

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Circulation. Rows include 1900, 1901, and 1902.

Net total sales, 830,000; Net total average, 26,770.

GEO. B. TSCHEUCK, Secretary of The Bee Publishing Company.

Drop a penny in the fusion newspaper slot and get one of the finest senatorial pipe dreams ever offered to the public.

After the investigating committee gets through with it, the holdup lobby at Lincoln will probably appreciate how it feels to be held up.

A word to South Omaha—Profit by Omaha's past experience and do not build a charter for a city of 25,000 people out on a 50,000 population pattern.

Omaha is ready to provide headquarters for the Southern Pacific and for that matter for any other railroad that may be willing to operate out of this city.

The queen of Holland paid all of the expenses of the wedding and also allowed her husband a fat dowry. This is fully as good a thing, financially, as marrying an American hearse.

Nebraska farmers and stock raisers are sincerely thankful for the snow, which comes just at the right time. Watch for a bumper wheat crop when Nebraska's next harvest is in.

A railroad company proposes to dam the Platte river near Schuyler. The people along the stream have damned it for years, but the exercise has had no effect in improving its habits.

Colorado's senate has extended Colonel Roosevelt an invitation to address that body before he returns east. Colorado is anxious to make some amends for the rowdiness shown at Victor last summer.

The latest proposition for a combination is for a combination of Auditorium and Ak-Sar-Ban. If the union is pronounced, however, it must be for all time to come without recourse to the divorce mill.

As intimated in The Bee, the legislature is not disposed to impose capital punishment as a penalty for kidnaping. Tendency of the time is toward reducing the number of capital offenses rather than increasing them.

Helen Keller, without sense of sight, hearing or speech, has just received a high promotion at an eastern college because of her proficiency in English. If Helen had all her senses what would she be—a wonder or an ordinary girl?

The Nebraska blizzards which have been raging in the eastern papers are fearful to contemplate. As nothing of the kind approached nearer than 500 miles of Nebraska, the people of this state are feeling quite comfortable.

Iowa republicans are talking of getting together and acting harmoniously in the coming campaign. If there was any lack of harmony last fall curious people would like to see just how big a majority the republicans have when they get together.

The love of the fusion reformers for union labor, so ardently professed when every campaign is on, always breaks when subjected to the test of legislation demanded in the interest of union labor. The labor people should mark down for future reference the defeat of the union label bill at the hands of fusion opponents.

The wings of the holdup artists around the legislature have been clipped by the exposures in the house. The showing will probably also have the effect of killing many meritorious measures, as from now on all an opponent of a bill will have to do will be to cry "holdup," and the fatal stab has been given.

Had that bill for a branch mint at Omaha been reported by the house committee during the long session of congress the chances would have been good for its passage. As it is, only three weeks remain to get it through both house and senate. It is to be hoped it has not been reported back, as usual with so many bills, simply to compel some member, and die on the bill file at the expiration of the session.

CUBA'S FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS.

The debts of Cuba are said to be a source of some embarrassment to the Washington administration in connection with the question of recognizing the independence of the island. The government of Spain issued interest-bearing bonds to the amount of hundreds of millions of dollars to pay the expense of suppressing insurrection in Cuba. The interest and principal of which made a lien upon the revenues of the island. These bonds are largely held in France, Spain and Germany and the bondholders made efforts while the peace treaty was being negotiated at Paris to have the United States make provision for the payment of that debt. They have not yet given up hope of obtaining something, agents of the bondholders having endeavored to secure recognition of the obligations by the Cuban republic in the new constitution.

Referring to this debt incurred by the Spanish government, Senator Fry, who was a member of the peace commission, said a few days ago that we owe it to Cuba to get into the constitution by some means a clause plainly, positively and unequivocally repudiating that debt. "If this is not done," said Mr. Fry, "Cuba will start with a burden that will crush her. Cuba never can pay the stupendous sum that was assessed against her revenues." Apparently the Cuban constitution does not repudiate this debt, the twenty-third section of that instrument declaring that the republic of Cuba does not recognize nor will recognize any debts or compromises contracted prior to the promulgation of the constitution, exception being made of the debts and compromises legitimately contracted for in behalf of the revolution and those which the revolutionary governments contracted, either by themselves or by their legitimate representatives in foreign countries. These debts and compromises, it is further provided, shall be classified by the Cuban congress, which body shall decide as to the payment of those which in its judgment are legitimate. It is said that this provision would be approved by the Washington administration, the president feeling that those who contributed money to the support of the revolutionary army should receive just treatment by the Cuban republic.

Certainly none but the holders of the bonded debt which Spain fastened upon the revenues of Cuba just before Spanish sovereignty in the island was destroyed will question that the Cuban people are not under the least obligation to recognize this debt, contracted to maintain Spanish rule in the island. It is entirely an obligation of Spain and the holders of the bonds, for which they paid a small fraction of the face value, must look solely to the Spanish government for their payment. Undoubtedly the United States will sustain Cuba in refusing to recognize this debt should an attempt be made to exact payment. In regard to the debts contracted in behalf of the revolution, however, and the financial indebtedness to the United States, it is expected, and reasonably so, that provision will be made for their payment. The purpose to do this is implied in the section of the constitution above referred to, but it is possible that our government may ask a more explicit declaration. We do not believe there is any disposition at Washington to place any obstacle in the way of Cuban independence or to put any excessive financial burden upon the new republic, but simply to see that Cuba shall start right as an independent commonwealth and take her place honorably among the republics of the world.

NO WORD ABOUT THE TREATY. Nothing has yet been heard at the Department of State indicative of the purposes of the British government respecting the amended Hay-Pauncefote treaty. But little more than three weeks remain within which Great Britain can answer the American proposals. The supplementary amendments extending the time for exchange of ratifications carried it to March 5, so that no matter, says a Washington dispatch, though the senate be in session after the 5th, the treaty falls if not disposed of by that date. It is pointed out that if Great Britain objects to the proposed amendments and the senate neither withdraws its recommendations nor proposes others which are objectionable within the next four weeks, or if Great Britain ignores the matter altogether till after March 5, that ends the whole business.

It is suggested as possible that the senate may, in executive session, request the secretary of state to try to obtain further extension of time, but as the British government fully understands the situation it would seem safe to assume that it will announce its decision before the expiration of the time specified in the treaty. Parliament will assemble next week and it is quite probable that the British government will soon thereafter make known its position regarding the treaty.

MONEY IN CIRCULATION. The democratic assertion that the gold standard would reduce the amount of money in circulation appears ludicrous in the light of the actual facts. The circulation statement for February 1 shows an increase in every form of currency during twelve months, with the exception of the treasury notes, the per capita being \$28.38, the largest in the history of the country. On July 1, 1892, the per capita was \$24.60. At the end of the Cleveland administration the circulation had decreased to \$21.24 per capita. It rapidly increased when the gold standard was made certain by the election of McKinley and reached \$25.19 on July 1, 1898; \$25.62 on July 1, 1899; \$26.94 on July 1, 1900, and has now reached \$28.38.

The general stock of money in the United States on February 1 aggregated \$2,490,117,000, while the amount in circulation was \$2,190,780,213. The net increase in the last twelve months was \$187,336,788. The total amount of money held in the treasury as assets of the government increased something over \$5,000,000, there was an increase of

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