

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.
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1. Total number of copies printed	25,200
2. Total number of copies sent for sale	25,130
3. Total number of copies sold	25,130
4. Total number of copies not sold	70
5. Total number of copies returned	9,872
6. Net total sales	70,413
7. Net daily average	23,615

WAR CLOUDS ARE SEEN IN EUROPE.
War clouds have been so numerous in Europe of late years that people over there would doubtless appreciate a few clear days.

TAMMANY HAS CONCLUDED TO ALLOW BRYAN TO SPEAK IN NEW YORK.
It has been learned that Tammany leaders have decided since 1896 not to take the talk of the Nebraska man too seriously.

JAMES WHITEHEAD RILEY HAS INDULGED THE POETIC MUSE OVER THE SUDAN HOME-COMING.
No more worthy subject has ever been presented to poet laureate.

EDLISON, WHO WAS REPORTED SERIOUSLY ILL, IS GETTING BETTER.
He has several important inventions up his sleeve yet which he proposes to bequeath to the public before he makes his final exit.

CHAIRMAN EDWINSON WILL OF COURSE OBSERVE STRICT NEUTRALITY WHILE HIS DEMOCRATIC COMPETITOR FOR THE SUPREME COURT CHERKSHIP IS ENGAGED IN HIS STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL SUPREMACY IN OMAHA.

RUDDYARD KIPLING HAS LANDED AT CAPE TOWN.
If the British do not make better headway soon, with their rifles, Ruddy may be called on to contribute the ammunition while they try some of his poetry on the offending Boer.

THE WIRES OF SOUTH AFRICA MUST BE WORKING BADLY OR ELSE REPORTS WOULD BE COMING THROUGH THAT THE FREE STATE BURGHERS HAD ACCEPTED THE INVITATION OF LORD ROBERTS TO DESERT THE TRANSVAL AND FIGHT UNDER THE ENGLISH BANNER.

THE DEMOCRATIC CITY PRIMARIES WILL BE HELD TODAY AND WE SHALL PRESENTLY SEE WHETHER THE HERDMAN MANIFESTO PLEDGING THE PARTY TO THE NOMINATION OF CLEAN AND REPUTABLE CANDIDATES FREE FROM CORPORATE CONTROL MEANS ANYTHING.

REPUBLICANS WHO DESIRE SUCCESS IN THE COMING ELECTION SHOULD SEE TO IT THAT THE TICKET IS NOT LOADED DOWN WITH COMPLICATED DEADWEIGHTS.
The character of the men nominated for the council may determine the fate of the whole ticket.

PEOPLE WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR THE AK-SAR-BEN FESTIVITIES OF 1900 SHOULD NOT BE BACKWARD ABOUT COMMUNICATING THEM TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.
The more suggestions the more certain will the display of next fall overtop all those of previous years.

THE SECRETARIES OF THE STATE BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING THAT THEIR MASTERLY INEFFECTIVITY DURING RECENT YEARS HAS THE ENTIRE APPROVAL OF THE RAILROAD MANAGERS.
It is always gratifying to know that one's employers are satisfied with the service rendered.

IT HAS NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED EXACTLY WHAT THE OBJECT WAS OF THE RECENT RAID ON THE SOUTH OMAHA SLOT MACHINES.
As the slot machine proprietors are said to have resumed business unmolested the presumption must be that the investigators of the raid got what they wanted.

THE BEST WAY FOR MAKING SURE THAT THE ARTERIES OF COMMERCE BETWEEN OMAHA AND SOUTH OMAHA ARE KEPT IN PROPER REPAIR AND PASSABLE CONDITION IS BY ANNEALING.
If the two cities were under one municipal government no question would exist as to who was responsible for the public improvements on the border line between them.

THE RISE IN THE COST OF BUILDING MATERIAL IS PLAYING HAVOC WITH ALL THE VARIOUS PUBLIC BUILDINGS FOR WHICH CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS HAVE BEEN SECURED.
That means that it will affect more or less the new west wing of the Omaha post-office building, which could have been begun months ago before the rise would have given a corresponding saving in the outlay.

THE AMERICAN SIDE.

Mr. Frederick W. Seward, who was assistant secretary of state when his illustrious father, William H. Seward, was at the head of the State department, in a published letter suggests that in connection with the South African war there is an American side, which is the only side our government can properly take, as well as a British side and a Boer side. The American side, it is perhaps needless to point out, is that of absolute neutrality and impartiality so far as the government is concerned, whatever the attitude of the people.

"For the government to take sides in the war would be a grievous error," says Mr. Seward, yet that is what some people are urging it to do, never considering and perhaps not caring what might be the consequences of our taking sides as a nation in the South African conflict. We have been so recently at war ourselves that we should have a very lively appreciation of what neutrality means and an earnest desire to have it faithfully observed. We found it important and valuable in our case and we should be the very last people disposed to in the smallest degree discredit the principle. We cannot be sure that at some future time the United States will not find it expedient to invoke neutrality and the possibility of this should make our government careful to do nothing that might impair our claim to the impartial treatment of other nations should we become involved in a war. As to the idea that neutrality is colorless, Mr. Seward remarks that on the contrary the neutrality of a great power in a war between communities both of whom are its friends is a position that requires constant care and activity. It entails grave duties and high responsibilities. First of all, it is our duty to protect and defend the rights of our own citizens and ships. Our citizens must be protected from spoliation, even when it is done under the plea of self-defense. Neutrality does not require that a nation shall forego any duty in respect to its citizens or surrender any of its international rights, but simply that it shall conduct itself toward countries at war with perfect impartiality. This was the attitude of the nations toward the United States in the war with Spain and we are bound by our international obligations to observe a like position in regard to the South African war.

It would seem that all intelligent men must understand this and that members of congress particularly would not endeavor to commit the government to a course distinctly at variance with its international obligations and which might in the future be fruitful of trouble for us. The United States is one of the great family of nations and if it expects to enjoy its rights as such—rights defined by common agreement—it must faithfully perform its international duties and respect the principles and pursue the line of conduct observed by all the great nations in respect to countries engaged in war.

BALFOUR'S STATEMENT.

The statement of Mr. Balfour, government leader in the House of Commons, that Great Britain had never considered foodstuffs, as such, contraband, but that when intended to supply an army in the field they are to be considered contraband and a prize court would decide the facts connected with the shipments, is not altogether reassuring as to the purpose of the British government in regard to provisions consigned to the Portuguese port in South Africa. A fair inference seems to be that Great Britain claims the right to assume that foodstuffs are intended to supply the army of her enemy and upon that assumption to turn them over to a prize court for ascertainment of the facts connected with the shipment.

If this is the position of the British government and it is permitted to act upon it, it can of course put a stop to all trade in foodstuffs with the territory of Portugal in South Africa, because if cargoes of provisions may be sent to prize courts to determine whether or not they are intended for the Boers it would be useless to attempt to carry on trade in such articles in that quarter. Will this be tolerated by the United States or any country having commercial interests in the South African territory belonging to Portugal? Will Great Britain be permitted at its own pleasure to send to prize courts shipments of American foodstuffs to a neutral port? "No doubt," says John Bassett Moore, formerly assistant secretary of state and professor of international law in Columbia university, "provisions bound either immediately or only ultimately to a belligerent country may find their way to the enemy's army. But this does not alone suffice to render them contraband. On such a theory we might logically be obliged to admit the practical prohibition of trade in time of war with neutral countries which happened to border on belligerent territory, and we might even be compelled to witness the starvation of the peaceful inhabitants of those countries in order that the cutting off of supplies to the enemy's army might be rendered certain." This applies to the situation involved in the British position as stated by Mr. Balfour.

Manifestly if Great Britain is permitted to exercise her own pleasure in sending to prize courts cargoes of provisions consigned to neutral Portuguese territory, she can as effectively put a stop to trade with that territory as if she were to blockade Delagoa bay. It practically amounts to this and we cannot think that our government will submit to having the trade rights of its citizens thus interfered with. Its plain duty, it seems to us, is to insist that no American merchandise, not absolutely contraband of war or which is not unmistakably destined for the army of Great Britain's enemy, shall be interfered with. The United States cannot, with a proper regard for its commercial rights and interests now and in the future, assent to the establish-

ment of such a principle as Great Britain proposes. Our government should demand that in order to justify the seizure of American merchandise there must be prima facie evidence that it is intended for the Boer army and that no assumption not supported by such evidence will be tolerated. The position of the British government would strike a blow at neutral commerce which no great commercial nation can permit.

WANT AN EQUIVALENT.

It is said there is some complaint on the part of the opponents of the Salisbury ministry because the government, in relinquishing England's claim under the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, did not demand any equivalent. The suggestion is made that Salisbury should have improved the opportunity to induce the United States to show equal friendliness toward Canada over the Alaskan boundary dispute. It would have been consistent with the general policy of the British government if it had asked for some concession in return for the abandonment of its claim to the right to participate in the control of an isthmian canal, but so far as the Alaskan boundary is concerned it is somewhat doubtful whether Lord Salisbury really sympathizes with the Canadian demand. The imperial government of course would not reject that demand, so long as there seemed to be any chance of Canada realizing her desire, but the provisional arrangement entered into as the result of the negotiations between London and Washington was not at all pleasing to Canada and was indeed something of a rebuke to the irritating conduct of her statesmen.

A sufficient reason, however, for Lord Salisbury not endeavoring to secure an equivalent for the British concession is in the fact that the government is most solicitous to maintain and strengthen friendly relations with the United States and England really made no sacrifice in surrendering its claim under the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. The only concern Great Britain has in an isthmian canal is that it shall be neutral at all times, in war and in peace, and this our government agrees to. Having this, Great Britain's interests will be as well conserved as if she participated in the control of the waterway and she will have no responsibility in regard to it.

CAUTION TO CANDIDATES.

Now that we are on the eve of the primary elections it may be in order to call the attention of candidates to the stringent provisions of the new corrupt practices law.

Under the law candidates are prohibited from furnishing, paying for or engaging to pay for any entertainment to any meeting of voters during the campaign. This includes the canvass before as well as after the primaries. Candidates are prohibited from giving away or treating to any drinks, cigars or other refreshments during the campaign. Candidates are prohibited from contributing, paying out or expending any money or valuable thing for the purpose of promoting their own nomination or election, except for bona fide personal expenses or for the purpose of holding and conducting public meetings, and then not in excess of a fixed sum determined on a basis of the vote on the office for which they are running.

Every candidate is required to file in writing within ten days after the holding of any primary election or convention a sworn statement of the sums of money or other things of value contributed, disbursed, expended or promised by him or by any other person in his procurement in his behalf in endeavoring to secure his nomination to such office. A similar statement is to be made after election by the candidates nominated.

Failure to comply with these provisions lays the candidate liable to a fine not exceeding \$1,000. In addition, the law prohibits the issuance of a commission or certificate of election until the required statements shall have been filed, and empowers any citizen to bring quo warranto proceedings through the proper officer against any one elected to office who has violated its provisions or made false statements concerning his election expenses. If the charges are sustained the court must declare the office vacant.

It goes without saying that an appointment to office is a valuable thing and that the promise of an appointment would be the candidate equally liable to being unseated as a gift of money.

The court proceeding in the case of Allyn Frank has brought one thing to light that should be probed to the bottom. When the bill limiting the income of clerk of the district court to \$5,000 a year was before the governor the journals of the house and senate were examined and found to be complete. When the journals were brought into court they were mutilated. A whole page was missing and the record of the vote on the passage of the bill in the house was abstracted and a blank roll call substituted. Manifestly there has been criminal tampering with the records. It is a matter of notoriety that a large amount of hooch was up for the defeat of the bill. The parties interested in defeating the bill were equally interested in the mutilation of the record. Such a crime should not be passed by with indifference. It behooves the governor and secretary of state to run down this attempt to destroy law by tampering with official records and bring the guilty parties to account.

We are told that there is a general disposition on the part of the council to hit the police department with the revenue tax. The fact is, however, that the disposition of the city council is to keep all the money it can possibly get in its own hands in order to make the various boards and heads of departments knock down to it every half-year for appropriations. It is the general fund. The object of dividing the levy into various funds is to let each branch of the municipal government

know just how much is at its disposal. The general fund was never intended to be a reservoir to be drawn on for the benefit of the other funds as they become exhausted, yet that is just what the policy of the council has made it.

A network of suburban electric railroads centering in Omaha would prove a great benefit to the city whether the first road is started in Iowa or Nebraska. If we cannot muster up enough enterprise to begin the construction of a Nebraska line northwest through Douglas and Dodge counties, we certainly ought to lead encouragement to the plan for a line through Iowa eastward of Council Bluffs. Every city and town on both sides of the river within fifty miles of Omaha ought to be connected with this city by electric railroads.

If correctly noted, Colonel Bryan wants the democratic national convention held June 3 so that the democratic national ticket may be in the field ahead of the republican national ticket. As the renomination of President McKinley is beyond question, whether the democrats meet earlier or later will not affect the personnel of the republican candidates. If the democrats promulgate their platform first the republicans may be relied on to meet squarely any new issues raised.

The railroads have presented all their arguments on the point whether charges for live stock should be by the pound or by the carload. The method of arriving at the proper charge is not the real point. It is the amount the shipper has to pay which is material. If the rate per hundred was fixed so it would not work an advance over the amount formerly charged for a fairly loaded car the shippers would not be complaining.

Senator Pettigrew has allowed two or three days to go by without introducing a resolution inquiring into the conduct of affairs in the Philippines. Possibly he discovered the public was getting altogether too clear an insight into the real condition of affairs and the conduct of the administration. The inquisitive senator should be more careful to ascertain what his witnesses will testify to before he puts them on the stand.

With a session of the legislature and the trial of cases growing out of the celebrated Baker-Howard feud both on its hands at the same time, London, Ky., is having all kinds of amusements at present. If life in the mountains becomes monotonous the residents can easily get up a little diversion fully as lively as the attractions of the capital city.

MORE ACTION, LESS TALK.

What the people in Porto Rico want from congress is less talk and more definite action. A hungry man must be pardoned for being impatient.

FRECHING AND PRACTICE.

One of the trusts which galls in the south is the monopoly for packing cotton in round bales, and Senator Jones, chairman of Bryan national committee, is accused by democrats in the south of being a stockholder in the company.

"UNJUST AND COWARDLY."

To withhold from the people of Porto Rico the right to sell their products in the United States without tariff restriction will be unjust and cowardly. If those people are to be accorded the benefits of being classed as Americans the island might better be returned to Spain.

WHY KENTUCKIANS KICK.

London, Ky., has no saion within its borders, and if the legislators who assemble there are searched for and deprived of liquid ammunition, as well as for and of other concealed weapons, the state may yet have the character of the legislature that it has seen for years.

NAVY SHORT OF MEN.

The new federal navy, under the stress of new duties, needs more officers and men, and in default of provision by congress for an increased force it will be necessary, according to the chief of the Navy department, to close some of the important shore stations in order to obtain officers for sea duty. The nation's prearrangements are never drawn more tightly than during the period just preceding a presidential election. Secretary Long must wait with the rest.

TWO GRADES OF POLITICS.

And now some of the boodle witnesses against Senator Clark have been recalled by the defense, to testify against themselves—that their original evidence was perjury as the result of bribery by Clark's political enemies. Such testimony is, of course, valueless to both sides, being wholly free from the suspicion of truth, however much of it might be true. As between Montana and Kentucky political methods the devil would scarcely have any choice, but the average citizen would probably prefer the latter.

EMIGRATION TO HAWAII.

More than a million immigrants arrived at Hawaii last year, the flow continuing unabated, with the prospect of a still larger influx for the twelvemonth to come. There is no fault to be found with this increase in our provincial population, except that it is, perhaps, too generous. The Japanese are good workers, peaceful, orderly, thrifty, and we are on the best of terms with them in their own country and elsewhere. But in view of the advancing tidal wave of them threatening to submerge the islands, which are of rather limited area all told, it seems desirable that definite plans of government and administration should be provided for them without delay or the intervention of unnecessary congressional obstacles.

THAT MESSAGE TO GREENA.

The first officer to receive and successfully execute a war assignment in the recent encounters with Spain was Lieutenant Colonel Anselmo S. Rowan. He carried that "Message to Greena" which was of vital importance to the invading American commander, Elbert Hubbard, who so graphically has told the story of this brave achievement and deduced its obvious lesson, has shown higher appreciation for the officer and the man than anybody else in the United States. It is "up to" congress to vote a medal to Rowan, and to testify in tangible shape the appreciation of a grateful people. The Times wants to see this done, not only as a tribute to bravery, but as a slight recognition of efficient service in a line of duty that demanded the best of any man.

SHOTS AT BOER AND BRITON.

Indianapolis News: General Buller is said to be advancing. Toward the Boers or away from them?

Philadelphia Times: At any rate one can scarcely say of England's war policy, "It hasn't the Dutch".

Milwaukee Sentinel: The highest possible tribute to the efficiency of the British news censor in South Africa is the publication as news of letters written by war correspondents six weeks ago.

Portland Oregonian: Boers are said to be fond of holding prayer meetings in their camps. Their dependence upon powder is, however, made known whenever there is an opportunity to deliver a few shots at the soldiers clad in khaki.

Philadelphia North American: The Boers have ascended the world with their courage and military skill. But courage and skill cannot work miracles, and it would be a miracle if England, with her enormous army, did not eventually crush the Boers.

Chicago Post: General Jouber is a highly skilled and efficient general. He complains that the English contemdermaned in order to attack his troops without notifying him, and thereby deprived him of a whole night's sleep. Talk about the cruelties of war!

San Francisco Chronicle: The Egyptian soldiers had no objection to fighting South African Boers, for they could move them down in the open desert by the thousand without much risk to themselves; but when England proposes to transfer them to South Africa to fight Boers entrenched on kopjes they threaten to mutiny. The quality of an emperor's staff. This would seem incredible were it not that in Buller's own confession he admits that he did not know the size or the angle or the acclivity of Spionkop, and it is painfully evident that ignorance as to topography of Spionkop was not the only unfortunate feature of his advance against the Tugela. This lack of knowledge as to the country the enemy is operating in is not confined to Natal nor to General Buller's staff. General French at Benares, General Gardner at Stekfontein and General Methuen on the Modder River have evinced the same ignorance of the lay of the land to the confusion of their several campaigns and the lessening of British prestige. It is all very strange and curious, and yet a fact that will not down.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

Lord Roberts does not comply with the British army regulation which directs the shaving of the chin, and is credited with saying hard things about it. "I do not fight with my chin," he said.

Nikola Tesla has written the New York Sun denying the report that he was to leave for his home in Colorado. He says he went there merely to carry on experiments impossible in his New York laboratory.

If J. C. W. Beckham makes good his claim to the governorship of Kentucky he will doubtless be the youngest state executive in this country. He was 29 years old a few days before the election and thus just attained the age of eligibility under the Kentucky constitution.

Secretary Tymna of the Leathers Diamond company, which employs 1,300 whites and 11,000 blacks, tells the New York Journal that the war in South Africa has ruined the diamond trade for a long time to come. Some of the London diamond dealers are seeking out and going into other businesses.

The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad is going to put private club cars on its suburban trains running out of New York, in which its patrons, who have been complaining about the recent order against playing poker on their way home, may play what they please.

Archie Sloss, the notorious reformed burglar, who died in London last week, was buried with unusual pomp by the Salvation Army. There were several bands of music in the funeral procession and the coffin was covered with floral offerings sent by other ex-convicts. Crowds of people watched the proceedings.

When the Invernesshire militia was mobilized at Aldershot last week, over 100,000 strong, and its members exhorted to volunteer for the South African war, there was no response, and at last one man stepped from the ranks and addressed the officers, saying that his comrades would go to war if they were promised a share in the Transvaal gold mines when the country is conquered.

Newspaper correspondents at the national capital have noticed that a great change has come over Senator Tillman in his methods of public speaking. It was invariably his habit heretofore to speak extemporaneously, without notes, but now he has his notes prepared and distributes proofs of them before he reads them. It is only when he gets away from his printed copy in the fervor of his address that he is like the Tillman who used to rattle the dead bones in the senate.

TREATY AND CANAL.

Indianapolis Press: The fact that the administration asked for the abrogation of this treaty is notice to the world of the intention of the American government to have not a neutral canal, but one directly under American control.

Kansas City Star: The signing of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, called the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, and amendatory of the old Clayton-Bulwer treaty, clears away what has been counted as an obstruction in the way of the Nicaragua canal.

Chicago Post: We are now free to negotiate with Nicaragua and Costa Rica free to acquire the needful territorial privileges, free to expend \$10,000,000 (at least) on the enterprise, free to guard the canal and enforce the rights of all the nations who shall use it; for industrial or warlike purposes; for the removal of which not a single man to us? Are the advantages to be reasonably anticipated at all likely to compensate us for the obligations we are to incur and the risks to which we shall expose ourselves? The question is serious and momentous, and a mature reflection may well suggest that the bargain is altogether too one-sided. England has given up nothing substantial, while we have signed away a prerogative of infinite importance and value.

Baltimore American: England would be more than willing for the United States to take the initiative in the construction of the Nicaragua canal. If it were built she would be able to watch her immense navy to command it, just as she has done at the Suez, and she is always willing to have her chemists pulled out of the fire. But British, Belgian, French and German engineers know very well that no canal suitable to the needs of commerce can be constructed over the Nicaragua route by any system of engineering known to the profession. Entrance and exit are both insuperable obstacles, and the expenditure of dollars upon this impracticable scheme. If it were built she would be able to watch her immense navy to command it, just as she has done at the Suez, and she is always willing to have her chemists pulled out of the fire. 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