THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
George B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee, printed during the month of April, 1900, was as follows:

1	27,715	16	28,260
2	27,610	17	27,220
3	28,180	18	27,320
4	28,220	19	27,830
5	27,910	20	27,760
6	27,820	21	28,020
7	27,800	22	27,690
8	28,895	23	27,490
9	27,640	24	28,060
10	28,360	25	27,600
11	28,370	26	27,660
12	27,620	27	27,695
13	27,830	28	27,710
14	27,620	29	27,900
15	28,030	30	27,260

Total	835,155
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Net daily average	27,592

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 1st day of May, 1900.

STOCKTON HETH,
(Seal.) Notary Public.

The most vulnerable spot in the Nebraska popocratic armor is the state railroad assessment for 1900.

Have you noticed how the home base ball team always wins the first game played on the home grounds?

Colonel Bryan's towline is undergoing a terrible strain in trying to pull Towne through in his disguise as a Simon-pure democrat.

No more public building bills during the present session of congress. That appropriation for the west wing of the Omaha federal building came under the wire just at the right time.

Paris is complaining because bad weather and incomplete exhibits have kept the exposition attendance down to zero, but Frenchmen are always blowing hot or cold by turns.

Just to keep abreast of the times Berlin has a street car strike with 5,000 employes out and traffic "dislocated." It is not stated whether the imperial courts have yet interposed an injunction.

Great Britain's joy over the relief of Mafeking must still be tempered with conscious wonderment that a little nation like the Boers should be able to stand off the greatest empire of the world so many months.

With Colonel Moise and his pretender police commission carrying Douglas county in their hip pockets Governor Poynter can bid defiance to the disgruntled anti-monopolists in the fusion state conventions.

Riddle—How can an article published in The Bee be contempt of court when it is a reprint, word for word, of an article in a Grand Island paper, which is not held to be in contempt? For the solution apply to Attorney General Smyth.

The architect's estimate of the proposed main front of the new High school building is $180,000 or thereabouts. That means that the building will either be of inferior construction or that a second draft for another $180,000 will be made before it is finished.

"Show your colors" shrieks the World-Herald in trying to imitate the New York Journal in its crusade against the Ice trust. The man who should long since have shown his colors on the Ice trust is Constantine J. Smyth, sham reform attorney general for the time being of the state of Nebraska.

Attorney General Smyth at last announces his readiness to institute proceedings against the Omaha Ice trust. The Bee has been periodically calling his attention to the operation of this trust ever since it was formed six months ago, but he did not think the time ripe until now for a political coup.

Superintendent Lang of the Beatrice Institute for the Feeble-Minded proposes to be the whole thing as long as he remains at the head of the institution, even if the names of the employes discharged by him are peculiarly suggestive of close relationship with some of the leading lights of the sham reform forces.

The Nebraska delegates to the democratic national convention meet today at Lincoln to secure the inspiration of the guiding spirit of Bryan for their attitude on the vice presidency at Kansas City. Up to date not one of them has been able to muster up a pronounced opinion of his own as to the most eligible running mate for his political idol.

The vice president of the Omaha Ice trust is a well known democrat, who has been a liberal contributor to and staunch supporter of the local brand of democracy which Attorney General Smyth claims to represent. Perhaps that may offer a partial explanation of the attorney general's long delay in buckling on his armor for the Ice trust combat and his reluctance to enter the lists against it.

DARE THEY INDORSE IT?

You can fool some of the people all the time, you can fool all the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.

The sham reform state officers, with Governor Poynter at their head, who constitute the State Board of Equalization, have managed to fool the people of Nebraska by anti-monopoly professions and pledges of relief from unjust taxation. They have proclaimed from the housetops their determination to check the rapacity of the great corporations, but whenever the issue has been forced upon them between the people and the monopolies they have betrayed the interests of the people and surrendered to the monopolies.

When the people demanded from the State Railroad commission relief from excessive railroad exactions or unjust discrimination, the do-nothing commissioners stuffed cotton in their ears and pretended not to hear, while the do-nothing secretaries insisted that they were powerless to respond.

When the people petitioned for a fair tax valuation of railroad property and pointed out the rank favoritism exhibited in the failure to take notice of the enormous increase in the value of railroad stocks by reason of increased earnings, they slammed the door in their faces and declined to be annoyed by the clamor of overtaxed farmers.

When reminded of the fact that the railroads had added millions to their holdings in the form of new depots, enlarged trackage and terminal facilities, additional locomotives and cars, the reply was that the farmers had added to their live stock and made improvements on their farms without increasing their assessments.

But fine words butter no parsnips. The Nebraska farmers are doing their own thinking. They see through the sham and take no excuses for the shameless bargain by which they have been sacrificed by Governor Poynter and his colleagues for the benefit of the railroads. They know further that this play of generous sympathy for the oppressed and overtaxed railroads does not spring from any natural impulse for justice and equity, but rather from a sense of political reciprocity between the railroad managers and the fusion state house machine.

In their desperate effort to continue to humbug the populist farmers of Nebraska into the belief that the new railroad assessment is fair and just, the Nebraska Independent, speaking officially for Governor Poynter and the board, asserts at the conclusion of a two-column defense of its action "that the grand assessment rolls now on file in the auditor's office convince it that all other property in Nebraska is assessed lower, value for value, than railroad property."

If this be true, the populist state convention should by all means stand up for the governor and the board. Let it come out squarely, in good plain English, endorsing the railroad assessment made by the fusion board as fair and equitable and let the reform candidates take their position on that platform.

IT TROUBLES THEM.

The nomination of Mr. Towne by the Sioux Falls convention troubles and perplexes the democrats. They see in it the possibility of grave and disturbing complications. Some of the democratic politicians in Washington reason that if the nomination is endorsed at Kansas City it will make the democratic party more populistic than ever before and thus more certainly alienate the sound money democrats of the east, many of whom are already heartily disgusted. On the other hand there are some who think it will be wise to approve at Kansas City the action of the fusion populists, since not to do so might so offend many of them as to drive them to the support of the middle-of-the-road candidates and also take from Bryan the silver republicans. These urge that to drop Towne would be a formal relinquishment of the northwest, where his friends claim he will prove to be stronger than a "regular" democrat would be.

Thus a somewhat embarrassing dilemma is presented and there is great interest in the question as to whether Towne will accept or decline the nomination. He has said in regard to the criticism directed against his candidacy, on the ground that he has not been actually identified with the democratic party, that this is a good reason for his nomination, because "if the democratic party is to be successful at the coming election it has got to get a lot of people outside of the 5,500,000 who voted for Bryan in 1896, and in order to do this it has got to appeal to people outside of that party." This is in accord with the view of a majority of the Sioux Falls convention and if Towne and his supporters adhere to it the democrats at Kansas City are likely to hesitate about rejecting him.

It is an extraordinary situation, the fusion populists having made both a ticket and a platform for the democrats, and it is not easy to see how the Kansas City convention can reject any part of what was done at Sioux Falls without running the risk of losing a support which the attraction of old-line democrats would not make up for.

RUSSIAN MOVE IN COREA.

The announcement that Russia has been successful in her efforts to secure a foothold in Corea, by obtaining a coaling station there, has called out strong expressions of indignation from the London press. Some of the papers hold Lord Salisbury responsible, asserting that Russia's success is due to the weakness of the premier's foreign policy, and it is urged that Great Britain should at once send a formidable fleet to Corea and demand that Russia forego the advantages which she is said to have secured. It is improbable, however, under existing conditions, that the British government will seriously consider this sort of advice, though it may offer some encouragement to Japan should that country, which is highly probable, protest against the concession made to Russia by Corea.

For several years Russia has been endeavoring to get a foothold in Corea as another step in the systematic plan of extending Russian influence in Asia which the czar is pursuing while England is occupied in South Africa. The scheming to this end has been earnestly opposed by Japan and the friction between the two nations became so great that for some time a rupture has been regarded as inevitable. It is possible that the concession which has been granted to Russia may determine Japan to take some decisive action, lest it prove a step to a larger acquisition of Corean territory.

The policy of Japan in regard to Corea is to maintain its autonomy, but Japan feels that if Corea is not to retain its present status she has a prior claim on the country. Besides, as Corea faces Japan and is separated from it by a comparatively short stretch of water, it would be a highly favorable base for a Russian attack. Russia, on the other hand, would never feel safe with Japan in possession of the Corean peninsula, because it would be a menace to the Russian possessions in China. It is obvious, therefore, that Corea may at any time become fighting ground between Russia and Japan and the important question is as to what position, in such case, Great Britain would take. Though not so deeply concerned in the matter as Japan, Great Britain still has a vital interest in preventing Russian designs in regard to Corea and it would seem that in the event of Japan forcibly resisting the aggressive move of Russia in the peninsula Great Britain would find it necessary to support Japan.

In such a conflict the United States would have only a very remote concern, since whatever the result it could hardly have any important effect upon our commercial or other interests in Asia. There is some American capital invested in mining in Corea and our trade with the country is growing, but these interests would very likely be as secure and as well protected under Russian as under Japanese rule in Corea.

OMAHA AND YANKTON.

Direct railway connection between Omaha and Yankton has been a long-felt want of both cities. Such a railway would be of incalculable advantage to the people of southeastern South Dakota in opening for them the best market for their cattle and other products as well as for the building material of which there is great abundance in that section. On the other hand, Omaha jobbers and manufacturers would enlarge their tributary field and compete on more equal terms with St. Paul and Minneapolis for South Dakota trade.

The shortest and most practical way to secure direct railway connection between Omaha and Yankton is to close the gap between Hartington and Yankton, which requires only twenty-five miles of construction. This short gap has separated Omaha from its natural tributary territory for many years and the reason assigned for keeping it open has been the extraordinary cost of its construction. This plea was reinforced in hard times by the assertion that railroad extension was impractical in a period of business depression. This plea can, however, no longer be advanced. Railway extension has been resumed by all the principal systems and the Northwestern company has ample means for prosecuting the work which after all is comparatively trivial.

It is a notorious fact that the real obstacle to the closing of the Hartington gap has been the mutual agreement between the Milwaukee and Northwestern roads not to invade each other's territory. The only thing that will compel the abandonment of this policy is the threat of competition. If the proposed line from Omaha to Yankton by way of Norfolk were given momentum the Hartington gap would soon close just as the old line from Omaha to Minneapolis was shortened as soon as the Illinois Central put in an appearance. It remains for the promoters of the proposed line to convince investors that their line will secure traffic enough to make it a paying investment.

So far as Omaha is concerned, the first line built will get the bulk of the patronage. In the meantime Omaha jobbing and manufacturing concerns should direct whatever pressure they can to bring about the speedy closing of the Hartington gap.

Attorneys for the Standard Oil company have given notice that they will file exceptions to the ruling of the supreme court striking out portions of their brief as a preliminary step to an appeal to the United States supreme court. This was to have been expected. Attorney General Smyth's prosecution of the octopus was all grandstand play.

The contract for constructing the United States government building at the Buffalo exposition has been awarded to an Omaha contractor who was in close competition with the chief exposition builders of Chicago, which goes to show that Omaha enterprise does not take a back seat for anybody. Omaha will be much in evidence at Buffalo next year.

A Beatrice farmer has been held up by footpads and relieved of a gallon of whisky and two bottles of beer. That is the story the victim tells the authorities there. The story sounds well enough, but we doubt whether it will go down outside of Beatrice.

The list of census enumerators for Omaha as made public contains a number of familiar names, some of which are properly there and others which should not be there. We will be able to tell more about it, however, when the returns come in.

Ambassador Andrew D. White says the reference to him as a vice presidential possibility is mere campaign talk. Other men, however, less eligible than Mr. White insist on taking these friendly compliments seriously.

No question but what the trust law fits the Omaha Ice trust and that the trust offenders can be reached if the fusion law officers will only go after them as they should. But the trust law has fitted from the very moment the Ice trust was formed. How much longer will it take the great trust-smashing attorney general to wake up to the fact?

Here's Your Ticket.
New York World.

Why not make it Mark Twain and Jim Corbett for president and vice president, on the platform that Mark will give everybody what he wants and Jim will see that he gets it?

Get Them to the Stage.
Globe-Democrat.

The speech of Senator Clark, seconding his resignation, was one of the finest bits of emotional acting ever witnessed on the political stage. As the closing dramatic sensation of the year it fades "Sapho" into dreamland.

Did You Get Yours?
Brooklyn Eagle.

The wine production of the old country last year was nearly 3,500,000,000 gallons. A gallon and a half apiece for every man, woman and child on earth! What a lot of prohibitionists have failed to get their gallon and a half!

Spellbinding Figures.
Indianapolis Journal.

The April report of our foreign trade shows a gain over April, 1899, of $30,000,000, or a million a day, our total exports being $119,000,000. Such figures cannot furnish encouragement for those who would like to see calamity approaching.

Too Smooth to Be Trapped.
Buffalo Express.

Former Senator Manderson of Nebraska claims to have a letter from Admiral Schley in which the admiral says: "I do not know quite what I have done to be made by some enthusiastic friends the tail to Bryan's kite." That settles Schley. If he wanted to go on the ticket, Bryan would not have him after such a slighting reference.

International Courtesies.
St. Paul Pioneer Press.

After formally opening America's machinery building at the Paris exposition, Ambassador Porter and the American exposition commissioners landed at the German pavilion and Sousa's band serenaded the Germans, who, the report says, were greatly pleased by the delicate national compliment. And these are the two nations which some people would have us believe may go to war! Nein!

This Country and the Boers.
New York Sun.

As we stretch one hand to the Boer delegates who arrived here yesterday to welcome the representatives of a republic fighting for its independence against an invader resolved on its political absorption, we are bound with the other to uncover the hard truth that we cannot help them. Intervention is a dream. Possibly no one in Africa or America ever really dreamed it. But intervention, that is, coercion, is the only thing that can help the Boers. On such occasions it is better that the welcome should be empty than that it should become the ground for false hope.

Curious Historical Facts.
Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

It is curious that during all the controversy over the right of the Boers of the Transvaal to make their own laws regarding naturalization, no one has recalled the fact that in 1798 the United States congress raised the period of residence necessary for naturalization in this country from five to fourteen years, where it was kept by law for four years. At that time the republic was not in the least threatened with being inundated by aliens. Even in the '50's, when the know-nothings, who for a time acquired great political power, proposed to raise the period of necessary residence to twenty-one years, the United States was not in the remotest danger of having its native population swamped by foreigners. In view of what was done here in 1798, and what was proposed fifty years later, it is as clear as a sunbeam that the American people would have placed their naturalization laws at a prohibitive point if they had been called upon to face an overwhelming immigration as were the Transvaal Boers.

RUSH TO CAPE NOME.

Great Risks Undertaken, with Limited Chances of Success.
Portland Oregonian.

One thousand argonauts will take ship at Portland before June 1 to hunt the "golden fleece" at Cape Nome. They are a minor fraction of the mighty tide of humanity that will sweep northward with the breaking up of the ice fields and the opening of navigation in Bering sea. It is impossible to estimate accurately the numbers of persons who will join the great rush, but that they will be many thousands—perhaps 25,000 or 30,000—is certain. The destination of all is Nome City or some adjacent spot on the Seward peninsula. They face the certainty that every available inch of gold-bearing land within fifty miles of the Arctic mining camp has been pre-empted, except the beach and the all but unaccessible sands under Bering sea. What is taking this eager throng away from a land of plenty and comparative prosperity, with abundant opportunities for the industrious and thrifty, to an unknown realm under the Arctic circle, with an inhospitable climate, with frozen soil and with all conditions of life rigorous and uncomfortable, not to say hazardous, in the extreme? It is the eager lust for gold. A multitude has taken a chance in the great lottery, with the certainty that for a portion of them—perhaps the majority—the drawing will be a blank or worse. They know it, but the spirit of adventure and the excitements of speculation control the thoughts and actions of men in all other respects normal-minded.

Of course, there is gold at Cape Nome—much gold. The fabulous stories that came out from the remote north last year had a substantial basis in fact. Some of the creek claims were demonstrated to be enormously rich, while along other streams no colors at all were found. The value of the tundra claims extending from the beach back to the foothills is problematical. It appears to be a fact that the yellow stuff is found at the grass roots, but it is also a fact that no easy and profitable process of working these claims has yet been discovered. They offer small inducement for the individual miner and prospector of ordinary means. Their development will be on a large scale by large capital, and to that end water will have to be brought from the distant foothills. On the beach are the "poor man's diggings." There is the public highway, and there the ordinary miner had and has just as perfect a right as the millionaire. Last season the whole beach was free to work, and hundreds and even thousands of broken and stranded miners made strikes that put them "on velvet" for the winter, and enabled many of them to come back to civilization and comfortable living with more than they had when they went in. This was the exception to the rule of Alaska experience. The majority of those who started for the Klondike, full of high hopes and golden imaginings, had as their reward bitter hardships and empty pockets. It is difficult to tell just what these hyperborean beach-combers averaged to the man, but it was observable that, in the large numbers who last fall filled the returning vessels, all seemed to have something. There was a notable absence of hard-luck stories. Undoubtedly they exaggerated the extent of their good fortune, but they had bags of dust to back them up, at least in part. The probabilities are that the larger portion of these graduate "cheechawkers" had a few hundred dollars, and that those who stacked their ounces by the thousands of dollars were infrequent.

IS THIS CONTEMPT OF COURT?

The Articles of Which Complaint is Made that the Honor of the Supreme Court is Impugned—Sentences in Brackets Are Innuendoes Inserted by Attorney General.

COUNT III.

Fusion ward heelers in Omaha are again giving advance tips to the effect that the fusion judges of the supreme court (meaning thereby the Hon. Silas A. Holcomb and the Hon. John J. Sullivan, two of the judges of the supreme court of the state of Nebraska) will hand down a decision at their sitting two weeks from next Tuesday, ousting the present fire and police commissioners and seating the pretended board appointed by Governor Poynter. Has it not come to a pretty pass when supreme court decisions are retailed in this manner in Third ward resorts and on street corners? (Thereby intending to charge that the said John J. Sullivan and Silas A. Holcomb, judges of the supreme court as aforesaid, had announced their decision in the case of the State of Nebraska against Kennedy et al, to ward heelers and habitues of disreputable resorts in the Third ward in the city of Omaha, in advance of the decision of said cause by the supreme court.)

REFORM IN THE BACKWARD MOTION

Friend Telegraph (rep.): The state board has levied the railroad assessment the same as that of last year. In many cases the equipment of roads doing business in this state has nearly doubled, yet it is difficult for a populist to believe that there is any prosperity abroad in the land.

Rushville Recorder (rep.): The populistic Board of Equalization has assessed the valuation of railroad property in the state $2,000,000 less than it was in 1893, made by a republican board. The populists are the greatest railroad tools in the state and their record from start to finish on railroad scoping is a fraud and humbug. Not content with stuffing their pockets full of passes they legislate and work in the interests of the corporations they hypocritic-like condemn.

Tekamah Herald (rep.): The populist state board, which assesses railroad property has again fixed the same taxable valuation of one year ago, which is about $2,000,000 less than the valuation of the republican board of 1893, when Governor Crounse was a member of the board, and at that time there were about 500 miles less of road in the state. It seems that Governor Poynter and his colleagues on the railroad assessment board are willing to do anything the corporations want.

Norfolk Journal (rep.): The reform State Board of Equalization has met the railroads and it is theirs again, as usual. The valuation of railroad property for this year was allowed to remain at the same figure it was last year, which was $2,000,000 less than was fixed by the last republican board in 1893, a year when railroads were unprofitable property and many of them being placed in the hands of receivers. It is hard for a reformer with his pockets lined with passes to see that the railroads are enjoying any prosperity.

Norfolk News (rep.): The "reform" state officials are again on record for "reforming" the railroads which they evidently believe in killing off by kindness. Judge Harrington of O'Neill, who is also something of a reformer, wrote to the board having the tax business in hand and stated that the railroads under "reform" government were paying taxes on about $2,000,000 less than they did under the "horrible" republican regime. The Board of Assessors ignored the advice and has again paid for its passes with the people's money.

Alliance Times (rep.): Liberal distribution of passes among the popocratic state officials by the railroads of the state seems to have had its effect. Despite the protest of many of the fusionists the assessed valuation of the railroads for this year has been placed the same as last. The total valuation is $26,287,570 and total mileage 5,674.37 miles. Away back in '93 when the republicans were in control and the value of railroad property much less the assessment was placed at $2,000,000 more. But this is reform! Great is reform!

Falls City Journal (rep.): The populist State Board of Assessment seems to be so completely under the control of the corporations that it is afraid to say its soul is its own. The board has been importuned by leading populists from over the state to make the railroad assessment so that the railroads would pay their just proportion of taxes, but it stubbornly refused to do it and made the valuation $2,000,000 less than it was when it went into office. The valuation as returned in 1893 by a republican board was $28,000,000; the valuation in this year, 1900, is $26,000,000. Its policy of reform seems to have struck the wrong crowd and the farmers of the state are the fellows who are the subjects for reformation. Taxpayers, how do you like this? Is this in line with its oft repeated promise, that if elected it would bring about reforms that would surprise the natives? Any political party that proclaims aloud from the housetops its honesty of purpose will bear watching. "By their works shall they be known."

Papillion Times (dem.): Governor Poynter, Treasurer Meserve and Auditor Cornell have made public their decision in the matter of state assessment of railroad property. The report is disappointing to the friends of the fusion state government and to all men who have been earnestly striving to secure an equitable assessment of corporation property in Nebraska. The board has made for this year the same assessment as in 1899. We believe the assessment is too low by $10,000,000. The total is $26,000,000 in round numbers. The actual value of railroad property in Nebraska is not less than $250,000,000. How do we reach this conclusion? We take it from the mouths of the political managers of the roads. A few years ago when the legislature was trying to enact a maximum rate law the roads made argument against the reduced rates and one of their political attorneys stated to the legislature that the actual first cost of railroad property in Nebraska was $153,000,000. Since that day a large mileage has been added to the total and many millions have been spent in improving the property, so that, according to figures furnished by railroad officials, $250,000,000 is a fair present day valuation of the property. Governor Poynter and his associates have listed this property for taxation at one-tenth its actual value. The assessment is manifestly unjust, in view of the fact that farm lands in many counties are listed at one-third actual value and in no case at less than one-sixth actual value. Surely the state board can offer no good excuse for working this great discrimination against farm property and in favor of railroad interests. The Times has never asked, and does not ask now, that railroad property shall be made to pay more than its fair share of taxes, but we do insist that the present valuation is not fair. The average Sarpy county farmer pays taxes on his lands valued at one-fourth to one-fifth actual value. Railroad property is assessed at one-tenth actual value—a discrimination so great as to excite attention and invite criticism. For many years democrats and populists have made the charge that republicans in office were servants of the railroads, rather than of the people. Some fusionists must today confess that some fusion officials are guilty of the crime of acting like republicans in the matter of assessing railroad property. If Governor Poynter shall be defeated for renomination he may lay his defeat at the door of his own desire to placate the railroad politicians.

CLARK'S SENSATIONAL TRICK.

Chicago Chronicle (dem.): Mr. Clark's new maneuver for breaking into the United States senate is as disreputable as it would be to buy office. Mr. Clark's political devices will result in making Montana a republican state with no democratic senator.

Minneapolis Times (ind.): There was jugglery throughout the entire transaction. Governor Smith, who is hostile to Clark, was lured away from the state by a trick, and he is said to be angry enough to complicate matters by appointing a senator of his own and making the senate a present of a new contest. Mr. Clark's little game was a clever one, but it is not likely to win.

Chicago Tribune (rep.): As for the public, it views Senator Clark's conduct with disapproval. If he had resigned for good and all, as it was supposed at first he had done, it would have been said that he had behaved well at last. Now that it appears he is seeking to retain by trickery and quasi fraud a seat he got by bribery the general voice of condemnation will be heard more loudly than ever before.

Indianapolis Journal (rep.): The senate will have to decide whether the constitution of the United States can be thus trifled with and the dignity of the senate insulted by a man who, having been denied admission to the body and ejected at the front door, attempts to crawl in through a cellar window. The whole proceeding is characteristic of Montana politics and of the corrupt methods used in Mr. Clark's election. It scarcely needs to be added that the democrats will support him on every point.

Detroit Journal (rep.): As an episode in practical politics the happenings of yesterday, from start to finish is, from one point of view, anyway, a brilliant exhibition of strategy, but it is so saturated with chicanery and duplicity that it offends every sense of decency and Americanism. The demoralizing character of Clark's election is not relieved at all by his specious bargain with Lieutenant Governor Spriggs, who abused his temporary power to foist Clark into a seat from which he was about to be expelled for bribery and corruption.

St. Paul Pioneer Press (rep.): The piece of political thimblerigging—"Now you see me not a senator; now you see me a senator"—attempted to be played by the millionaire mining magnate from Montana upon the highest legislative body in the world will, it is to be hoped, fail of its object. Should the senate now permit Mr. Clark to take his seat by virtue of an appointment from the lieutenant governor of Montana, after its committee has united on a report declaring that he was never properly elected, it will be guilty of a piece of self-stultification of which few will believe it capable.

St. Paul Globe (dem.): It will be hard to convince any one who has knowledge of the operations of politics that the resignation of Mr. Clark on the eve of his expulsion and his subsequent appointment by the acting governor were not parts of a prearranged plan. They doubtless were. Even if the plan is successful the fact remains that the appointing power in this case does not morally represent the people of the state of Montana and that the acting governor knowingly discharged an executive duty in a manner which he knew to be in direct hostility to the wishes and opinions of the governor of the state, whose temporary absence he was able to take advantage of.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

He is a mighty poor Canadian detective who cannot hitch a shady clew to a Fenian conspiracy.

Since the Chicago river became too colorless for their business, local milkmen embalm the milk to prevent souring.

The champion golfer of England bears the name of H. H. Hilger. Great Caesar, how that name suffers when pronounced at 'ome.

Mr. Carnegie, in a recent interview, says he is "sure that Mr. McKinley will be reelected and that his second term will be better than his first.

Curiously enough, the name of Webster Davis does not appear among those of the distinguished men who welcomed the Boer envoys to American soil.

Newspaper paragraphers are mixing Sioux City with Sioux Falls. It should be understood that Sioux City is in Iowa and populism does not thrive in Iowa.

If the defenders of Mafeking, on a diet of mule sausage and curries of locusts, swiped Kruger's grandson and ninety men, what wonders they could perform if given three squares.

It now seems probable that Senator Clark's tears were inspired by fear that Governor Smith might be heard from before Acting Governor Spriggs could make out his certificate of appointment.

Admiral Schley believes in war. "Arbitration," he said recently, "is the fad of the moment, but war, though it endangers business for the moment, gives a strong and hardy race, such a race as is most likely to endure."

One of the postal officials of Havana, now under a cloud, lived sumptuously at the expense of the island while the job lasted. Besides entertaining in royal style, he and his family made frequent trips to the United States at an expense of $2,000 a trip, which reduced Cuban revenues that amount. In the matter of style at the other fellow's expense, Americans have no superiors.

WHERE PRESIDENTS ARE MADE.

Their Election Decided by the Vote of a Few States Only.
New York Sun.

The popular majority in a total vote of more than 14,000,000 in 1896 was less than 600,000 for William McKinley, and in three states of the country—California, Kentucky and South Dakota—the plurality of the successful party was so small that it was less than the prohibition vote in each, though California is the chief wine-producing state of the country and Kentucky is not without fame among those who drink whisky. The plurality of the McKinley electoral ticket was less than 10 per cent of Bryan's total vote and the majority of the McKinley electors over all presidential tickets was less than 285,000 in the country—40,000 less than the McKinley plurality in Pennsylvania.

But, although the lead of the successful party in the country at large was so small compared with the total vote cast, the battle was decided in a few states only, as presidential elections have been for many years and as the election of 1900 is likely to be also. It is only when the actual figures are considered that it is seen how it is that the large majority of the states are so strongly committed to the one or other party as to exercise very little direct influence on the result. Thus, in the state of Maine, which McKinley carried by 45,000, the whole Bryan and Sewall vote (Mr. Sewall was a resident of Maine) was only 32,000. McKinley had 13,000 more plurality than his opponent had votes in the Pine Tree state. In Massachusetts the McKinley plurality was 83,000 more than the Bryan vote. In New Hampshire it was 14,000, in Rhode Island 7,000 and in Vermont 30,000, the Bryan vote in that state being 10,000 only and the McKinley plurality 40,000.

Nor were these evidences of disparity on one side only. In Alabama, which Bryan carried by 76,000, the total McKinley vote was only 54,000. In Arkansas the Bryan plurality was twice as large as the total McKinley vote. In Colorado McKinley had 26,000 votes; Bryan had 135,000 plurality. In Florida the Bryan plurality was more than double the whole McKinley vote. In Idaho it was nearly three times as large. In Louisiana the McKinley vote was 22,000; the Bryan plurality was 55,000 and in Mississippi the McKinley vote was 5,000, while the Bryan plurality was 58,000. For every vote cast for the McKinley ticket in that state Bryan had 11 votes, 10 of them majority. In Montana the Bryan plurality was three times greater than the McKinley vote. In Nevada it was eight times greater; in South Carolina it was five times greater, the McKinley vote being 9,000 and the Bryan plurality 49,000. In Texas, a state which cast four years ago more than half a million votes, Bryan's plurality was 200,000, while the whole McKinley vote was only 157,000. In Utah the McKinley vote was 13,000 and the Bryan plurality was 33,000.

These evidences of allegiance in voting to one or other of the political parties, although more clearly marked than usual at the election of 1896, are the general rule in the national contests and these are determined by the electoral vote of a few states chiefly. Prior to the civil war the electoral vote of Pennsylvania was usually regarded as decisive and it became known as the Keystone state, a distinction which it still preserves, though it was the state which at the last presidential election gave the successful party a larger plurality than any other. After the close of the civil war and the restoration of the southern states to political fellowship New York, Connecticut and New Jersey came to be accepted as the determining states, but at present the seat of political control has shifted westward and New Jersey and Connecticut are no longer doubtful.

New York and Illinois, which cast together 2,600,000 votes and have collectively sixty electoral votes, are now the two most decisive states, though in the contest of four years ago the McKinley plurality in the former was 268,000 and in the latter 142,000 or more than 70 per cent of the total McKinley plurality in the whole country.

THE FAKERY CALLED DOWN.

From the Sunday World-Herald.

OMAHA, May 19.—To the Editor of the World-Herald—Dear Sir: In an article of John L. Brown of Lincoln in yesterday's World-Herald relative to taxation, the statement is made that the assessment for 1899 on The Bee property, Seventeenth and Farnam streets, was $65,000 and suggests that it ought to be at least $100,000. In justice to this office and particularly my predecessor I desire to state that the assessment on this property was $160,000 in 1899 and the same for the present year.

The mortgage record shows a mortgage of $210,000, not $410,000, as claimed by Mr. Brown.

Please give the above place and oblige, yours respectfully.

WILLIAM FLEMING,
Tax Commissioner.

LIGHTLY PUT.

Puck: De Witte—I really don't know how I have offended you, Miss Cuttinge—You don't? De Witte—No. Will you accept my apology and tell me what it's all about?

Chicago Tribune: The Bridesmaid (after the ceremony)—Weren't you frightened nearly to death?

The Bride—Frightened? Why, I could hardly keep from laughing right out, to see how ridiculous poor Harry looked.

Detroit Free Press: Bingo—How long is your wife going to be away this summer?

Kingley—I don't know. I haven't figured up yet how much I can get into debt.

Chicago Post: "I have seen it stated that any girl who marries a man under 25 years of age is taking big chances," he casually remarked.

"I do so love to gamble," she answered enthusiastically.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Is Biffer's daughter making satisfactory progress with her piano studies?"

"Very—for the teacher. It's $2 a lesson and the job seems a permanent one."

Philadelphia Press: "I can't find words," exclaimed the moral man, "to express my disgust for the man who uses his religion as a cloak. He's everything that's bad."

"He certainly is foolish, to say the least," remarked the practical man, "for religion such as his is necessarily so flimsy he's liable to catch cold in it."

Chicago Tribune: "I have heard a great deal," said the argumentative boarder, "about 'splitting hairs,' but I'd like to have somebody show me how it's done."

"That's not hard," answered the didactic boarder. "First catch your hair—"

At this moment, providentially, the welsh rabbit was brought on.

Baltimore American: "What is your greatest household expense?" asked the first deaf and dumb man.

"Matches," wiggled the fingers of the second.

"Matches?" came the surprised inquiry from the astonished hand of the first man.

"Yes, I talk in my sleep, and my wife always lights a match to see what I am saying."

ONE MORE ON MAUD.

Portland Oregonian.

Maud Muller, on a summer's day,
Called "Number, please?" to earn her pay.

Before her, numbers, printed small,
Fell down when anyone would call.

The judge took down his office 'phone,
And made to Maud his wishes known.

Said he, "I'll ask you just once more,
For four-eleven-forty-four."

Said Maud, as mild as summer seas,
"What number did you ask for, please?"

Said he, "I told you twice before,
It's four-eleven-forty-four."

Said Maud, and you could hear her smile,
"Just hold the 'phone a little while."

A weary interval ensued,
The wires hummed an interlude.

And broken bits of talk came o'er
The 'phone, and made the waiter sore.

The wishbone-shaped receiver hook
He seized upon and wildly shook.

Till Maudie's voice he heard once more,
"What number are you waiting for?"

The judge responded with a roar,
"It's four-eleven-forty-four."

Serenely Maud made answer then,
"That line is busy; call again."

The judge had business late that day,
And so he merely walked away.

But as he walked he shook his head,
And this is what he sadly said:

"Of all the words of tongue or pen
The d-dest are 'Busy; call again.'"