

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$6.00...

OFFICES: Omaha: The Bee Building, South Omaha, City Hall Building...

CORRESPONDENCE: Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

BUSINESS LETTERS: Business letters and remittances should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha.

REMITTANCES: Remit by draft, express or postal order, payable to The Bee Publishing Company.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: George H. Tzschuck, editor of The Bee Publishing Company...

Table with 3 columns: Week, Circulation, and Total. Rows 1-14 showing weekly circulation figures.

Net total sales 702,662. Net daily average 21,602. GEORGE H. TZSCHUCK, Subscribed and sworn before me this day of January, A. D. 1900.

Why doesn't the North Omaha Improvement association take some steps toward saving the bluff tract for a permanent park? The time for action is at hand.

It looks now as if the anti-trust convention that is to be held at Chicago on the 12th of February was gotten up as an auxiliary to Bryan's presidential boom.

Why waste all this time and energy guessing at the probable nominees on the fusion city ticket? Why not send down to Colonel Walter Morse and get the slate?

Judge Baker declares that the public has less confidence in detective testimony than it has in newspaper and lawyers. Judge Baker evidently has a good opinion of lawyers.

Dewey is to attend the Mardi Gras festivities at New Orleans. The people of that festive burg propose to show him the warmest time he has experienced since leaving Manila.

Senator Allen admits he is in favor of the populists and democrats being politically wedded, but whether he is in favor of a polygamist union with the free silver republicans also is not stated.

Our amiable poperatic organ is distinctly silent upon the desertion of the silver cause by Hon. Joseph Sibley. When Sibley was out here a few years ago, however, it had columns of space to devote to his eulogies of Bryan. What a change!

The Chicago Board of Trade has stopped trading in puts and calls. The principal difficulty probably is that under this method outsiders furnish few of the victims while by the regular processes the country lambs are more easily reached and fleeced.

We hasten to assure the public that the so-called Texas itch reported to Governor Poynter as having invaded Nebraska is a cattle disease and has nothing to do with the itch for office for which the governor has had to treat so many patients since his incumbency of the office.

Senator Thurston has repudiated Paul Vandervoort's Cuban memorial hospital scheme, which was used as a decoy for dopes who were enticed to invest in the wildcat Cuban stocks that had no bottom. It is to be regretted that the senator did not stamp out the imposture at its inception.

Colonel Bryan advises the Kentucky colonels to pass a law that will prohibit betting on elections. Colonel Bryan would have shown a good deal more sense if he had advised the Kentucky legislature to pass a law that will prohibit Kentucky tailors from making pants with two hip pockets.

A network of suburban electric railroads centering in Omaha would be the best possible means of cementing amity and friendship between this city and surrounding towns and villages. If the roads could be operated simply to make good expenses they would still be a paying investment for the business interests of Omaha.

The paper of the defuncto candidate for U. S. S. says that he would have voted for the seating of Senator Quay if he had been put in position to cast a vote. If Quay had only known this he would doubtless have thrown his influence in the balance against Senator Allen, who is on record as opposed to recognizing the Quay credentials.

The kindergarten may have come to stay, but it should be kept within limits. A large proportion of the kindergarten attendants in this city is comprised of children below the school age who should be kept at home until they have reached the school age limit and the strain on the school accommodations would be relieved.

A PARTY WITHOUT A POLICY.

Representative Sibley of Pennsylvania, formerly one of the most earnest of the advocates of free silver, has not only renounced that financial heresy, but has turned his back completely upon the democratic party as now constituted. Mr. Sibley was a tower of strength to the 16 to 1 caucus in the last national campaign, but events having shown the fallacy of the free silver contention he frankly acknowledges that he was mistaken and declines to continue in a false position. As the Bryanite party has nothing else to offer, Mr. Sibley drops out of it.

He said in the house of representatives on Wednesday: "If the democratic party is to live it must have a policy. It must do something besides carp and faultfind. If it will not do a policy I will keep step with it, but if it invites me to a banquet of carping and faultfinding I will have to excuse me."

There are a great many other democrats who feel this way. They realize that with the exception of the free silver issue, which a large majority of the people have repudiated and which is very much weaker than in 1896, their party has no well-defined policy upon which it can unite. They see the hopelessness of another campaign with silver as an issue and they know that with Bryan again the candidate this question will of necessity have a leading place. Some of these democrats are still hoping that another leader will be found—one that will represent the true principles of democracy. There is said to be an effort making on the part of some democratic leaders of the south to induce Bryan to withdraw as a candidate. It is needless to say that any such attempt will be fruitless. Mr. Bryan will remain a candidate, he will dominate the national convention and his renomination is a foregone conclusion.

Meanwhile the democratic party will continue to carp and find fault. That has become its predominant characteristic. It refuses to be satisfied even with the prosperity of the country and declares it to be unreal or based upon superficial conditions. Every act of the republican administration, however clearly shown to be in the public interest, is criticized and denounced. Its policy is obstruction and reaction. The party will continue in this course so long as it is under its present leadership and this will be until it has again experienced an overwhelming defeat. Men like Sibley, with the candor to acknowledge past mistakes and to admit the defeats of their party, will drop away from it, hoping that defeat will bring about a reorganization which will again give the democracy a claim to respect and confidence of the intelligent voters of the country. The Pennsylvania representative has set an example that will have many followers.

ITALY NOT SATISFIED.

The Italian government has indicated that it will not be satisfied with the payment of an indemnity alone to the families of its subjects lynched at Talulah. It wants the perpetrators of that crime brought to justice. This is unquestionably a reasonable desire and it is unfortunate that our government cannot comply with it, but it is absolutely powerless to do anything. The authority to punish the murderers of the Italians rests solely with the authorities of Louisiana and they have made and will make no effort to bring the culprits to justice. Such being the case the federal government can do no more than pay an indemnity to the families of the murdered men, as was done in the case of the Italians lynched in New Orleans some years ago. This will be done not as an acknowledgment of any obligation or responsibility on the part of the federal government, but entirely as a friendly act, the government having on the former occasion clearly stated its position in such cases.

It is a position, however, which foreign governments not unreasonably regard with disfavor and which a great many Americans think should not be perpetuated. We enter into treaties with foreign powers in which we agree that the subjects of such powers residing here shall have the protection of our laws, yet in a case like that at Talulah the federal government is powerless to punish. President Harrison and President McKinley have urged legislation to correct this and a bill has been introduced in congress to give federal courts jurisdiction where crimes are committed against aliens such as that in Louisiana. There ought to be no serious opposition to such a law and no doubt as to its enactment.

THE FLOUR SEIZURES AGAIN.

It had been generally supposed that the issue in regard to the seizures of American flour in and near Delagoa bay by British cruisers was settled by the decision of the British government, which very fully conceded the American contention and was said to be entirely satisfactory to our state department. The United States senate, however, desires more information regard to the matter than has been made by Senator Hale and adopted a resolution by which he was asked the president for all information, not incompatible with the public interest, relating to the seizures and also what steps have been taken for the restoration of the property.

There can be no reasonable objection to congress calling for all the facts in relation to this very important matter, although it is not apparent that congress can do anything in connection with it in the present stage. As stated by Senator Davis, chairman of the foreign relations committee, the subject under these conditions it is to be supposed that congress would not interfere. It must be presumed that the state department, which acted promptly upon receiving official information of the seizures, is still faithfully performing its duty in the matter, though the action of the senate might be construed as indicating a doubt of this. As the result of the seizure, was introduced by a republican senator, no such inference is to be drawn from it.

Meanwhile Ambassador Choate re-

ports that he has been unable to locate all of the provisions taken and perhaps the net in of the senate will suggest to the British government the expediency of facilitating his investigations and also of taking steps to indemnify the owners of the property. In this respect the resolution of inquiry may have good results.

THE VALUE OF A FRANCHISE.

When the city of Omaha granted the last franchise to the Omaha Gas company one of the conditions imposed was the payment of a royalty of 5 cents for every thousand feet of gas sold to consumers. This concession made by the company was a practical recognition of the principle that a municipal franchise is a valuable thing for which the city should receive an equivalent in some form. It will be borne in mind that the original proposition of the gas company was for a fifty-year franchise without the payment of any royalty and a higher rate for the gas furnished to consumers. This fifty-year franchise, involving several millions, was ratiocinated through the council seven years ago and would have been ratified but for the veto of the mayor and the intervention of the courts.

While the community realized the benefits of a reduced rate to consumers and a reduction from fifty to twenty-five years in the term of the franchise the royalty of 5 cents per thousand was regarded as a mere trifle. The first six years of experience demonstrate the advantage gained for the taxpayers by the imposition of the royalty on gas. At the end of the first year the royalty aggregated a fraction over \$5,000. In the year 1897 it exceeded \$11,000. At the same rate of progression during the remaining nineteen years the royalty for the whole twenty-five years would aggregate \$750,000. This estimate may prove to be extravagant and it may also fall short unless the expectations of the men who have confidence in Omaha's future shall be realized. In any event the royalty will within the next ten years approximate if it does not exceed the amount paid by the city for gas street lighting. Incidentally the figures for the last six years prove conclusively that the introduction of electric light has not materially affected the gas company. While the consumption of gas for lighting purposes may have been curtailed its use for heating and cooking has enormously increased by reason of the reduction in the price under the contract of 1893.

PRODIGAL ABOUT WITH A BULL.

The administration apparently places little confidence in the promise of the sultan to restore the property of American missions destroyed during the Armenian troubles, for it has just notified the sultan to pay \$100,000 to cover all the losses sustained by the citizens of this country, including \$100,000 for the murder of Frank Lenz, the Pittsburgh bicyclist. The question at issue in this case is whether the government is prepared to use force if the demand is not complied with.

GRIGGS' VIEW OF NAVAL POLICY.

Attorney General Griggs declares that the navy is not entitled to prize money for sunken ships and that the only rewards paid to officers and sailors of the victorious American fleet should be for ships captured in the war. Most of the applicants for prize money are young men who are supposed to be members of the militia reserves and are seeking to escape the possibility of being called into service for South Africa. The war is, of course, extremely unpopular among the masses of inland, and the attorney general's opinion, if accepted, will teach the rash and profligate jockies economy and caution. In the future, instead of deliberately tearing a hostile ship to pieces and sending it to the bottom of the sea they will be required to capture the prize, tie the burials over the breakable machinery, put a "Hands off" sign upon the bow and lead it to a place of safety.

WAR STIMULATES EMIGRATION.

It is reported from Queenstown that steamer bookings for the United States are unprecedentedly large, and 50 per cent above the normal. Most of the applicants for passage are young men who are supposed to be members of the militia reserves and are seeking to escape the possibility of being called into service for South Africa. The war is, of course, extremely unpopular among the masses of inland, and the attorney general's opinion, if accepted, will teach the rash and profligate jockies economy and caution. In the future, instead of deliberately tearing a hostile ship to pieces and sending it to the bottom of the sea they will be required to capture the prize, tie the burials over the breakable machinery, put a "Hands off" sign upon the bow and lead it to a place of safety.

SHIPOWNERS READY FOR A SNAP.

Mr. Thomas Clyde says that the Clyde Steamship company will put two ships, to the foreign trade, under contract as soon as the subsidy bill shall have been passed. It is to be an acknowledgment in ships with the view of getting the money out of the treasury of the United States. The effect of the offer of a subsidy to the American flag is that the foreign-built ships seen in the declaration of the president of the Munsion Steamship line that his company "will place at least 100,000 tons of shipping that is now under foreign flags under the American flag, and he has no doubt that other lines would do the same. There can be no question of it. An easier way of getting something for nothing would be hard to imagine.

SOME LONDON SWAGGER.

Well-informed people who have not forgotten that during our brief campaign of 1898 the London newspapers, especially the Times—the so-called Thunder—were mighty free with disparaging comments on our government, its conduct of affairs, its military and naval equipment, and its character as a nation, etc. We recall with interest these military critics deplored American shortcomings and the all too eager alacrity of their complacency with us in our misfortunes. Whether they were enlisted in the home-made conspiracy to malign the brave and noble deeds of our heroes, or whether they were merely exploiting the faculty and conceit which have made Great Britain so admired and beloved throughout the world, we do not pretend to know. Nor, indeed, is the question one of great importance. The past remains, and current events seem to invite attention to it.

ATTACKS ON THE PENSION COMMISSIONER PROMPTED BY PENSION ATTORNEYS.

Mr. Curtis, congressman from Kansas, has introduced a resolution for the appointment of a special committee to investigate Pension Commissioner Evans' administration of the pension department. This is the latest of the many forms in which the pension sharks insistently pave the way to break down the barriers which now obstruct the robbery of the treasury by pension frauds. When it is considered that there are bills now pending before congress which, if enacted, would increase our pensions to over \$500,000,000 a year, the country will understand the magnitude of the movement that is made, almost wholly by pension sharks, to open the doors for the granting of pensions to those who have never merited them. The pension sharks have cost this country hundreds of millions of dollars by forcing the enactment of laws which the true soldiers did not want, and which congress did not approve when they were enacted. It was under pressure, organized by the pension sharks and the mercenary soldiers who were rarely, if ever, in battle. The Grand Army of the Republic recently investigated Pension Commissioner Evans' administration and it was done under the inspiration of men who wished to serve the pension sharks and the many pension claimants who never could become pensioners under any honest law. That investigation, organized for the purpose of condemning the pension commissioner, was the faithful administration of his department was compelled to acquit him as honest in the performance of his duty, and now for congress to have a special investigation would be a declaration to the country that there are reasons for doubting the competency of the pension commissioner Evans' administration.

HALT THE PENSION SHARKS.

Pension Commissioner Evans evaded gallantly in the army himself and settled in the south after the war, where he won his pension first by a successful business career and next by a highly creditable political career in congress and in other positions of national trust. He has been generous in his construction of our pension laws for the benefit of pension claimants, but he has not permitted the pension sharks to rob the treasury chiefly for their own benefit, not for the benefit of the pension claimants, but for the benefit of the pension sharks and the mercenary soldiers who were rarely, if ever, in battle. The Grand Army of the Republic recently investigated Pension Commissioner Evans' administration and it was done under the inspiration of men who wished to serve the pension sharks and the many pension claimants who never could become pensioners under any honest law. That investigation, organized for the purpose of condemning the pension commissioner, was the faithful administration of his department was compelled to acquit him as honest in the performance of his duty, and now for congress to have a special investigation would be a declaration to the country that there are reasons for doubting the competency of the pension commissioner Evans' administration.

THE TUSSELE FOR GOLD.

Washington Star: President Kruger is something of an orator, but in addressing his constituents he studiously refrains from offering any hard-line arguments. He is more American than it seems like the sultan of Turkey. He is more English than the sultan of Turkey. He is more French than the sultan of Turkey. He is more German than the sultan of Turkey. He is more Italian than the sultan of Turkey. He is more Spanish than the sultan of Turkey. He is more Portuguese than the sultan of Turkey. He is more Russian than the sultan of Turkey. He is more Chinese than the sultan of Turkey. He is more Japanese than the sultan of Turkey. He is more American than the sultan of Turkey.

TREATMENT OF PUERTO RICO.

We have annexed Puerto Rico just as we have California and Alaska. And yet there are certain selfish interests which would exclude her products from American markets after we have destroyed her former markets in Spain. That would indeed be as unjust as it would be impolitic.

PHILADELPHIA TIMES.

Chicago Times-Herald: Kruger has just issued an address to the Boers, informing them that Providence is on their side. He reminds them, incidentally, however, that it will be necessary for them to fight for all they are worth, just the same.

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convention and a week later than the populist convention. The silver republicans evidently think the democratic side of the bread has the most butter on it.

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REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON.

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