

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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Net total sales, 26,774. GEO. B. TSCHUCK, Notary Public.

Chicago's reception of the Nation army was like the water the leader advocates—cold.

The industrial exposition will have an exhibit of hatchets for all nations except Carri—she already has a plentiful supply.

City Treasurer Hennings means business, so have your money ready when his van calls. He will collect, you may be sure.

Dave Hill still insists he is a democrat, but has gone into his hole for a time until he decides what kind of a democrat.

The Omaha delegation in congress has another chance to show what it can do. It must head off the effort to rob Omaha to aid Sioux City and St. Paul.

Now that the flurry is over, some of those who inveighed so loudly against the 34-mill levy might aid the city a little by settling for what they owe on previous levies.

If the Spanish people propose to make such a fuss about the marriage of the Princess Asturias to Prince Charles of Bourbon the young couple might elope. Missouri is still a haven where marriage is easy.

Minnesota and Sioux City influences have a nice deal, for themselves, fixed up in the arrangement of the internal revenue districts. Perhaps it might not be a bad idea to consult the interested parties before carving up the district.

Governor Shaw's announcement that he will not ask a third term is bringing out a nice lot of carelessly cherished gubernatorial booms. There is nothing to indicate that the office will be allowed to go vacant for want of competition.

The present state officers are making a commendable effort to invest the school money which has been lying idle in the treasury. The policy will materially increase the income of the schools of the state instead of the revenue of favored bankers.

Men who followed Abraham Lincoln in 1861 must get lots of satisfaction out of the spectacle of Altgeld, Bryan, Towne, Pettigrew and that ilk burning incense at the shrine of the great liberator and claiming him as a democrat. The sight is about as disgusting as any politics ever presented.

What are all the deputy county attorneys doing? There is no important criminal or civil litigation in which the county is interested, yet the city jail is full of prisoners whose cases are waiting attention at the hands of these legal ornaments. Why don't they try to earn the salaries of the counties pay?

The disinterested efforts of the Minnesota people to detach the Dakotas from the Nebraska internal revenue district to add them to Minnesota will probably be appreciated at their real value. Some of those Minnesota men are amusing at times, and the funny ones did not all retire from congress when Towne left.

Mr. Bryan has been heard from, and he hadn't been thinking, either. He garnished his speech at Columbus with gems from his harangues of last summer, and paraded both the Money Devil and the Military Demon. It had been hoped that in the seclusion of his sanctum Editor Bryan had been enabled to clear his mental vision of the fog raised by Candidate Bryan, but in vain. He is still seeing things.

United States consuls abroad report that foreigners are about to try the experiment of adopting American methods and machinery in order to head off the growing export trade of this country. By the time they get the machinery installed some inventive Yankee will have designed something better. The United States has gained a lap in the commercial race and does not propose to go to sleep and lose it.

CUBA'S DEPENDENCE.

That Cuba is dependent upon the United States for its industrial and commercial development is beyond question and the fact is recognized by the more intelligent and practical of the Cuban people. They know that command of the American market is necessary to the future prosperity of the island. The nearer akin the Cuban commercial relations to the United States are to free trade the better for Cuba. The Cuban planter is now knocking at the door of congress for a reduction of 50 per cent of the duty on Cuban sugar. With Porto Rico and Hawaii a part of the United States the Cuban planter realizes that unless a liberal concession is made to him the chief source of wealth of the island will never be revived.

Mr. Robert P. Porter, who has made a thorough study of industrial conditions in Cuba, points out, by way of showing the unfortunate situation of the island from a sugar-producing standpoint, that while the crop in 1895 yielded \$72,000,000 it fell to \$15,000,000 in the following year. Cuba may again grow even larger crops than it has grown, remarks Mr. Porter, but it will be under such severe competition with Germany and other European beet-producing countries that unless closely allied to the United States it will have to struggle for its very existence and it will be a case of the survival of the fittest. The European producers having come to the conclusion that they need not fear any longer the Cuban competition and with Cuba absolutely separated from the United States feel they will have equal advantage in our market, they have accordingly augmented their output. The production of beet sugar in Europe last year exceeded that of the previous year by more than half a million metric tons. This increase was not far from twice the average Cuban crops during the last five years.

Mr. Porter holds, and we think his view correct, that Cuba can only be placed in a prosperous economical condition by a treaty or convention with the United States that will give her planters an advantage almost equivalent to that given Porto Rico. Existing tariffs give Cuba no advantage in our markets, nor the United States any advantage in the Cuban market. In order to establish closer commercial relations, however, it is necessary that the Cubans shall make concessions, of a political nature, to the United States. The Cubans cannot reasonably expect the United States to give up additional revenue and to establish closer commercial relations with them than with any other country unless they shall accord to the United States such conditions as may be deemed essential to the protection of its interests and to the maintenance of good government in Cuba. The United States having assumed before the world responsibility for the future good government of Cuba certainly has the right to ask some guarantees in recognition of this responsibility.

A considerable number of the Cuban people already understand this and it is not to be doubted that more of them will do so as the fact of their industrial and commercial dependence upon the United States is better and more generally comprehended.

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

Senator Chandler has introduced in the United States senate a bill to prohibit corporations from making money contributions in connection with political elections. It provides that it shall be unlawful for any national bank, or any corporation engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, or any corporation organized by authority of any laws of congress, to make a money contribution in connection with any election to any political office. It further provides that it shall be unlawful for any corporation whatever to make a money contribution in connection with any election at which a representative in congress is to be voted for or with any election or attempted election of a United States senator. The penalty for violating these provisions is a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

The measure is not likely to become a law, at least at the present session of congress, but unquestionably a law of this kind, if it could be enforced, would have a wholesome effect. Possibly there is an exaggerated idea as to the amount of money contributed by corporations in connection with political elections, but it will be very generally admitted that the political activity and the political contributions of the corporations, which have been steadily growing in recent years, is not good for the country and ought to be checked, if it is possible to do so. The principle of the Chandler bill is sound, but it is to be apprehended that there are too many friends of the corporations in congress to permit the measure to become law.

MAJOR MOORES ON THE BUDGET.

Mayor Moore's letter to the council was not intended for the enlightenment of that body. The members of the council are supposed to be familiar with the details of the city administration and its affairs. It was the taxpayers of Omaha whom the mayor was addressing, and to them The Bee comments that message. It is worthy of careful perusal by all.

In his message Mayor Moore gives consideration to all the objections raised against the tax levy decided upon, and reasons for asking the amounts fixed. He explains the care with which he examined the budget in company with a committee of business men, and cites the instances in which reductions were proposed with the arguments advanced in support of the reduction. After the entire budget had been examined item by item, the committee was content with suggesting that but \$54,000 be cut off. This would amount to a total reduction in the levy of but about one mill and a half, which is certainly infinitesimal when compared to the amount of noise that has been made in regard to it. To accomplish this reduction the committee urged the issuance of \$20,000 in refunding bonds to take care of that sum by which it was proposed to curtail the levy for sinking fund purposes.

ANOTHER SLAM AT BRYAN.

The subscription list and good will of the suspended Diaro newspaper in Manila should be turned over to the Commener.

OMAHA'S LABOR OF LOVE.

The way those Omaha papers are advising St. Louis to be at the science of building and running an exposition must be galling to the town at the west end of the big bridge.

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

The outlook over the field of political and social activity today reveals a quiet recuperation in progress in both spheres. The time for a sort of readjustment of forces going forward, an activity on lines not directly connected with any issue now at the front, a questioning of our recent past and of our prospective immediate future to see if we are not somewhat astray, now, if at first sight this does not seem to be such a serious matter, it will be seen after a little reflection that it is as cloying as the gastronomic feast of the thirty quails, and that, too, though it means giving instead of consuming. Mr. Carnegie's mind must be come full to repletion with the very thought of charity. When he awakens in the morning the puzzle of the next \$50,000 he immediately asserts itself, and though the list of willing recipients is large enough there is a certain hesitancy. Now, when it is paid to wealth, we are fast coming to have the real thing, as he sees it, without the nominal form, and the foundations of our democracy are being undermined.

ALASKAN PRECEDENTS.

In annexing and governing Alaska the United States had to solve similar problems to those that are found so troublesome in the case of the Philippines. But the republic easily disposed of the Alaskan task on the lines suggested by national welfare, with only secondary consideration for the Alaskans and their interests, and the colonial spirit pursued, neither to have disturbed the national conscience nor jarred the constitution.

AS TO CURRENCY LEGISLATION.

The outlook for legislation at this session of congress to strengthen and improve the monetary system of the country appears not to be very bright, though those who are urging such legislation are not abating their efforts to secure action on the measures that have been introduced. These are the bill of Representative Overstreet, which provides for the exchangeability of silver and gold, and the bill of Representative Lovering, providing for a small proportion of credit currency to be issued by the banks.

The first of these measures would pass the house readily if a day were assigned by the committee on rules. Republicans are practically united in support of it and the only point raised among the leaders is whether it is worth while to pass the bill if it will not be considered in the senate. The congestion of business in that body is the argument made against action in either house. It is practically certain that there will be no action on the other bill at this session.

Secretary Gage is strongly in favor of the plan proposed in the Lovering bill for giving the currency more elasticity. He said in a late interview that while the country at present is very well supplied with currency, its distribution is uneven and the recent increase under the refunding law has very little relation to the needs of business. It is not so much a question of the supply of currency, said the secretary of the treasury, as the lack of elasticity in the present system. This is getting to be better understood and there is consequently a growing sentiment in favor of allowing the banks to issue a moderate amount of credit currency.

There is no absolutely urgent necessity for the proposed financial legislation, but it would be well to dispose of it at this session.

The postal savings bank of England is taking the major portion of the new British loan. In other words, the wage-earners of England are furnishing the money and will draw the interest. The same condition exists in large measure in the United States regarding the ownership of securities of this class, known as gilt-edged. They are not held by postal savings banks because there are no such institutions, but the savings banks, trust companies and like corporations which handle the savings of others own most of such securities. The "bloated bondholders and capitalists" who own the great majority of the best investments are not the millionaires, but the small investors and those who have their savings in trust. The man who raises the class cry is striking at those whom he pretends to sympathize with.

The retail lumber dealers who are now in session in Omaha find business in their district to be good. They have the customary complaint to make against the manufacturers and jobbers, but this grows out of the natural operation of trade, and will be adjusted by the lumbermen themselves. The bright feature of their meeting is that the affairs of the association are prosperous and the membership is increasing, while each of the individual members reports that his business is growing and remunerative. In this the lumbermen are in line with business in general, and the promise of the past is being redeemed in the cash of the present.

A battalion of Porto Rican troops will participate in the inaugural parade March 4. Contrary to the belief of the opponents of the administration, they will not be dragged at the chariot wheels of the president, but will be entertained on the fat of the land and sent home to tell their fellow islanders how fortunate Porto Rico has been to fall under American rule.

The Chinese emperor has informed the men marked for execution by the foreign envoys that they can have their choice of methods of suicide and express confidence that this will prove satisfactory to the men concerned. This is certainly liberal and it would be a hard-hearted Chinaman who would not do this much to help his emperor out of a tight place.

AN ICE AG.

Chicago is advertising fresh, northwesterly winds, right off the ice.

CALL FOR AN INTERSTATE SIPHER.

Too much whiskey in Kansas and too much water in California. Why can't these states get together on a reasonable average?

ANOTHER LETHALISM CONTAMPERARY.

Editor J. Sterling Morton has reminded Editor Bryan that the Conservative is still

CARNEGIE'S SELF-SET TASK.

Baltimore Sun: Mr. Carnegie's alleged determination to spend \$1,000,000 a month endowing libraries and such things will get a number of cities to wondering whether the lightning is to strike them.

Chicago Chronicle: As it is traditionally improper to look a gift horse in the mouth, so it would be ungracious to record the proposed munificence of Mr. Andrew Carnegie with anything save commendation. A man who purposes to spend \$1,000,000 a month in endowing libraries and other public institutions cannot be regarded other than as a public benefactor. In such a light he should be regarded by posterity. His hopes from the high standard of democracy which he professes are offset in part, at least, by the great good which he is undoubtedly doing to his fellow men.

Chicago Herald: In fact, there must be a terrible struggle with the interest alone. For it is calculated that the philanthropist's income will be \$15,000,000 annually, and if we knock off sixty odd days in the year for Sundays and holidays that \$15,000,000 must be disposed of in 300 days, or at the rate of large measure upon whether he had any reason to suppose that the feelings which he expressed would be made public. That there was a due and sufficient cause for those feelings no one who is not incapacitated by prejudice from rendering an impartial judgment will be disposed to deny. During his administration of the government at Manila General Otis saw fit to take strong ground upon the Chinese question. He was opposed to allowing the Chinese to enter the Philippine islands. He was in favor of large measure upon whether he had any reason to suppose that the feelings which he expressed would be made public. 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