

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. For the week ending February 19, 1900. Total, 803,885. Less unsold and returned copies, 8,872. Net total sales, 794,013.

There is precious little difference between young mossbacks and old mossbacks. George Washington has celebrated his birthday once more and the hatchet still cleaves to the cherry tree.

While the supreme court is making up its mind regarding the Standard Oil case the great trust-smashing attorney general might find time to investigate the Omaha Ice trust.

After the heavy bombardment it is plain a considerable force is still occupying the middle of the road, which neither blandishments nor threats can induce to join the democratic alliance.

When Charles H. Brown was running for mayor the principal charge brought against him by the popo-eratic organ was that he wore boots. Young Mr. Poppleton may not wear boots, but he might just as well.

Opponents of the administration in congress are learning an unusually large repertoire of songs for the coming campaign. The only trouble is that as soon as the chorus is trained so all can keep the tune something happens to spoil its appropriateness.

When the silver leaders in Colorado begin to desert it looks as though the game were about up. With Sibley and Sewall in the east and Vice Chairman Stevens of the silver party in Colorado gone the free coinage lights are not shining with resplendent glory.

Now that young Mr. Hitchcock has presented his plan for running the United States government before the club named after himself and presided over by Ed Rothery the dozens of the Third ward will know where they are at when they come to choose between the silk stockings and the cotton socks.

A WANNING CAUSE.

Notwithstanding the persistent assertion of Mr. Bryan that the free silver cause is as strong today as it was in the last national campaign, there is plenty of evidence that it is waning. It is impossible that it should be otherwise under conditions which demonstrate unmistakably the utter fallacy of the free silver contention.

These are the admissions of men who have been conspicuous and earnest in advocacy of free silver, but who are capable of seeing and yielding to the logic of facts. There are hundreds of thousands of others who will attest their abandonment of free silver and their desire for a continuance of prosperity when they shall cast their vote.

EDUCATING CUBANS. The offer of President Eliot of Harvard university to provide for the attendance, free of charge, at the summer school of that institution of a large number of Cuban teachers, is a practical effort to advance education in Cuba which cannot fail to have beneficial results.

The Cubans are eager for education. One of the first things they looked for when the Americans took possession of the island was the establishment of public schools and good progress has been made in meeting this demand.

WAIT FOR THE COMMISSION. A commission authorized by the last congress and appointed by the president is engaged in investigating routes for an isthmian canal. It was the general understanding when this commission was authorized that there would be no legislation in regard to an isthmian canal until the work of the commission had been completed and a report thereon submitted for the information and guidance of congress.

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Although Lee Herdman has not yet been made clerk of the supreme court, the gang is already peddling out confidential tips to liquor dealers on the promised restoration of the old Herdman policy board. In view of the fact that the supreme court has not yet even heard the case and is not likely to decide it before it has been argued, the tip will be taken for what it is worth. It is simply a repetition of the police club tactics.

and we have no doubt that intelligent public opinion is largely in favor of postponing action until the commission investigating the routes shall have reported, which it will probably be able to do before the meeting of the second session of this congress. An isthmian canal is assured and no harm can be done in waiting a few months for the new light on this important matter which is to be expected from the investigation in progress.

WHERE REPUBLICANS STAND. In the present city campaign the popo-erats are conceding the monopoly of defamations, slander and mud-slinging. But the republicans do not concede them the monopoly on any issue in which the progress and future prosperity of Omaha is involved.

Enriching the Dictionary. The Montana language is rich and expressive and the Clark investigating committee is learning new beauties of it every day. "Loosen up," a phrase which Senator Hoar queried, is well known in this town and was attributed to a Montana man as "to whack out the long green." But these expressions are, we believe, still unrecognized here.

Swelling the Pension Roll. It was announced with much ostentation that the city of Omaha would be asked to be taken to keep down the flood of private pension bills, but this decision seems to have been forgotten by the leaders. Several hundred such bills have already passed one or both houses, the senate having in one sitting passed a record of more than a pension a minute, and the house has now started the week by passing thirty-five private bills in a bunch.

Great Picking for Lawyers. The Carnegie-Frick case involves more money than any ever submitted to a court of law in America, and perhaps anywhere else. A huge tribunal would hardly be too big for its adjudication. The property in partition represents more value than the capitalization of the East India and South Sea companies put together, and the house of Rothschild had been in business for some time before it had accumulated so much money. It is mainly the growth of the last dozen years, and it may take the lawyers as much longer to settle the dispute concerning it.

Analysis of the Claims of Ship Subsidy Promoters. The assertion that the people of this country pay annually \$200,000,000 for freight and passenger service between this and other countries which might as well be earned by our own carriers is a very striking one. But why do we not have the carriers? The answer is very simple. We have not been permitted to obtain what we really want, most cheaply built and sold and sold to them under the American flag. This is an initial disadvantage; but there is a still stronger reason. The foreign freight and passenger service has not been so profitable as to attract American capital. Other investments offered greater inducements. Instead of losing money we have made money by having our carrying done for us at cheaper rates. The owners of our exported products have reaped the advantage.

SEIZURES MUST STOP. British Raids on American Cargoes Bound for Neutral Ports. Another ship loaded with American goods and sailing from New York to a neutral port in Portuguese territory was seized by the British on suspicion that the cargo contained contraband of war. It will be noted that since the British government apologized to Germany, and surrendered the ship and its cargo to the Germans, seized by England, there has been no repetition of the offense. The German goods unloaded at British ports by British officials were hastily put back, and the ships sped on their way to their destination, while the British goods were held up and the cargo and crew were made for their seizure and detention. American commerce has not fared quite so well.

One Hopeful Sign. Baltimore American. Who shall say that civilization is not progressing? The governor of Kentucky went to church without a military escort.

All Over But the Shouting. This is the dulllest presidential election year in our history. There is nothing to be done in it except to bury Bryanism, and everybody seems agreed to treat the funeral with due solemnity.

Copper-Plated Jokers. Chicago News. Dr. Tracey, Omaha frankly, even merely, that a justice of the Montana supreme court a bribe of \$50,000 to dismiss the Wellcome discharge case, but explains that it was simply a joke. After reading

the testimony in the Clark case the public will be slow to believe that anybody in Montana politics treats bribery as a subject of levity. On the other hand, it seems to be universally regarded out there as a serious and entirely practical business.

Restraints on Doctors. Philadelphia Ledger. The legislature of Mississippi has found it necessary to pass an act forbidding the sale of cocaine, except on a physician's prescription, and that as caused a scandal, but still the drug has become perniciously prevalent, especially among the negroes. They procure it in the form of tablets, which they swallow and thus procure a form of intoxication, not at all as caused by alcohol, but still bad enough. The law should be rigidly enforced. There are too many intemperate available already.

Prosperity Everywhere. It is gratifying to note that the prosperity in cotton manufacturing is not confined at the present time to the south. There has been a great rush of trade which has spread over the entire country. The boom of industry is heard throughout the New England cotton mill district as well as elsewhere. All the forces that have been at work unseen during the years of industrial depression are now in process of manifestation, and the indications are these have not yet reached the maximum point of development.

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REFLECTIONS ON THE OUTWARD SIGN OF AMERICAN CIVILIZATION.

Who shall decide when army chaplains disagree? Chaplain Frank M. Wells of the First Tennessee volunteers, mustered out, recently hurled a few contemptuous remarks at the liquid trade that is chasing the fig in the Philippines. The burden of his complaint was against fostering the saloon as an outward sign of American civilization. The great boom in irrigation joints in Manila shocked Mr. Wells painfully, and when he saw, in addition, the continuous exhortation to his own regiment when the growler was accessible, his conscience smote him so that he had the greatest difficulty to restrain his vocal powers until beyond the reach of military discipline.

Now comes Chaplain Pierce, who is still in the service, with a broad intimation that Chaplain Wells is talking through his hat, evidently desirous of creating a sensation. Chaplain Wells said there were only four saloons in Manila when the American army arrived. Now there are more than 1,000 saloons in Manila at the time of the American occupation. Nearly three-fourths of them have been suppressed, yet there are now 1,200 saloons. Pierce admits "there was a great deal of drunkenness and disorderly conduct in the Philippines when the volunteers were mustered out. The men received their back pay and proceeded to spend it as rapidly as possible. A large number of new saloons were opened for the purpose of assisting them in getting rid of their money. Many of the saloon keepers were themselves discharged soldiers. Most of the saloons where American liquors are now sold in the Philippines are kept by that class, but after order was restored and the government was organized strict regulations were adopted and enforced.

Turning from clerical disputants to the observations of a layman in Manila, some facts calculated to promote right thinking may be gleaned. Henry Irving Hancock, correspondent of Leslie's Weekly, in a recent issue of that paper, pronounced the saloon business in Manila "the shame of Uncle Sam." "Almost at the time the American soldiers had stacked arms in the city," says the writer, "a score of American saloons were opened. Swiftly other saloons were added to them. The number grew and grew. At the outbreak of the insurrection there were hundreds of American saloons in Manila. There not being at that time enough American civilians, so disposed, to take up all the licenses, natives were debauched into the traffic. Spaniards engaged in the business, perhaps with an ironic purpose of hastening the corruption of both American and Filipino. Today there is no thoroughfare of length in Manila that has not its long line of saloons. The street cars carry flaunting advertisements of the man of whiskey and that kind of thing. The lot of private drink is a revenue from the displayed advertisements of firms and companies eager for their share of Manila's drink-money. The city presents to the new-comer a saturnalia of alcoholism.

"For Manila's climate is one in which drink is peculiarly seductive and insidious. It is always oppressively hot there and a glass of beer, fresh from the ice, seems to the hot, perspiring and dusty like a draught of life. He who overworks in the slightest degree finds momentary stimulus in whiskey. There is relief—though dangerous relief—in alcohol, and so American Manila drinks, despite all the warnings of science that in plague-and-fever-infested tropical countries alcohol presents the shortest route to the grave. "The Filipinos of Manila are rather slow to take to drink. They have always heretofore been an abstemious people. Soda and tonic have furnished the bulk of their beverage, and they do not draw to the hydra. Yet slowly, but surely, the natives are veering around to the temptations to be found in the saloon. Five years more of the present saloon reign in Manila will see a final demoralization of the natives. The present non-drinking majority of the Filipinos feel only contempt for the Americans whom they see lurching walking in the streets or crouching in silly semi-stupor in the cabs on their way to office, home or barracks."

Correspondent Hancock protests that he "does not mean this as a tirade against saloons," but rather as a much-needed protest against the worst features of American saloons that have crept into Manila area in arm with our boasted progress. "There is nowhere in the world," he says "such an excessive amount of drinking, per capita, as among the few thousand Americans at present residing in Manila. Now does this mean that we have set the worst dogs of Americanism there. Far from it; some of the best American blood is represented in Manila. There are men of brains and attainments there, who would nobly hold up their heads if it were not for the saloon at every step. Gamblers and depraved women—in both classes—the worst of this and other countries—have followed, and work hand in hand with their natural ally. These people are teaching the natives the depths of Caucasian wickedness, and the natives imitate it as Americanism."

PERSONAL POINTERS. There are 250 American doctors studying in Berlin this winter. But there are more Germans than that studying in Boston. Whether he goes as a commissioner, a diplomat or an exhibit, Aguinaldo's determination to attend the Paris exposition will greatly help that show. Two French women who were deported from this country as immigrants of an undesirable character have been arrested, but "Sapho" still continues to entertain New York. Thomas R. Bard, the new United States senator from California, was nominated, the Oakland Enquirer declares, "without money, without a machine and without railroad aid."

Judge Taft, the head of the new Philippine commission, stands five feet ten, with the full quota of hair for his height, has bright eyes, a healthy glow on his face and spry steps. Webster Davis of Missouri is making treks for home from the Transvaal. If Web is on to his job he will bring home a luxurious set of Krugers for political spell-binders next fall. Andrew Carnegie's reason for giving his money to establish libraries rather than for other charitable purposes is because "libraries give nothing for nothing. In order to get benefit from them a man must help himself, must read and study."

Later carrier in Chicago who, as alleged, carried two small boys to engage in a fight in which one of them, 7 years old, was so badly injured that he had to be taken to a hospital for treatment, has been sued by the small boy's mother for \$10,000 damages. Superintendent Jasper of the New York public schools thinks the epidemic of whistling scholars that has broken out among the teachers may be attributable to the fact that the withholding of their pay has made them discontented and short-tempered, while prize fighting and its glorification has rendered the boys combative.

Since the death of Richard Thompson of Indiana ex-Senator James W. Bradbury of Maine is easily the oldest of the surviving members who served in congress before the war. He is 95 years old, and though Mr. Bradbury was four years his junior, his public life began several years before Mr. Bradbury entered congress.

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PROBLEM OF PORTO RICO.

Indianapolis News: Porto Rico and Hawaii raise practically the same kind of products, and in many ways the two dependencies are similar. Where is the logic that can admit free products of the one and put up a tariff against the other? Is it because syndicates have control in Hawaii, and Porto Rico is helpless?

Indianapolis Journal: The Porto Rican question before congress proposes a tariff duty of 25 per cent of the value of the raw article imported from Porto Rico into the United States or from the United States into Porto Rico. The latter seems to conflict with the clause of the constitution which prohibits congress from imposing any export duty.

Baltimore American: Free trade with Porto Rico it must be. Not only because it is the only honorable course, and the only constitutional course, but because the overvalued products of the island are a burden on the American people. The total value of imports into the island of Porto Rico from the date of American occupation to December 31, 1898, was \$12,191,829, and the total value of exports from the island during the same period was \$11,696,867. The United States furnished \$4,887,828 of the imports and took \$3,562,766 of the exports, of which sugar formed the principal item, to the value of nearly \$2,000,000. It will be seen that two-thirds of the Porto Rican trade in raw products is entirely grossed up to the United States. The fear that the breaking down of tariff barriers between the island and these states might appreciably affect the markets for commodities of home growth and similar character to the products of Porto Rico and give advantage to the island is a fallacy.

Yale Review: By the bills pending in congress Porto Rico is declared to be under the authority of congress unrestrained by the constitution, and after specious promises of liberation this new monarch does less for the people than the English Parliament has done for the negroes of Jamaica. The Jamaicans enjoy unrestricted trade with all the world; upon the Porto Ricans are to be levied crushing duties on the necessities of life imported from the United States, and upon the raw products of the island. The people remember and approve the words of President McKinley's message: "Our plain duty is to abolish all customs tariffs that interfere with the free access to our markets."

Character of the Country Occupied by Contending Armies. If the British succeed in marching east to Bloemfontein they will travel all the way at the rate of 4,000 to 4,500 feet above the sea, or at a greater elevation than the tops of our Catskills. They will find the country almost treeless, except at a few centers where, by assiduous irrigation, clumps of timber have been induced to flourish. The soil is very fertile, but the supply of water is now a smaller supply than ever, for the country has been scoured far and wide to provide timbering for the diamond mines at Kimberley. It was estimated in 1876 that over 1,900,000 trees had been cut down for the purposes of the great timbering industry, so the march over the plain would be very dull and monotonous if the Boers were not likely to make it exciting.

ADVANCE TO BLOEMFONTEIN. Character of the Country Occupied by Contending Armies. If the British succeed in marching east to Bloemfontein they will travel all the way at the rate of 4,000 to 4,500 feet above the sea, or at a greater elevation than the tops of our Catskills. They will find the country almost treeless, except at a few centers where, by assiduous irrigation, clumps of timber have been induced to flourish. The soil is very fertile, but the supply of water is now a smaller supply than ever, for the country has been scoured far and wide to provide timbering for the diamond mines at Kimberley. It was estimated in 1876 that over 1,900,000 trees had been cut down for the purposes of the great timbering industry, so the march over the plain would be very dull and monotonous if the Boers were not likely to make it exciting.

WHITTLED TO A POINT. Detroit Journal: Chicago—I will St. Louis—Oh, I don't know! Indianapolis Journal: "Ah!" he sighed, "may I not hold that you will be mine forever and forever?" "Yes," she replied softly, "you may hope that long if you wish."

PHILADELPHIA RECORD. A few years ago, when high power guns and explosives were being invented and peacefully experimented with, the opinion was general that a modern war would be the bloodiest of history and that the resultant carnage would be so dreadful that no nation would thereafter invoke the arbitration of battle for the adjustment of international differences. On the contrary, it would seem that the improvement in weapons has operated to reduce the number of casualties in battle and to lessen the serious nature of wounds inflicted upon combatants. The fatal loss of the Derivates upon the British at Omdurman, while it taught the rest of the world how to fight against machine guns and magazine rifles, singularly enough taught the British victors nothing and they learned nothing until recently, when they were repeatedly punished as in close formation they charged the Boers. In the South African war every weapon and every explosive known to military science is employed, yet the casualties, which were not excessive at the beginning, have decreased since the British adopted the open style of fighting.

FRICITION IN NICARAGUA. Canal Company and the Government Disagree Over Personnel of the Court of Arbitration. MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Feb. 14.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Some friction is occurring between the Maritime Canal Company of Nicaragua and the government regarding the personnel of the proposed court of arbitration to settle disputed points between them. The company appointed A. J. Menocal, its chief engineer, and John W. Alden, its chief representative in Nicaragua, but the government objected to them. The government, on its part, appointed Joseph B. Rodriguez and Buenos Bratraro and the company thereupon entered an objection to Rodriguez.

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In the town itself there are verdure and trees and a little out of it is an eminence that the Boers kept fortified during the years of their early troubles with Great Britain. It undoubtedly bristles today with the best works the burghers could build for the defense of their capital. It will be no easy matter to capture Bloemfontein, though the natural defenses are not so excellent as those of Pretoria, hemmed in as that capital is by the mountain ranges on the north and south, with forts on their slopes that command every approach to the city.

CASUALTIES IN WARFARE.

Theoretical Nations Upset by Modern Warfare. Philadelphia Record. A few years ago, when high power guns and explosives were being invented and peacefully experimented with, the opinion was general that a modern war would be the bloodiest of history and that the resultant carnage would be so dreadful that no nation would thereafter invoke the arbitration of battle for the adjustment of international differences. On the contrary, it would seem that the improvement in weapons has operated to reduce the number of casualties in battle and to lessen the serious nature of wounds inflicted upon combatants. The fatal loss of the Derivates upon the British at Omdurman, while it taught the rest of the world how to fight against machine guns and magazine rifles, singularly enough taught the British victors nothing and they learned nothing until recently, when they were repeatedly punished as in close formation they charged the Boers. In the South African war every weapon and every explosive known to military science is employed, yet the casualties, which were not excessive at the beginning, have decreased since the British adopted the open style of fighting.

A statement of the casualties sustained by the federal armies during some of the battles of the American rebellion will indicate how excessive is the carnage of war now than it was formerly. The losses sustained in six leading battles were:

Table with columns: Total, Wound, Total, Killed, Force, Loss. Rows include Bull Run, Shiloh, Antietam, Gettysburg, Wilderness.

So excessive is the carnage of war now than it was formerly. The losses sustained in six leading battles were: Bull Run, 22,000 killed, 22,000 wounded; Shiloh, 23,000 killed, 23,000 wounded; Antietam, 23,000 killed, 23,000 wounded; Gettysburg, 23,000 killed, 23,000 wounded; Wilderness, 23,000 killed, 23,000 wounded.

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