

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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It is 1901. Happy New Year! Have you sworn off? If not, why not? The new-born century starts as a lusty infant.

The weather man is giving the new century a cold deal. If \$25,000 will not catch the Cudahy kidnapers, it is hardly likely that \$35,000 will.

Lord Kitchener's code word for "I regret to report" will answer just as well in the new century as in the old. Good morning, Mr. Legislature! The Bee wishes you a busy session and hopes your labors may be valuable to the state.

If the winds are tempered to the shorn lamb Nebraska popcrahs have a right to predict fair weather, with rising temperature.

It must be the same people who saw airships a few years ago who have visions of the Hon. Pat Crowe every time they round a sharp corner.

Spain will celebrate the coming of the new century by having a cabinet crisis. Such events are entirely too common in that country to fit the occasion.

Lord Kitchener regrets to report that it may take yet another Christmas to furnish that much sought dinner in celebration of the end of the Boer war.

Count Tolstoi is to write a new play called "The Resurrection." It is rumored that the plot is founded on the recent attempts to galvanize the democratic corpse.

The threasure controversies over the exact ending of the century is now a closed incident which will not be reopened until the twenty-first century heaves into sight.

If it is true that the mosquito is the recent who carries disease germs from victim to victim he should be promptly brought to account for damages under the law of common carriers.

Not knowing what else to do, China has accepted the joint note. To use a slang, yet forcible, expression, China discovered that it was up against it and simply had to come to time.

The legislature is receiving an endless amount of advice from the popocratic press. The advice is tendered free, and even at that would be expensive if followed.

Here's hoping that the twentieth century will prosper Uncle Sam as much as the nineteenth and if it would not discourage plans too much, there are a few wars that might be omitted.

"Farewell, a long farewell to all my greatness! Had I not served the people with half the zeal I have served my party I might have been elected for another term."—Laurel of the popocratic officeholder.

The powers should not be too confident that the diplomatic difficulties in China are ended because the emperor has agreed to the proposals of the powers. Before congratulating themselves they should discover what the Celestial has up his sleeve.

The announcement is made that the Belgian hare is to have representation among the departments of a new poultry paper. Unfortunately the publisher neglects to say whether the hare will be classed with the spurred fowls or with the web-feet.

Omaha makes a good start on the new year in the opening of the new Indian supply depot. It will be too long for most of us to wait and see what Omaha will be at the end of the twentieth century, but push and energy will work wonders in even one year.

THE LEGISLATURE. The Nebraska legislature which convenes at Lincoln today is destined to add a memorable chapter to the volume of the state's history. Meeting as it does on the edge of the new century, ushering in, as all confidently believe, a new era of growth and advancement for Nebraska and its people, this legislative body has tasks imposed upon it which, if conscientiously discharged, will largely shape the forward march on which the state is starting.

The election of two United States senators to represent Nebraska at Washington involves an important duty which has first call upon the legislature. To choose wisely and for the best interests of the people requires the exercise of unselfish judgment based upon a broad view of the qualifications of the various aspirants and the good they can accomplish if invested with that high honor.

Over and beyond the senatorial contest, the legislature has other important work, which has been already outlined, but which cannot be impressed upon its members too strongly or too often, even at the risk of repetition.

Under the constitution it becomes its duty to redistrict the state for congressional and legislative representation, and incidentally it may also reorganize the judicial districts. It is a matter of history that the legislature of 1891, which was to have made the apportionment under the census of 1890, failed to discharge that duty. The constitution expressly forbids the making of legislative apportionment except immediately following the taking of a national or state census. As no state census was taken in 1895, we still remain under the apportionment made thirteen years ago based on the state census of 1885.

Next in importance will be the revision of the revenue laws, either directly or through a commission such as has been resorted to in Iowa and other states. Our existing revenue system is a relic of the past, seriously defective in many important particulars.

The legislature will be called on also to provide for constitutional revision, either by amendments or a convention. All parties agree that the constitution of 1875 hampers the development of the state and prevents an efficient and economic administration of the various branches of state government.

The management of the different state institutions and the care and keeping of their inmates will take up their share of legislative attention. As the direct consequence of the new census will come the reconstruction of the laws providing for the government of counties and cities. And last, but not least, the patching up of holes that have been knocked into various important pieces of legislation by supreme court decisions, including irrigation, insurance, corporate regulation and labor reform.

With such a varied program, affecting so many and so diversified interests, the legislature just about to open is sure to signalize a noteworthy session.

CHINA'S ACCEPTANCE. The Chinese government has accepted the preliminary terms agreed on by the powers, simply instructing its plenipotentiaries to endeavor to get the best conditions possible, particularly as to the number of legation guards to be kept in Peking and the army posts along the line of railway. The powers will also be requested not to destroy the forts, but merely to dismantle them. It would seem from this that the imperial authorities had decided to drop some of the questions which had been presented to the powers, pending the opening of negotiations for a final settlement, doubtless with a view to avoiding further delay.

This indicates that the Chinese government is quite as anxious as any of the powers to put an end to the existing conditions and resume former relations with the civilized world. It is undoubtedly realized that the situation is full of danger and that this will only be intensified if the beginning of negotiations is put off by a prolonged controversy over preliminary terms. It is to be presumed that the Chinese plenipotentiaries, who should be fully aware of the sentiment of the powers, as of course they are of the feeling of their countrymen, have impressed upon the court the expediency of a prompt acceptance of the joint agreement, hoping to secure a modification of some of its terms after negotiations have been entered upon.

There is no doubt that this is the wiser course. Persistence of the Chinese government in asking explanations or modifications of the conditions preliminary to negotiations decided on by the powers and declared to be irrevocable might have led to new difficulties and embarrassments. Unquestionably some of the terms are harsh and severe. They are of a character that would not be imposed upon any civilized nation, and no such nation would tolerate them, whatever the odds against it. But the Chinese are not in position to effectively resist them and the judicious policy of the government is not to retard negotiations and to appeal to the sense of justice and the magnanimity of the powers.

What degree of success such an appeal will meet with is problematical, though it ought to be safe to assume that it will not be altogether fruitless. So far as the United States is concerned, while a party to the joint agreement it is most probable that it will be found ready to give proper consideration to any reasonable request that the Chinese government may make, particularly in view of the fact that our government was not in the first place favorable to some of the conditions which China desires shall be modified. An early beginning of negotiations for a final settlement now seems assured.

Mr. Cudahy offered what would appear to be not only an ample but a tempting reward for the apprehension of the criminals who stole his son and extorted a ransom for his return. The city has no power to give any. It is a matter of public interest that the criminals be overtaken by justice, and the

public should bear all reasonable expense in this connection. But common interest in the welfare of society ought to be enough incentive to secure to the police any information a citizen may be possessed of. It is the duty of every man to aid at all times in the prevention and detection of crime. He gets his reward then in the security that arises from a well ordered condition of society.

ACTIVITY OF THE BOERS. The Boers are showing increased activity and aggressiveness and seem to have more men in the field than a month or two ago and abundant resources. Last Saturday they captured an important British post, while their invasion of Cape Colony is unchecked, according to the latest advices. All the news from South Africa is of a nature to indicate that the British movements are ineffective, but Lord Kitchener is being outgeneraled at every point.

The Boer invasion of Cape Colony is designed to discourage revolt there on the part of Dutch sympathizers with the invaders, but as yet it appears to have had little effect. It is reported that the Cape Dutch show no inclination to rise, but on the contrary are tired of the war and desirous of peace. This, however, may not accurately represent the situation. The correspondent of the London Times at Capetown, in a recent dispatch, stated that the situation was really serious. He said that by insinuations, the publication of half-truths and the dissemination of fairy tales regarding the progress of the war and the conduct of British officers and troops, the ignorant section of the Dutch populace had been worked up to a state of mind that on occasion might prove dangerous to the peace of the colony.

He stated that the Dutch press and clergy, as well as the prisoners of war to whom permission had been granted to return to their homes on parole, were preaching a propaganda that promotes discontent and might provoke rebellion. The fact is that it is not alone the ignorant Cape Dutch who are opposed to British policy toward the Boers, but a great many of the most intelligent people in the colony entertain that feeling, as shown by the resolutions which were a short time ago presented to Sir Alfred Milner by a committee of the congress of Boer sympathizers, which demanded of the British government the independence of the Orange River State and the Transvaal. That congress was composed of some of the most intelligent element of the people, if not a majority. The truth undoubtedly is that most of the Cape Dutch are in full sympathy with their kindred people in arms against the British and it is the realization of the hopelessness of the struggle against overwhelming odds that restrains them from revolt. How well the British authorities realize the danger of the situation is shown in the fact of the arrest of a member of the Cape Colony cabinet, on the charge of delivering a seditious speech, which it is said is the commencement of a series of arrests, "heralding a wide extension of martial law." Meanwhile London newspapers are urging the government to send large reinforcements to South Africa, a demand which it will be somewhat difficult to comply with.

Notice has been served on General James B. Weaver that Iowa democracy does not desire his assistance or company in the future. Weaver has flirted with every political party which had an existence since he was old enough to be in politics and after years of effort finds himself a political grasshopper. If Iowa democrats think they can suppress Weaver thus easily they are likely to be disappointed.

Nebraska people will now be regaled with the messages of the outgoing and incoming governors, each endeavoring to assist the legislature with inside tips on desirable legislation. Incidentally, of course, Governor Poynter will throw a few bequests at his own administration, to which the public, in his estimation, has failed to accord proper appreciation as evidenced by its refusal to endorse him for a second term.

It is rumored that the German kaiser may visit the United States this year. If he will only visit this section we will convince him that South Omaha meats are the best in the world, and there are any number of lusting rural estate agents who would be willing to sell him a good Nebraska farm, the best of all earthly treasures.

Having achieved his reputation and success as the man who introduced American methods into British journalism, the editor of the esteemed London Mail has undertaken on his visit to this country to take charge of an issue of a New York daily just to show us what American newspaper methods are.

As the judges of the district court meet today to make the annual assignment of dockets, the World-Herald should make sure its telephone is in working order to receive the message inquiring as to its precise wishes in the matter.

Hubbing It In. Indianapolis Press. The vitality of the heart's action is said to depend on the salt that is in the blood. And we have to buy from the salt trust, too!

A Simultaneous Affair. Baltimore American. The only trouble about Mr. Harmsworth's ideal simultaneous newspaper is that it might have a simultaneous success, and the public would simultaneously suffer.

Gold Mines Cost Big Money. Buffalo Express. The cost of the Boer war to date has been nearly \$500,000,000 and the bill is still growing. Those tempting gold mines are proving the most expensive property England ever sought to acquire dominion over.

Age of Hunting Progress. New York World. The age is progressive, productive, materialistic. It aims not at the ideal, but at the practical; not at the highest development of the few, but at the highest happiness of the greatest number. Its object is the welfare of the average man and it

naturally desires that he shall get the benefit of his exertions before he dies. Therefore the age "gets a move on" and preaches the gospel of "hustle." The result is beneficial to the average man—to the greatest number.

Duplexing Telephone Wires. Philadelphia Ledger. One of the last discoveries of the closing century is a method of duplexing telephone wires, so that conversation may be carried on with two persons simultaneously. It is a little difficult to see how it can be made useful, since the two sounds must interfere with each other, but it may be made available for sending messages to different points at the same time.

The Sprint of Panderburg. Philadelphia North American. General Cronje and the 2,000 Boer prisoners at St. Helena refuse to admit that the country has been subdued by the British and decline to purchase freedom with oaths of allegiance to England, although they are suffering from scurvy and are in a generally miserable plight. People of that fibre are not easily conquered, and England may yet be glad to make terms with them.

Christian Methods in China. Indianapolis Press. In the whole Chinese business, from the beginning, the American government has been the only one that has stood out for anything like Christian treatment of China and the Chinese. The hateful ingenuity and the heartless hoggishness of the terms of the present treaty, which the Christian powers seem to indicate that the powers have been influenced as little by American efforts toward leniency as by the sweet and merciful spirit of Christian love.

Care of the Unfortunate. Kansas City Star. The country is becoming enormously rich. The accumulation of wealth, even in individual cases, now reaches into the billions. The public resources are unexplored and there is a successful effort to keep the poor from the hands of the state. The fact is that it is not alone the ignorant Cape Dutch who are opposed to British policy toward the Boers, but a great many of the most intelligent people in the colony entertain that feeling, as shown by the resolutions which were a short time ago presented to Sir Alfred Milner by a committee of the congress of Boer sympathizers, which demanded of the British government the independence of the Orange River State and the Transvaal. That congress was composed of some of the most intelligent element of the people, if not a majority. The truth undoubtedly is that most of the Cape Dutch are in full sympathy with their kindred people in arms against the British and it is the realization of the hopelessness of the struggle against overwhelming odds that restrains them from revolt. How well the British authorities realize the danger of the situation is shown in the fact of the arrest of a member of the Cape Colony cabinet, on the charge of delivering a seditious speech, which it is said is the commencement of a series of arrests, "heralding a wide extension of martial law." Meanwhile London newspapers are urging the government to send large reinforcements to South Africa, a demand which it will be somewhat difficult to comply with.

OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD. National Wrenthout of the Changes. San Francisco Call. Explorations made through the files of old newspapers for the purpose of discovering something in the way of information about the mental attitude of the people of this country at the beginning of the century resulted in bringing to light, among other curious items, these lines, published in the Boston Centinel of April 12, 1800:

France fights all. Britain pays all. Russia thunders all. Prussia humbly asks all. Spain is nearly plundered by all. Germany thinks itself all in all. And, last destruction should be upon all. May heaven have mercy upon us all. Amen.

That is the way the world looked to a new-born man when the century began. And looking back upon it from this distance we can perceive that the view was essentially accurate. There could be no doubt about France fighting all. It was evident even in the thunder of Napoleon's guns. Already the legions of his restless armies all over Europe. Britain was paying for all was a matter of common fame. Her money was poured out like water to raise and equip armies to crush the native and the foreign. Russia's threatening and gratifyingly then as it is now, but none the less the threat was there. Prussia in 1800 was humbugging herself more than any one else, as we know, since the weakness of her show of military might was not so great as later at Jena, but of course that she could not foresee that astounding battle that crushed a nation at a single blow. Switzerland was not being plundered except in those days, but Napoleon was taking almost everything he could get his hands on. Spain was actually doing nothing in any line of endeavor either of peace or war in that year, but she had to rouse herself a little later. Just why the "German" of that time was not so respected of thinking itself "all in all" is not clear. It had been overrun by Napoleon and had nothing to boast of in war, but probably the Boston man referred to his high intellectual pretensions in the domain of the mind and literature, and generally, the spoliation of the United States by all was indisputable. Both the British and the French deemed our commerce and everything else they could lay their hands on to be the right prey. In the end we had to fight the British to protect our sailors from being dragged off our ships upon the high seas whenever the British chose.

In that year the population of the nation was estimated to have stood thus: Russia 25,140,000 France 27,720,000 Germany 32,330,000 Austria 21,230,000 United Kingdom 15,570,000 Italy 12,280,000 Spain 10,440,000 United States 5,210,000

Since those days the world has changed. France no longer fights, Britain is not paying for all, and, in fact, has come to us to get help for her own war bill. Prussia has been swallowed up in Germany and has no longer any international importance. Switzerland is not being plundered. The United States is not being spoiled. In one word, the world has been no change. Spain is still "doing nothing."

At the present time the population of the powers is estimated as follows: Russia 130,896,628 United States 76,295,229 Italy 35,000,000 Austria-Hungary 42,850,904 Great Britain 40,569,954 France 38,517,975 Spain 31,060,000

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FREE ADVICE TO LEGISLATORS.

Ord Quill: If it be true that there is no adequate punishment in Nebraska's criminal code for the crime of kidnaping the coming legislature had better pass a law with an emergency clause attached. These prospective times are making millionaires of us all and we are all interested in the subject of kidnaping.

Pender Times: The Times believes that every state and county officer should give a guaranty bond and that the state or county should pay the premium on the same. Personal bonds have generally proven no good. The sureties generally get rid of their property and the state or county either holds the sack or has to compromise the matter.

Alliance Times: Give us a change in our assessment laws or give us death. The chaps with heads of money or property that escape taxation or are assessed so low that they are really exempt from their in-lining long enough. Let the legislature straighten out this matter or be prepared to have trouble when it turns itself loose on the community after having finished talking to the galleries.

Auburn Post: The people of Nebraska are going to demand something more of their legislators this winter than merely the election of two United States senators. The long drawn out contest of two years ago disgusted everyone. The choice will have to be settled in caucus finally and the sooner a caucus is held after a reasonable time allowed for each candidate to show his strength and the contest decided the better pleased everyone will be.

Auburn Granger: The state barbers' board, the board of state barbers, the barbers' board of state, or the board of barbers' state, or whatever it may be, should be reorganized and the law should be so amended that it should be discharged, as said law is very unpopular with the barbers who were anxious for its passage, hoping it would lessen the number of barbers and make less competition. But the law, which is now in effect, is a normal school, simply proves to be good for the fees that make up the salary of the members of the board.

Kearney Hub: Already it is evident that the usual number of state normal school projects will be before the next legislature. They are the regular thing at every session and nothing ever comes of them. There is a normal school at Peru, sustained by the state, long ago covered by moss and its existence unheard of by a majority of the people of the state. The sensible thing would be to abandon the old site, re-establish a state normal school at some central location (say Kearney) and remove furniture and fixtures into it. One normal school is sufficient.

Hastings Tribune: The legislature should make some improvements on Nebraska game laws. A bill should be passed prohibiting the killing of all game birds, except such birds as migrate, for a term of five years. If such a law were in force for a given number of years there certainly would be an abundance of game in this state ever after. The quail and prairie chicken do more to exterminate the grasshopper than all the other birds put together, besides they are constantly foraging for insects of all kinds and are the best friends the farmers have.

Schuyler Quill: One of the duties of the Nebraska legislature will be to provide for a board of transportation, to be elected by the people, with power to regulate transportation questions. And a penalty should be fixed to punish any member of the board who might neglect his duty. That we need a commission which will take some action is illustrated best by a little object lesson which has come to the notice of the Quill. A resident of St. Paul, Minn., has recently received a piano from an Iowa town 250 miles from Council Bluffs. The freight on an Iowa road that distance amounted to \$3.50. The freight on the piano from Council Bluffs to St. Paul, seventy-nine miles, was \$2.80, or within 78 cents of what it cost to ship it 250 miles in Iowa. Is it any wonder that Nebraska complains of exorbitant freight rates?

Plattsmouth Journal: Kidnaping is a subject likely to engage the attention of the coming session of every state assembly in the union. The criminal code of today does not propose to be caught with a deficient effort. The general assembly will be asked in January to make kidnaping a crime punishable by death. This is of course extreme. The present law in Illinois prescribes a penalty of five years' imprisonment, or a fine of \$1,000, or both, except in case of children under 12 years of age, when life imprisonment may be the penalty.

San Francisco Call: American life has hitherto been free and easy for all classes. Our presidents have not had to go abroad attended by guards, and the children of our rich millionaires have been able to go about the streets for a boy's wardrobe and to visit the parks and playgrounds with as much freedom from danger as the children of ordinary citizens. If abduction goes unpunished, however, there will soon be little safety for the child of a rich man unless he be guarded every step of the way home. To treat kidnapers leniently will be in the future as foolish as it would be to treat lightly a man who should assault the president. With the increase of our population we have developed many of the criminal tendencies of the old world, and we must guard against them with all the force and vigor of American law.

PERSONAL NOTES. To steal Lord Methuen's Christmas presents was the unkindest cut of all, on the part of the Boers.

The Cramps are wise men. They want half a million from Abdul Hamid before taking his measure for a new wardrobe.

Among the notables who will attend the inauguration ceremonies in Washington next March will be Earl Minto, governor general of Canada, sometimes profanely referred to as "peppermints" because of his somewhat abrupt manner.

Chicago, among them the Armours and Mrs. Edmond Blaine, are much concerned because of the Cudahy kidnaping and are keeping close watch over their children. In some cases extra men servants have been employed as guards.

Congressman Roberts, in connection with his work as a committee man, recently discovered a forgotten room in the capitol back of Statuary hall. It was full of old books, and during the civil war was used as a hospital for years to come. This room was discovered, just as they were left over thirty years ago. A soldier's coat, full of dust and moth-eaten, hung on the gas jet.

No session of the legislature that has met in this state in the last twenty years has had so many important duties to perform as the one which assembles next Tuesday at Lincoln. Its work will leave its impress on the state for years to come. This imposes the necessity on each and every member of the majority party to see that his work is ably, fearlessly and conscientiously done. It should promptly elect two true republican members to the board of state barbers and amend the law which provides for the revision of the revenue law, redistrict the state into legislative and senatorial districts on a fair basis, based on the recent census, provide a system to uniformly control and conduct the state institutions similar to the Iowa Board of Control which is working so satisfactorily in our sister state, provide for the State university's rapidly growing needs commensurate with the interests of the most progressive state in the union, pass the needed appropriation laws and amend the ballot law so that bungling in voting is practically done away with, provide suitable relief for the supreme court and then adjourn. We believe if these matters are given the proper attention that the state will be content to lodge control of public affairs again in the hands of the republican party and this great commonwealth will go on to unprecedented prestige and prosperity, guarded soon again by the light of populism.

SECOND TO NONE IN ABILITY