

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

Published every morning. E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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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 Bee, printed during the month of February, 1900, was as follows:

Net total sales, 748,696. Less unsold and returned copies, 10,000. Net daily circulation, 738,696.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of February, A. D. 1900. H. H. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

HELPING PORTO RICO. The passage by the United States senate of the bill appropriating over \$2,000,000 for the benefit of Porto Rico, while not going as far as the house measure and the recommendation of President McKinley, it is to be hoped will be concurred in by the house, so that the relief contemplated can be immediately extended. The condition of the people in the island is represented to be most deplorable and every day that this is allowed to continue is a severe reflection upon this government.

The bill passed by the house of representatives provided that the revenue to be returned to Porto Rico should be not only what had been collected on the products of the island up to the commencement of the current year, but should include subsequent revenue from that source. This was in accord with the recommendation of the president and met with general public approval.

This is a state of affairs which the great American republic cannot permit to continue a day beyond the time when a remedy can be applied. The proposed appropriation will give the relief that is imperatively demanded and no question as to the ultimate bearing of such legislation should be allowed to interfere with it.

A PROPER REQUIREMENT. The bill introduced in the United States senate requiring railroad companies to report all accidents occurring on their lines to the Interstate Commerce commission is a very proper measure that will have general public approval. It is a supplement to the act requiring common carriers to equip their cars with automatic couplers and continuous brakes and provides that where collisions of trains, one of them being a passenger train, occur on a railroad engaged in interstate commerce, or where any passenger train or any part of a passenger train accidentally leaves the rails, it shall be the duty of the officer in general charge of the movement of trains on the road immediately to institute an investigation into the causes of the accident and to transmit a full and detailed report, under oath, showing the nature and causes thereof, to the Interstate Commerce commission.

The bill further provides that it shall be the duty of any common carrier to make to the commission a monthly report, under oath, of all accidents which may occur to its passengers or employees, whether attended with loss of life or personal injury, and the report shall state the causes and circumstances. It is provided that failure to make such report within ten days after the end of any month, or failure to make report of any collision or cars leaving the rails accidentally, within ten days after the occurrence of the accident, is to be deemed a misdemeanor, punishable upon conviction by a fine of from \$100 to \$500 for each and every offense and for every day during which the common carrier shall fail to make a report after the time specified in the act.

A law of this kind would certainly meet with public approval. It is the practice of railroad companies to conceal as far as possible the accidents on their lines and particularly the causes of accidents. There are good reasons why they should be required not only to report these occurrences, but to explain all the conditions and circumstances connected with them and the Interstate Commerce commission is the proper body to receive such information. The bill, introduced by Senator Cullom, is commendable and there should be no doubt as to its passage.

WHEN SHALL WE THREE MEET AGAIN? Less than a year ago an eminent leader of Nebraska democracy declared over his signature after a confidential conference with William Jennings Bryan that after 1900 there would be no more fusion, but that the democratic party would be supreme and only democrats in command.

The year 1900 has come and the three-ringed circus is to meet for the last time at Lincoln under the same old ring-masters. "Triumphant democracy," as Carnegie calls it, is to come to the front with its national standard bearer and unfurl its banners, while its allies are to march at the tail end of the procession and furnish the steam for the callope.

The debating influence of fusion for the sake of spoils has so demoralized the reform element upon which the populist party was founded that it now presents the humiliating spectacle of being reduced in Nebraska to the role of the monkey pulling democratic chestnuts out of the fire. Starting out with the declaration that all the old parties were too corrupt to give the people good government and inscribing independence upon its scutcheon, the people's party has lost all independence and is about to be merged into the party which is represented in

New York by the odious Tammany and in the south by the tissue label and shotgun oligarchy, which throttles free speech and rules by terrorism and disfranchisement.

As to the poor declamatory fragment of so-called silver republicans, the less said the better. This wing of the allied reform forces has lost all its feathers and consists chiefly of political barnacles deprived of all hope of catching on to office in any other way. The idea of placing such a rump upon an equality with any organized national party is too absurd to be entertained outside of the coteries of political benevolencers that pretend to exhibit three great political trophies under one tent.

NOT A MERE LOCAL ISSUE. That the arbitrary attempt of Governor Poynter to seize control of the police department of Omaha by naming a new set of police commissioners under a law declared unconstitutional and void by the supreme court affects in principle more than the interests of Omaha alone is clearly brought out by the following comment of the Lincoln Journal, which says the fusionists around the state house take it as a foregone conclusion that the court will validate the governor's lawless action:

The fusionists of Omaha want the law revived. If each court that is elected from time to time twists the law back and forth, it is reasonable to suppose that each legislature will do the same. If one political party makes laws to bring about political results, other parties will not hesitate to do the same. The reasonable result will be a constant strife on the part of political parties for control of the two largest cities in the state.

Another Smashing of Records. The export business for February broke all records for that month and is not far behind the record for any month in the history of the country. Eight months of the year have passed and the apparent balance of trade against the United States is \$53,000,000. That protective tariff, so often hooted at by the democrats, does not seem to be much of a hindrance, after all.

Man's Mighty Lever. Taking all the manufactures of the United States in 1890, barring some omissions in reporting horse power, it is found that the total horse power, in round numbers, 5,000,000, equivalent to the labor of 36,000,000 men, while only 4,476,874 persons were employed, the supplemental labor having a ratio equivalent to 5 to 1. Horse power used in manufactures equivalent to 26,000,000 men represents a population of 180,000,000.

Points About Senators. The oldest senator, Mr. Pettus of Alabama. The youngest, Mr. Butler of North Carolina. The tallest, Mr. Allen of Nebraska. The shortest, Mr. Mason of Illinois. The handsomest, Mr. Aldrich of Rhode Island. The homeliest, Mr. Tillman of South Carolina. The most industrious, Mr. Cockrell, Mr. Cullom, Mr. Vest, Mr. Chandler. The wisest, Mr. Allison. The most learned, Mr. Hoar. The least learned, Mr. Hildreth of Idaho. The most influential, Mr. Allison. The most eloquent, Mr. Wolcott. The most popular, Mr. Jones of Nevada. The most unpopular, Mr. Pettigrew. The most frequent talker, Mr. Allen. The least frequent talker, Mr. Wetmore. The best debater, Mr. Frye. The richest, Mr. Clark of Montana. The poorest, several senators have nothing but their salaries. The best dresser, Mr. Depew. The poorest dresser, Mr. Mason.

AGE OF THE GULLIBLE. Simple Ways of Successfully Pulling the Legs of the Gullible. Cleveland Plain Dealer. This must be the gullible age. Bogus concerns of countless sorts flourish. Most barefaced promises are eagerly accepted. If it was not for the postoffice sleuths there is no telling where the craze for being hoodwinked would end. Think of it! Twenty thousand letters were received in Boston in two days, addressed to the maker of the notorious three-star ring gold boxes! Each of these communications is supposed to have been accompanied by 99 cents, the price of the precious humbug. Hundreds of thousands of these boxes were sold in the last three or four months and as the cost of manufacture is figured at from 2 to 4 cents the profit made is immense. The box was a circular bit of poplar wood, hollowed on one side to contain the three-star ring of annealed wire. A circular slip of annealed wire, which the accomplished maker claimed to be of Hindoo origin, were set forth certain rules for bringing out its full powers of luck insurance. That is all there was to it, and yet the brief advertisements of this duped-toy brought hundreds of thousands of dollars to its shrewd purveyor.

Perhaps the strangest thing about the humbug is the fact that many people actually seemed to think that the ginnerock brought them luck. Letters from these happy individuals have been published and there is no doubt they individually did a great deal to arouse a 99-cent amount of interest in other gulls. And now the postoffice authorities have stepped in and killed the goose that laid these golden eggs by charging the seller with using the mails to defraud, thus effectually smashing the business. But some fresh schemes along these same lines may be expected to crop up at any moment.

According to the popocratic organ the great result to be gained by Attorney General Smyth in his latest grandstand play against the railroads is to allow the Nebraska supreme court to put a stump speech into a judicial opinion before the case is appealed to the United States courts. In the interval, however, the people will continue to pay the freight, whereas if the great reform attorney general were anxious to get a decision that would be final and binding he would go to the United States court in the first instance and push the case in that court. But it is not a decision that he wants, otherwise he would have started six years ago rather than wait until the end of his term was in sight so that he might hand down the litigation as a bequest to his successor.

The appointment by Governor Poynter of J. J. O'Connor as a member of the pretender police commission alongside of William J. Broatch recall unpleasant recollections of the campaign of 1895, when Mr. O'Connor was the manager for Charles H. Brown in his mayoralty contest against this same Broatch, and during which Broatch could not find words vituperative enough to apply to Mr. O'Connor. The friends of Chairman Edmiston who oppose his aspirations to become chairman of the fusion populist national committee on the ground of his services at the head of the state committee

are informed by daily authorized spokesmen that he is equal to both jobs at once and has no intention of giving up one even though he gets the other. Did not the valiant populist chairman draw salary from the state as chief of inspector for years while bossing the state house machine? Surely the ability acquired by this double trapeze performance has fitted him for any duplex act on the program.

Kansas City seems to be afraid that Colonel Bryan will not grace the democratic national convention with his presence, although four years ago he not only went to Chicago, but went as a member of the Nebraska delegation. Perhaps this year he thinks the role of Cincinnati would be more effective and wishes to hear the news of his nomination while poring over a law brief in his office at Lincoln.

An Amusing Sovereign. Boston Globe. Fashionable England's love for the shambrock is enthusiastic, but oh, so sudden!

Also Looked After. Philadelphia Times. If it is true the American girl is growing taller, all the more reason for her being looked up to.

A Homecoming. Globe-Herald. As a commercial proposition Germany is striking itself a vicious blow in the vicinity of the shambrock industry, and the cast suspicion upon American meat products.

Cotton Follows Wheat. Indianapolis Courier. Nine-cent cotton and the fixed gold standard came in together. It is hard on the free coinage orators of four years ago, but then everything they said turned out the other way.

Regular Rabbit Drive. San Francisco Call. Recent reports from the Philippines are very clear evidence that the "war" has extended into a rabbit drive, with no exception to the municipal affairs in all the cities and towns, villages and school districts? The question of control of municipalities, instead of being settled by the people of the cities, will be taken into state politics.

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Tips for Foreign Visitors. Boston Herald. If you are going to Paris get vaccinated before you start. According to private letters the epidemic of smallpox prevails in an epidemic degree. There has been no statement of this fact through the foreign newspapers or by the news agencies. Even if it be true, there would be a disposition to keep quiet about it. It will be prudent to take precautions against this and, as far as possible, against other infectious and contagious which great miscellaneous gatherings of people from every quarter of the world are apt to contain and to propagate.

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POINTERS ON FUSION POLITICS.

North Platte Tribune (rep.): M. C. Harrington authorizes the rep. to announce that he will not be a candidate for the congressional nomination. His only political desire is to represent the Sixth congressional district in the democratic national convention at Kansas City.

Tobias Gazette (rep.): With over 25 cents per bushel and wheat a half dollar what ex-patriate on earth have any people to shout calmly. The farmers have plenty of cash and the merchants are and have been enjoying a good trade. Our prediction is that when the year 1900 closes the deathknell of populism will have been sounded and the parasite removed forever.

Pawnee Republican: The people of Nebraska are entitled to know what banks are favored with the deposit of \$200,000 of the permanent school fund. Someone is profiting by this vast fund of money lying idle. It should be put to work so as to earn something for the taxpayer. Come, farmers, be sure to see enlightened people and would like to be informed.

Grand Island Independent (rep.): The people of Norfolk have had an eye opener of what the promises of the reform party to regulate the railroads have amounted to. In its fight against discrimination it has not had the least help from the State Board of Transportation, which board finally did not even answer letters of inquiry and failed to appear at Norfolk at the time it promised to appear.

North Platte Tribune (rep.): The Lincoln Independent attempts to revive the long ago discarded doctrine that the fusion office should seek the men. That doctrine did not last through one campaign after being promulgated, and it was unpopular even during its brief life among the leaders of the populist party. The attempt to revive it is probably a sign of the official seeking crowd which controls the great reform forces of Nebraska.

Grand Island Journal (rep.): In Douglas county the democratic central committee decided to run the machine so that there would be no possible slip as to who shall be delegates to the national convention. No private or county convention is to be held. The central committee met and selected eighty-eight delegates to the state convention. Yet there are those who say that the democratic party is the party of the people. All the people have to do in the matter is to go to the polls and do as the boss says.

Superior Journal (rep.): Harlan county has brought forth another candidate for congressional honors among the fusionists and it is evident that Sutherland will have to make a hustle if he captures the nomination this year. We learn from reliable sources that the Hon. J. H. Heall, until this fall the judge of the district just west of us, is quietly but actively working for the honor. A. M. Shallenbarger of Alma was already an announced candidate for Sutherland's seat. The relations between the factions are liable to become strained before the convention is held.

Falls City Journal (rep.): The mask of deception is being gradually removed from the pretended reformers in this state and their true character revealed to the public. The state house is not large enough to hold so many factions and they are beginning to show their teeth and growl. Secretary Porter thinks he sees a chance to further his own schemes by belaboring some of his political allies. This sham reform has gone on for the last three or four years to the certain knowledge of Mr. Porter, but he has never seen fit to expose it until he thought it would work to his benefit. When rogues disagree honest people get their due.

Bloomington Echo (rep.): As usual Constantine J. Smyth, the reform attorney general, is attempting to work up some more political thunder by use of his party during the coming campaign. He has just brought suit in the supreme court against the Union Pacific, Missouri Pacific and Rock Island railroads for over \$1,500,000 for damages claimed by the violation of the maximum freight rate law. This same thing has been done over in the case against the Burlington, which was carried to the highest court in the land and decided against the state. The fondest hopes of the reform lawyer are that he can possibly foil a few voters at the election next fall, even if it does cost the state something to keep the case in the courts. If the smart young man who fills the office of attorney general is to bring action against the do-nothing Board of Transportation he would be doing the state a favor.

Norfolk News (rep.): Mr. Laws' statement that the Norfolk case makes him tired is a revelation that places the case in a recent light. It is a revelation that the Norfolk case makes Mr. Laws tired and Norfolk reproaches with the sentiment that Mr. Laws and his associates make the people of Norfolk tired, exceedingly. There is some talk of calling a public meeting and expressing a hearty sympathy for the position of Norfolk for Mr. Laws. He certainly deserves some consideration and it would afford needed relief to the people of this city to let them know they were in the same boat. Mr. Laws' duties are probably arduous, perhaps exceedingly so. Here he has held office for several years past and has assisted in trying—people believe he was trying—several cases. There are only three secretaries and a stenographer at a salary of \$1,500 per year to perform all these arduous tasks—and then for people to apply to their letters and information in regard to meetings! It is too much—too much! If the people of Norfolk and other like ignoramus drive Mr. Laws into an early grave by overwork they have only one course open to retrieve the great wrong they have done and that is to erect a monument of limestone to his memory on which shall be inscribed a suitable epitaph in glittering letters of asbestos.

North Platte Era (rep.): In selecting candidates for state officers this year the fusion forces should cast about with care and see to it that the ticket is made up of strong men of dignity, courage and judgment. They should also take into consideration a geographical distribution in the tickets made up. West Nebraska has for years been endeavoring to secure her rights in a just proportion of the state into representative and senatorial districts that a proper and just representation of our section of the country might be had. So far the effort has not been successful. West Nebraska will present the name of at least two men to the next fusion nominating convention and urge their nomination on the state ticket. H. G. Stewart of Scotts Bluff county is well known throughout the state as a man of strong personality, good judgment and of unswerving principle. He has represented West Nebraska in the state senate with honor, and there proved his powers as a man of the common people. Mr. Stewart will be before the convention as a candidate for secretary of state, an office that should be accorded by a man of ability and a backbone that cannot be broken by the horde of lobbyists who frequent the offices of the boards of which the secretary is a member. Mr. Stewart has a good command of language and makes a convincing argument on the stump. He should have the support of the entire convention. Another west Nebraska man whose name is well known among the educators of the entire state is Prof. A. Sotlyof of Grant. He is another of these rarely dignified characters that have won the admiration and respect of people, especially educators of the state, who have made his acquaintance and has already been urged by many to become a candidate for state superintendent of public instruction. Prof. Sotlyof is a capable well-organized man, who is worthy of our fullest support. The west end of the state should stand solidly together for candidates from this part of the state. These gentlemen are both populists—tried and true.

WITTY THE REPUBLICAN FOLD.

Holdrege Citizen: Republicans seem to be content of making gains over the fusion element that holds sway in this state. To do this a rattling good ticket must be put up that will command the support of all the republicans. The republicans have plenty of reason why they should not put up that kind of a ticket.

Cambridge Clarion: The republicans could safely turn to the leadership of Hon. John H. Mickey of Osceola. As a candidate for governor he would be nearly as any man in the state call in the entire strength of the party and would secure a following from all other parties. He is a successful, clean, honorable business man. Not a politician, but a man of the people and an old soldier, yet in the very prime of life.

Dakota City Eagle: The suggestion of the name of Hon. M. B. Reese for delegate to the republican national convention is one that the republican party should approve. Judge Reese is the man who ought to be a member of the supreme court instead of that scheming politician, Holcomb, and the republicans know it. This is an opportunity to show the world that Nebraska stands by her cleanest and best great men. By honoring Judge Reese in this way we are putting our sanction upon clean politics and upright personality. But whatever we do we do not want to send a trust attorney as a delegate.

Tremont Tribune: The senatorial question has been opened up with a good deal of earnestness by the republican party. In the ring and he has issued a manifesto in which he agrees to submit his candidacy to the people, fairly and squarely, and abide the results. There are evidences that Mr. Thompson regards it as a factor in the senatorial fight this year, if there is a republican legislature elected, regardless of what people may think of his campaign for the place when Hayward was chosen. He is not a quitter and as he can stand a stiff financial campaign he is evidently a force that must be reckoned with, especially since there are to be two senators chosen.

PERSONAL POINTERS. Editor Howe's lay sermons prove that a good paragrapher should stick to his quads. The whereabouts of Aguinaldo promise to become as mysterious as the habitat of Willie Tascott and Charley Row.

Editor-Preacher Sheldon is not built for the job. He permitted a rival publication to "steep" him on his own sermon. The South African war has not had an easy walking stage, American will have a chance to get acquainted with home affairs.

The Standard Oil company is now distributing among its shareholders a melon of \$20,000,000, making an extra dividend of 20 per share. Fifty tons of candy has been shipped to the army in the Philippines. That will prove more agreeable than the "traffy" dispensed in general orders.

The Boers are accused by the enemy of being slow and unprogressive, yet they "caught on" to Aguinaldo's capital moving plan with neatness and dispatch. According to the American Agriculturist, the produce of the United States for the last year was worth to the farmers over \$1,600,000,000 more than in either 1894, 1895 or 1896.

Lord Roberts' acknowledgment of "the help of God" in his dispatches indicates a firm belief in the saying that "the Lord is on the side of the heaviest battalions."

Senator Vest recently sent a newspaper clipping to the secretary to be read to the house. The latter got the wrong side of the clipping and instead of an editorial on the money question began: "Ridiculous! We are giving away the goods at half price." "The other side!" cried Mr. Vest.

That Chicago man who died in London left an estate valued at \$25,000,000 instead of \$50,000,000, which the British government gathered in \$1,000,000, or 18 per cent. No sympathy should be wasted on the heirs. An American who goes away from home to die deserves to have his estate confiscated.

A clause in the Pacific cable bill requiring the cable to be of American make brings forth the fact—or at least the statement—that such work cannot be quickly undertaken by any country without great trouble and expense. England has a practical monopoly of this industry since the laying of the transatlantic cable in 1857.

Boston takes good care of the families of firemen who die in the service of the city. The widow of a fireman killed while on duty recently has been granted an annuity of \$600 "as long as she remains unmarried." The "should she marry the pension will not be forfeited until her youngest child attains the age of 16.

The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston again saves its colors by a masterly retreat. The Boston Association will desist to have his estate confiscated.

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by the paragraphs. There is the dusky ex-queen of Hawaii knocking at the door of Uncle Sam's overflowing treasury for a pitance to freshen the number shades of widow's weeds. The royal state once here is now a sugar lump for your candy. The crown is denied. The traditional gallantry of a striped gentleman abruptly flies when Lil appears, not because he loves the chronicles queen less, but because he fears a few more of the tribe might appear in Sulu or thereabouts and lead him a merry dance in the future. For the present, therefore, the ex-queen must be content with small packages of good intentions.

More painful than the woe of the Hawaiian relief are the misfortunes trooping on the train of Lavinia Van Westervelt, Dempsy, queen of the Holland damns of New York. Queen Dempsy was crowned with royal ceremonies a few years ago, and exercised a charming spell over the modernized knickerbockers. Soon a royal coz slipped somewhere, and wheels began to whirl beneath her feet. The queen developed marked traits of real monarch. Her purse was not equal to the strain upon it. She extended her reach—expanded, as it were—and gathered in some property to which she had no claim. If Queen Dempsy was the real thing, such a fracture of the moral code would be applauded and fought for by her loyal subjects. But she had none to do her reverence and was rudely clapped into a common jail.

The death of Prof. Edward J. Phelps of Yale university brings to the surface a circumstantial story of how he lost the citizenship of the United States supreme court. Mr. Phelps served as minister to England during Cleveland's first term and took no pains to conceal his contempt for Fenwick and his followers, then agitating legislative independence for Ireland. When Chief Justice Waite died, in March, 1888, several aspirants for the succession urged their claims upon the president. Justice Field felt he was entitled to it, but he was not on friendly terms with Cleveland. Senator Edmunds urged the appointment of Phelps, and the suggestion was received favorably that Minister Phelps hastened home, expecting to secure the coveted prize. It was generally understood in Washington that he would be nominated. A day or two before an appointed meeting between Phelps and the president, Congressman Patrick Collins of Boston called on the White House, by invitation. Collins was reported to have dropped a few remarks about Phelps, and Cleveland wanted to hear them at first hand. Cleveland asked the Massachusetts man's opinion of Phelps and got it in these words: "Well, Mr. President, if you make the appointment I don't think it will be necessary to hold a democratic convention in St. Louis."

Mr. Cleveland asked for his reasons, and Collins replied that so bitter was the feeling of Irish-American voters toward Phelps that to make him chief justice would render it utterly impossible for Cleveland to be re-elected. Therefore he might as well not be nominated. A great light broke in on Grover's mind. Mr. Phelps called next day and was persuaded to return to London for another year, and Melville W. Fuller of Chicago was made chief justice.

LAUGHING GAS.

Detroit Journal: Certain nations seem liable to make themselves so hoarse with cheering Boer victories that they will be obliged to participate in the concert of Europe.

Chicago Record: "Harry, we didn't invite Isabel into our whist club."

Philadelphia Press: Tom: "The trouble with me is that I'm a bit hasty in my speech; I should weigh my words."

Chicago Post: "I thought your husband was going to give up smoking during Lent."

Indianapolis Journal: "Pa, what is the centennial season?"

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Mary," said the lady of the house, "you didn't put any salt in this beef."

Detroit Free Press: Brown—Yes, Jones married a rich wife, but he leads a dog's life.

Chicago Tribune: "Why blue you be in such a hurry, Mr. Allison?" said the young woman who the pale blue taffeta shirt waist.

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