

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$5.00...

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: George B. Tschuck, 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 November, 1898, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Number of copies and Total. Rows include 1. 25,015, 2. 24,977, 3. 24,832, 4. 24,839, 5. 24,805, 6. 24,825, 7. 24,822, 8. 24,811, 9. 24,770, 10. 24,732, 11. 24,700, 12. 24,625, 13. 24,559, 14. 24,500, 15. 24,420.

Every cloud has a silver lining. The shortest day of the year precedes the gradual lengthening of the days.

If Hobson had only made Omaha on his route the superiority of the Omaha girl would have been practically demonstrated.

What with mandamus, appeals for re-trials and more than 200 applications for druggists' permits and liquor licenses the police board has its hands full.

Our amiable popocratic contemporary says it "desires to not be misunderstood." It certainly ought to be encouraged in this praiseworthy ambition.

Perhaps the remainder of that exposition surplus can be tied up so that what is left of it may come in handy about the time New Years, 1900, rolls around.

The yellow journals have put up another straw man in the rumored proposal to pay \$100,000 for the services of Peace Commissioner Day and they should be allowed to enjoy themselves knocking him down with a stuffed club.

Under the existing system of taxation every block of ground acquired by railroads within the city limits takes just that much land out of the city tax list and shifts the burden of maintaining city government upon other property.

General Blanco is back in Madrid and the reports of his arrival say he appeared to be greatly depressed. As he had his salary warrant cashed before leaving Havana he should have money enough to keep him until he can procure another job.

The purchase of a site for a freight depot for the Illinois Central is another assurance that that road is entering Omaha for business. The coming year promises to be even more notable than the past year for improvements in railway facilities at Omaha.

It may be put down as an established fact that politics has caused more harm to the public schools than incompetency among the teaching force. Abolish the annual election of teachers and competency will be cultivated rather than the art of political wire-pulling.

Senator Hale has some old-fashioned notions which do not comport with modern ideas. He actually advances the theory that senators can best serve the public by staying in Washington and attending to business instead of going to Cuba, Porto Rico and elsewhere on junketing trips.

St. Louis clergymen have concluded that the fear of footpads is the cause of light attendance upon Sunday evening services and have agreed to unite in taking steps to overcome the difficulty. They might try to induce the knights of the mask to adopt a six-night-in-the-week schedule.

The prospect of a deficit instead of a surplus in the Cuban revenues is likely to have a cooling effect upon the ardor of local patriots to share in the responsibility for administering the affairs of the island. Drafts drawn on the strong box at Washington are much more likely to be honored than those on the treasurer of the Cuban republic.

Now that the council has decided to turn over to the school fund the money paid by druggists for permits to sell liquor, it becomes a question to what fund money derived from the issue of other permits under various ordinances is to be credited. It will also be a matter of some concern to the school board to see that all druggists shall take out permits as required by law.

Kansas City announces with considerable exultation that more girls from the banks of the Kaw have kissed Lieutenant Hobson than were granted the privilege in Chicago. If the ratio keeps up by the time the popular idol reaches his destination he will easily be the champion of the world and the man who would attempt to break the record must be possessed of ample nerve.

A REPUBLICAN SENATE.

When the United States senate, after March 4 next, is in complete control of the republican party, there will not only be an entire reorganization of that body, but it is to be hoped that some needed reforms will be made in the rules. The New York Mail and Express suggests that the large republican majority ought to be sufficient to overcome that exaggerated "courtesy" and impotency which have enabled the free silver contingent year after year to extort concessions from the republican party that should never have been granted.

That all senators understand that there is a practically unanimous popular demand for reform in this direction cannot be doubted. The people have little respect for so-called senatorial courtesy, which is responsible for the fact that it is not all creditable to the senate, while the people regard the privilege of unrestricted debate, which permits senators not only to talk as long as and as often as they please on any question, but to embrace in their talk matters having no relation whatever to the subject under discussion, as a positive abuse.

The senate should follow the example of the house, which under republican control is the most thoroughly business legislative body in the world. Of course there is complaint on the part of the minority, from time to time, that is not allowed sufficient opportunity for discussion, but as a matter of fact it very rarely happens that there is any good ground for such complaint, though undoubtedly the plan of limiting debate does often interfere with the desire of some members to air their opinions.

LOOKING FORWARD TO STATEHOOD. The convention of representatives of the towns of Porto Rico, assembled to express the popular will in regard to the future of the island, declared for a territorial organization with a view to statehood at an early date. Immediately after the American occupation of Porto Rico some of the prominent citizens of the island made known their desire to be accorded all the political privileges of American citizens and there can be no doubt that this is the expectation of the better class of the people of Porto Rico.

RUSSIA WANTS AMERICAN MONEY. The report that Russia is endeavoring to negotiate a loan in the United States appears to be well founded. There is nothing surprising in the fact when it is stated that money is cheaper in this country than in Europe. There is no financial center in the world where money can be obtained at present on good security at as low a rate of interest as in New York, while the supply is abundant and steadily increasing.

It develops that the school board has issued over \$100,000 of warrants in anticipation of the revenue from licenses for 1899. There is no authority of law for this method of doing business. The practice should be stopped or the law changed to meet existing conditions.

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1898.

STATUS OF THE NATIONAL GAME. Washington Post. An Omaha judge has decided that poker is not a gambling game. He has evidently been participating in a sure-thing sitting.

AND GIRLS AND BEAR IT. Philadelphia Times. Selecting and carrying home a Christmas tree quite a responsibility, and it is interesting always to see men shouldering it.

A PASS AT THE PASS. New York World. The Nebraska State Board of Transportation has recommended the passage of a law making the giving of a pass to a state official or legislator, or the acceptance of a pass by any such official or legislator, a felony.

AN ABSURD PROPOSITION. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The Lodge Immigration bill has been again thrown under the table in the house. Small wonder. It is about the last of that measure. The absurdity of restricting European immigration while annexing vast bodies of territory and the misadventures in the Orient must strike the mind of the duldest congressman.

NEBRASKA'S OPPORTUNITY. There was never a time in the history of Nebraska more opportune for ventures in manufacturing enterprises than the present. Capital is abundant in the money centers of the country and confidence in the west has been fully restored. The demand for factory and mill products is steadily growing and the field for marketing the output is extending.

NEBRASKA'S GENUINE SOLDIER. Savannah Letter Chicago Record. Next to Colonel Campbell the most soldierly figure on the field was Colonel Victor Virginius, who succeeds ex-Colonel William James, the commander of the 1st Nebraska. He looks like a splendid soldier, and everybody says he is one.

A JOINT DECORATION DAY. When the president declared to the southern people that the time had come "when in the spirit of fraternity we should share with you in the care of the graves of our Confederate soldiers" he uttered an ennobling sentiment which touched the country and the world.

ECHOES OF THE WAR. It is said that when Allyn K. Capron was killed at Guasimas, his father, the late captain of artillery, lifted the hat that covered the dead man's face, looked at it for a moment and said, "Well done, my boy!" He then replaced the hat, turned on his heel and resumed his military duties.

WRITING OF THE DEATH OF HAMILTON FISH. Colonel Revere says: "Fish and myself stood by the same fire drying our clothes after a heavy tropic rainstorm the night before he was killed, and I remember then as we talked over the morrow's fight I said, 'Well, Fish, we have all got to die some time, but I cannot die in a better way,' and he nodded and said, 'That is just how I feel, Colonel, and it is one of the reasons that made me come.'"

Court dockets in the southwest, those of the supreme court and court of claims at Washington and the files of the Congressional Record are reminders of the annoyances and troublesome questions which come to us through the taking over of Spanish possessions. Wherever Spanish rule has extended there is an entanglement of public grants and concessions to corporations and individuals, vast in their scope and indefinite in their terms, which two generations of litigation have not been able to settle in the territory now within the borders of the United States.

THE REPORTS FILED BY THE SUPERINTENDENTS of the various state institutions and the recommendations for appropriations for the forthcoming biennial period show that the amount now considered necessary is \$1,500,000 in excess of the appropriations made by the last legislature. In this amount is included about \$200,000 of deficiencies. It would seem that a small increase over the amount actually expended in the last two years to allow for added burdens should be ample to conduct these institutions. This, with the money to pay deficiencies, would amount to an increased appropriation of no more than \$500,000. As a matter of fact, however, it is by no means certain that with economic management the appropriations made two years ago should not have been ample for the purpose.

Omaha is not particular who draws the plans for the proposed new viaducts. Omaha, however, is vitally interested that the plans shall be such as will provide permanent and safe structures, adequate in every way to meet all the demands made upon them. If the roads, in an effort to save money in construction, wish to foist structures upon the community which will be periodically called for repairs or of insufficient capacity, such plans will be vigorously combated. Omaha has had enough experience of this kind to satisfy one generation.

Blowing Out Wealth. broad. Philadelphia Ledger. Male figures out that our new possessions will cost us \$200,000,000 a year, and statesmen will cheerfully vote that.

OMAHA AS AN EXAMPLE.

Baltimore American: Last summer and fall Omaha held a Transmississippi Exposition. In spite of the fact that it was a success and the climax was reached when President McKinley paid it a visit. The attendance on that occasion was enormous, and the exposition closed with its finances in good shape, and with everyone delighted at the results of the enterprise.

Buffalo Express: Omaha is rather doing the pie act when it decides to hold another exposition in 1899. Of course it has the buildings and it has the experience, both of which count for a great deal, but just the same there is no need of trying to corral at once all the good things in the world.

NO PREMIUM FOR LIARS. A Few Pertinent Remarks on the New Revised Law of Nebraska. J. Sterling Morton's conservative. The present revenue laws of Nebraska are merely a protective tariff to encourage the pernicious industry of manufacturing lies.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. Joseph D. Sayers, newly elected governor of Texas, would have completed on March 4 next fourteen continuous years in congress. If General Ludlow can make a clean and beautiful city of Havana, the fame of the late Mr. Hercules will be decidedly eclipsed.

UNCALLED-FOR LAMENTATIONS About Chicago Chronicle (dem.). In common with a good many other estimable people Colonel William J. Bryan is considerably exercised over the retention of the volunteers in the service now that the year is ended. He wants them all mustered out, which is clearly impossible pending an increase of the regular army to a strength sufficient to garrison our new possessions.

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YOUNG ARRANGERS MORMONISM

Doctrines of the Church Condemned by the Grandson of its Founder. NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—There were about 200 persons present at the meeting of the People's Board of Home Missions for the Presbyterian church in this city today. The object of the meeting was to inaugurate an aggressive campaign to prevent the seating of Brigham H. Roberts, an avowed polygamist, as representative from Utah in the Fifty-sixth congress.

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LINES TO A LAUGH.

Puck: She—You forgot to take the price-mark off my Christmas present. Jack: He—No, I didn't, my dear; I thought it would save you a trip down town.

Brooklyn Life: First Goose—Mrs. Farmer said today that I was getting nice and fat. Second Goose—Don't let her stuff you.

Detroit Journal: Rude Molly—You remind me of a Christmas tree. Duke Colly—What kind of a one? "A spruce evergreen."

Washington Star: "Don't nubber complain dat somebody had made a fool of you," said Uncle Eben. "Mebbe all he done was to expose you true character."

Indianapolis Journal: "And what is your definition of the womanly woman?" asked the inquirer. "A womanly woman," said the gent from the lake shore, "is a woman who dearly loves, whatever husband she happens to have."

Chicago Tribune: "Better stand a little further back from that sign, Lobelia. Don't you see it says, 'Paint'?" "I see it," said the inquirer. "But you see it doesn't cost me a cent."

Detroit Free Press: "What have you here?" asked the fresh young man of the waiter who had just left the restaurant. "Everything," answered the waiter. "Have it served at once," sneeringly. "Have it 'Hash for me,'" yelled the waiter.

Washington Star: "Do you think this here Philippine question is in the way of getting straightened out?" said Mrs. Cornelia. "I dunno," answered her husband, "but I'm afraid not. I haven't heard of any announcements that got 'so's to have after dinner speeches on it."

Indianapolis Journal: "That woman showed wonderful presence of mind when her horse ran away." "Is that what you call it?" She threw down the reins and yelled. "I know she did, and the horse ran straight down the street. If she had held on to the reins she would have doubtless steered him into the fence."

WILLIE'S LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS. Boston Globe. Dear Santa Claus, mama told me, "That might write for you, did it?" To ask you if you mean to come. I don't know if you mean to come. I don't know if you mean to come.

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Simply Overheard

A popular and dressy business man of this town was overheard in the corridor of a hotel the other evening to say of our store windows that no man of taste could pass them without stopping to admire their arrangement and the goods with which they are decorated.

"Whoever buys neckwear and furnishings from Browning, King & Co.," he said with some real enthusiasm, "has got taste." It's the only store in town where one can get really handsome neckwear and underwear at reasonable prices too.

A good opinion is worth winning. We think we do choose with taste, and buying for fourteen stores at once gives us a great advantage in the matter of prices.

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