

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

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: George H. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies...

Initiative and referendum up to date has been confined chiefly to Yelverton's initiative of suits in the courts to get the law in working order.

In the popocratic press Goebel has suddenly become a statesman. Martyrdom frequently turns petty political bosses into great heroes.

Some candidates who saw their own shadows yesterday might follow the example of the ground hog and retire to their burrows for another six weeks.

Governor Taylor might justify the adjournment of the legislature to London on the score that a state which had two governors ought to have two capitals.

With the contest in the Philippines, the fight in South Africa, several revolutions in South America and the war in Kentucky on his hands, the war editor is compelled to work overtime.

Democrats must soon despair of the attempt to build the fence high enough and tight enough to keep the herd all inside. Joe Sibley is not only out, but declines to be brought into the herd again, even refusing to come up for salt and water.

Well, what has come between the Commercial club and our local popocratic contemporary that it should be for the first time accused in its columns of playing in with the railroads? Does the sting of ingratitude include the Commercial club?

The republican city convention does not take place until February 16. That leaves two weeks yet for new entries into the race for all the different offices to be filled. There is a demand for good men from top to bottom and good men should not be backward about presenting themselves.

Councilman Stuit is another of the league patriots who wants to show his patriotism to the republican party by running as an independent candidate against the republican nominee. For this he has precedents among Patriotic Leaguers. League patriotism does not extend beyond the offices.

Leading republicans in the state are united in the belief that with a strong ticket the party has nothing to fear from the coming campaign. With the record of incompetency or neglect of duty which the popocrats, by their own recent admissions, have made in Nebraska, a thorough airing must redound to the benefit of the republicans.

Attorney General Smyth has the right idea in reference to The Bee's suggestion for the reinforcement of the supreme court by calling in unemployed district judges to act in an advisory capacity similar to that of the supreme commissioners. No good reason exists why the district judges could not furnish the same assistance now and without further legislation that was previously given by the supreme court commissioners.

NO FEDERAL INTERFERENCE. President McKinley has very properly decided that no cause has yet arisen to justify the intervention of the national government in Kentucky. While the president, in common with all good citizens, deplores the state of affairs there, he regards the constitution and laws of Kentucky as adequate, if they are respected, to a settlement of the conflict and so long as there is a disposition to abide by the laws there will be no excuse for federal interference.

There are possible circumstances under which it would be the right and the duty of the national government to interfere. An insurrection which it was beyond the power of the authorities of the state to control would be such a circumstance, but there is no insurrection now in Kentucky. Interference with the regular operation of the federal courts, the postal service and interstate commerce would constitute cause for action by the national government, but nothing of this kind has occurred.

It was a mistake, in our judgment, on the part of Governor Taylor in attempting to draw the national government into the controversy. He should have been satisfied to leave the settlement of the contest to the means provided by the constitution and laws of the state and we think that while he is unquestionably the legal governor he has not strengthened himself in the good opinion of the country by invoking the interference of the national government.

Meanwhile the situation continues critical, though there appears to be an improving prospect that reason will prevail over passion and that the danger of a reign of violence and bloodshed will be averted. Senator Blackburn and democratic representatives in congress from Kentucky have announced that they will exert their influence to restrain their political partisans, the younger element of whom has been manifesting an eager desire for a collision, and if they shall do this in good faith peace may be preserved.

As the initial skirmish of the great battle of 1900, the impending city election is of special importance to republicans. Omaha is a republican city and the republican party has abundant material within its ranks to give the city good government under honest, competent and faithful officers. Republicans should, however, remember that party ties sit lightly upon the rank and file of the party when it comes to the choice of municipal officers.

The trouble with many republicans is that they do not protest against disreputable and notoriously rotten candidates until after they are nominated. The time to enter objections is now, before the primary delegates are chosen, and The Bee invites the fullest discussion through its columns of the men who are being pushed for place on the republican city ticket. We do not invite libelous attacks or malicious gossip by irresponsible parties. But candid, fair criticism based on the records the men have made, with reasons why their nominations would jeopardize party success or be detrimental to the public welfare, will be given space within reasonable limits.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP EXPERIMENT. Municipal ownership of street railways has proved a practical success in several of the largest cities of Great Britain. It is now on trial in a modified form in Toronto, Canada, and has for some years undergone a limited test in the operation of the railway between New York and Brooklyn over the Brooklyn bridge.

The most extensive and far-reaching experiment in municipal ownership of street railways in the country is in prospect in the construction of the proposed underground rapid transit railway system for Greater New York. This experiment injects several novel conditions that may eventually revolutionize the ownership of the entire railway system of the United States.

The statement of an English clergyman that Prussia is provisionally for two years, added to the known fact that the Boers have a large supply of munitions, does not lend encouragement to the view that the war in South Africa is to be speedily terminated. The town is strongly fortified, and with the stubborn character of the Boers it is evident the present year may not see the end of the struggle if it is continued until one or the other of the parties is exhausted.

Some of the candidates for council are said to have encountered difficulty in securing the requisite names of fifty voters registered in their own party on the petitions providing for the submission of their candidacies at the primary

election. The councilmanic candidate who cannot find fifty backers ought to pull out.

RICE LEVELS PROMOTE SPEED. Washington, Feb. 2.—When it comes to running instead of leveling for liberty America today that a level rice field beats a koppe all to pieces.

The Undistributed Gooter. Four millions bushels of peanuts are used annually in this country. In behalf of the peanut it can be said that no successful adulteration of it has ever yet been sprung upon the public.

Our Superior Ways. Americans no longer have any right to chafe their heads and tails in a superior way over the political troubles of the French and the trifling riots in which the volatile Parisians occasionally indulge. Not in many years has France been so darkened by disgrace and bloodshed as is Kentucky.

Not in Need of Teachers. Boston Transcript. German students at the Boers, writing to friends in this country that while they went to the Transvaal to be teachers, they find that there is little for them to teach, but a good deal for them to learn.

War Maxims Up to Date. New York World. Trust in God and get the best guns. God is apt to be on the side of the strongest positions.

Parallels in War. Boston Herald. The death roll in South Africa is long enough; but we must harken back to our own civil war for the story of great carnage on the battlefield.

Philadelphia Times. Buller's retreat across the Tugela inevitably recalls, to those old enough to remember it, Burnside's crossing of the Rappahannock after his defeat at Fredericksburg.

Springfield Republican. The desperate position of the British garrison in Ladysmith, which is being surrounded by hills, recalls the surrender of Forts Fisher and Mifflin.

Utah will hold an election on April 2 to fill the congressional seat Mr. Roberts sought to warm.

Rhode Island is the first of the states to hold a general election in 1900, when a governor and other officers will be voted for.

The democratic national committee will meet in Chicago on Washington's birthday to determine the place of holding the next national convention.

There has been a new city in Massachusetts since January 1—the former town of Melrose. It has a mayor, seven councilmen-at-large and two ward aldermen from each ward, making one board of twenty-one aldermen.

The junior senator from Alabama in point of service, but not in years, is Edmund W. Pettus, who is 78 years of age. His term expires on March 4, 1901, in which year he will attain his 82nd birthday.

The city of Chicago has now 3,500 electric lamps for purposes of illumination, an increase of 1,000 over the number of a year ago. As the territorial boundaries of Chicago are extended from time to time the requirements of public lighting are increased.

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KENTUCKY'S POLITICAL TRAGEDY. Philadelphia Record. The fact that Goebel is one of the worst politicians before the American public, and one of the most dangerous, unscrupulous bosses in the country, should not be considered as a mere detail, but as an exception that makes clear to everybody the danger which necessarily will follow when the people permit such reckless and unworthy men as Goebel to gain the power and influence to arouse violent passions, the exercise of unscrupulous partiality.

Springfield Republican. It is idle to place the entire responsibility for this bloodshed upon the strained status of Kentucky politics, for other commonwealths have passed through partisan controversies over an assassination without the shedding of blood.

New York World. Goebel became conspicuous by making himself an assassin. He plotted to make himself governor of Kentucky by the assassination of representative government under the cover of a cunningly unjust system of laws of his own devising.

Washington Post. Goebel's assassin had not even the poor merit of open attack. He did not emulate the hoodlum who faces his enemy in full view. He shot from cover, from treacherous ambush, and he was at heart and in intention, an assassin.

Indianapolis Press. All this but emphasizes what we said a day or two ago, that it is "a time for cool counsel," a time for submission to law as it stands.

Baltimore Sun. The situation in Kentucky exemplifies anew the evils of bossism in politics. There is an irreconcilable conflict between good government and bossism and until the people of Kentucky put an end to political despots they will always be exposed to the intrigue and lawlessness of desperate men.

Perplexing Problem Up to Congress for Settlement. Buffalo Express (rep.). Both the president in his message and the secretary of war in his annual report recommended free trade with Porto Rico.

The Washington correspondents differ as to the reasons for imposing a nominal duty of five percent. It cannot be that a merely nominal ad valorem duty would not afford enough protection to be worth while.

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OTHER LANDS THAN OURS. With regard to the frequent rumors that Russia is meditating some sort of anti-British action in Persia it may be worth noting that the St. Petersburg Novoye Vremya, which is supposed to receive hints from the Russian foreign office, said only a few days ago that Russia would not commit the blunder which she is invited to make by the German press.

Although there was a good deal that was amiss in the conduct of the powers in settling the affairs of Crete, it appears that the condition of the island has really been very greatly improved.

Chicago Post. "Oh, Polly! What a stylish hat!" "Isn't it sweet? Jack trimmed it for me as our military church social."

Washington Post. "Miss Bing, why do you refuse to marry me?" "Because you are in the dry goods business and I never buy a chance to pick up bargains at other shops."

Indianapolis Journal. "What do you think of the new dress?" "It's a democratic campaign bib!"

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