Russian province as the building of a similar line through Manchuria gave that Chinese province to the czar. More important than that, however, it will give Russia an outlet on the Indian ocean, make her England's rival in a new quarter of the globe and enable her to threaten England's suzerainty in India.

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The immensity of the undeveloped mineral wealth of China almost surpasses belief. The accounts which are coming from various sources agree in stating that there are vast territories in the interior of the empire where gold, silver, copper, coal, iron, tin and various other valuable metals and minerals are found in great abundance, and their existence has been known for centuries to the Chinese government. Owing to the unprogressive nature of the ruling powers, however, the mineral wealth of China has never been developed. In one province alone (Yun-nan) all of the metals and minerals above enumerated have been found in large deposits; but the attempts at mining have been ridiculously crude and inefficient.

BAIT FOR GOLD DEMOCRATS.

Will They Swallow Bryanarchy?—Not on Your Life.
J. Sterling Morton's Conservative.

The fanatics who formed the Chicago platform in 1896, are now talking to bring about a reunion of the gold democrats—who, with conservative citizens of other parties, elected Grover Cleveland in 1892—for the purpose of reaffirming the Chicago platform and renaming the candidate who stood upon it in 1896.

Their leader, even, who at Richmond in 1896 said of the recusant gold standard democrats: "They shall not come back," is now telling of several ways by which the "gold standard democrats" aforesaid may be lured into the support of himself and his fallacies.

Not one in ten thousand of the gold democrats desires to enter the ranks of Bryanarchy. Gold democrats were sincere and honest. They placed their country above their party. The gold democrats made possible and permitted the election of McKinley. They stand today on the currency question just where they stood in 1896. They stand on non-interference-with-other-nation's-business, just where they stood then. The gold democrats did not, the silver democrats did, favor the declaration of war with Spain. The latter did all in their power, by words, by acts, by inspirations of every kind to hurry McKinley and his party into armed collision with Spain. They boasted that they had brought about the war. And now they are, in the judgment of all fair-minded citizens, estopped from finding fault with its results, either financial or political. If they are disastrous, silver democrats and populists are justly chargeable with a large share of them.

With those paroxysmal emotionalists who think statesmanship is merely speech-making, principles, adjustable always for vote-catching; silver, in coin, worth twice as much as it is in bullion; and who declare the writ of injunction an invention of the devil—gold democrats and conservatives, generally, can have no affiliation. Nor will they ever attempt to unite with those fetish worshipers, those political Dervishes who are now endeavoring to entice sensible citizens to sit down at a table whereupon all the edibles are canned fallacies of the year 1896. What the silver democrats need, and what they will get before they get harmony by cajoling and wheedling the gold standard men—who made defeat for the money heresies a certainty in 1896—is a tremendous and pulverizing pounding in 1900.

There is no letting down among the gold men. There have been no Sewalls, no Sibleys among them. Those Saul of Tarsus cases in Maine and Pennsylvania came from the camps of the silver sinners, who in 1896 were yelling for sixteen to one and all the other flatulencies and frauds which an irrational, inexperienced and impertinent leadership had grafted upon democracy for personal prominence and position.

Another thorough and effective thrashing, which shall teach inexperienced audacity the danger of masquerading as mature and deliberate ability, which shall instill the fact that the balance of power party in the United States is, after all, though it neither advocates nor nominates candidates for the presidency, a very staid, respectable and useful party, seems needed.

LINES TO A LAUGH.

Somerville Journal. The man who never fails in debt all his life has no idea of the joy a man experiences when he has just paid up all his bills.

Detroit Free Press. "What is your opinion about the Boer-British war?"

"Well—so far as I have studied it, it seems to be war."

Chicago Post. "What's the aim of the Boers in this war, anyway?" asked the thoughtless person.

"Why, it strikes me their aim is almost perfect, isn't it?" returned the facetious individual.

Chicago Tribune. "Tommy doesn't feel like going to school this morning," said Mrs. Tucker. "He says he has a pain in his stomach. He's lying on the lounge in the sitting room, all humped up out of shape."

"I think," said Mr. Tucker, reaching behind the mirror for a small rawhide, "I can lick him into shape."

Chicago Tribune. "You say," pursued the chairman of the legislative investigating committee, "that he resorted to no bribery whatever during the campaign, so far as you know?"

"Yes, sir," replied the witness, "that's what I said."

"Did he not circulate several boxes of cigars?"

"Yes, sir, but them cigars wasn't bribes. Here's one of 'em. You can try it."

Washington Star. "He's a back number," said the practical politician.

"What's he done now?" asked the unsophisticated man.

"Why, he introduced a resolution of sympathy for Aguinaldo, whoever everyone knows that the Boers are all the rage now."

Indianapolis Press. "Of course," said the Cheerful Idiot, "the bootblack in what is called a female barber shop is bound to be a great society man."

"I can't see why," said the Shoeclerk Boarder.

"Why, because he shines in the society of women."

Philadelphia Press. The Filipino soldier fell upon his knees. "Oh, senor!" he cried, "have you no mercy?"

Private Smith of the Sixeenth volunteers, who had been a drug clerk at home, looked down upon him coldly. "No," he replied, from sheer force of habit, "but I have something just as good." Thereupon he gave it to him.

THE FLOWER OF LOVE.

I send you a rosebud, freshly plucked;
Delicate, fragrant, fair—
Sweet with the breath of sunny spring,
And odorous incense rare.

Oh, prithee, do not spurn my gift,
In haughty, cold disdain;
The dearest treasure I possess
Must ne'er be sent in vain.

But fasten it with tender care
Upon your gentle breast;
'Twill wither never while you live,
If it but there may rest.

And sweetest perfume ever shall
Its blushing petals ply—
So keep, I pray, the blossom fair—
That rosebud is my heart.

LOUIS FERDINAND GERNHARDT.
Omaha, Neb.

MAN AND WIFE.

See Changes as They Change.

To sweeten sour human nature one of the best methods is to leave off coffee, if it gives you dyspepsia or makes you nervous.

"I asked husband this morning to write out a testimonial for the Postum Cereal Co., and from it I quote, 'I am pleased to be able to state that my wife has been cured of sick headaches and "general cussedness" by leaving off coffee and using your Postum Food Coffee. My home is now a happy one.'

"I am forced to admit his joke contains more than a modicum of truth, for I find now I have complete control of my nerves, while formerly I was often irritable, and husband himself has been entirely cured of insomnia by leaving off coffee and taking up Postum. He sleeps now like a baby, from the time he goes to bed until morning, and perhaps his improvement is partly a reason for his seeing such an improvement in me. At any rate, our old sickness and troubles have disappeared.

"I had tried everything for my sick headaches, but as long as I stuck to the coffee, the headaches stuck to me. It took us a little while to learn that we must follow the directions in making Postum, in order to obtain a really palatable, delicious beverage. People must get over the idea that they can make it in any kind of a slipshod way and have it good. The great element in making Postum is to allow it plenty of time to boil. This is certainly simple enough and when the cook becomes accustomed to making Postum one can depend upon a regular quality every morning.

"I know people who seem to be able to drink coffee with no bad effects, and on the other hand I know that probably one-half of all my friends are more or less unpleasantly affected with coffee, when they persist in using it, but Postum has obtained a strong hold since its qualities have become known and a great many of our friends are steady users of Postum in place of the ordinary coffee, and you may be sure that every family that has used Postum for even one month will be ready to testify to the improvement in health.

"If you should publish this letter please suppress my name, as I have a horror of undue notoriety. If any one will take the trouble to write you for my name and address I will cheerfully answer any questions that may be asked and furnish satisfactory evidence to substantiate my statements. Respectfully,"

Mrs. ———, Hyde Park, London, Canada.