

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily (without Sunday), One Year, \$5.00.

OFFICES: Omaha - The Bee Building, 207 North Omaha street.

CORRESPONDENCE: Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to the Omaha Bee, editorial department.

BUSINESS LETTERS: Business letters and remittances should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: For the month of November, 1901.

Table with columns for 'Copies', 'Number of Copies', and 'Less unsold and returned copies'.

From now on the days will again grow longer.

Omaha still keeps on the right side of the ledger in the clearing house exhibit for the past week.

As between making contributions to the St. Louis exposition and to the Omaha Auditorium, Omaha business men will give the preference to the Auditorium.

Nebraska country papers show gratifying signs of prevailing prosperity that has filled their advertising columns with holiday announcements.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody good. As a natural consequence of the recent cold snap the ice harvesting is in full blast before Christmas for the first time within the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

The Omaha Central Labor union is all torn up over the selection of a member for the new Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

Having had the fun of attending the ground-breaking exercises for the coming St. Louis exposition, the Nebraska commissioners will now have to begin figuring where the money is to come from to pay the bills for Nebraska's participation.

The mayor of South Omaha is congratulating himself on being vindicated by the decision of Judge Baker to the effect that the bribery of a city executive is not on all fours with the statute relating to the same offense committed by other officials.

Omaha is not threatened with a coal famine, but it is menaced by the greed of dealers, who always find a ready excuse for raising the price of fuel.

Nebraska real estate dealers can derive good returns from an organized, well-directed effort to attract home seekers.

One of our local contemporaries, the Western Laborer, wants to know why the franchise grafters who are now brewing a bridge across the river at South Omaha do not build two bridges over the river and thereby make just twice as much.

According to the latest advices the community of interest magnates have decreed that the Burlington railroad shall be conducted as a department store.

In an address to a jury in a bribery case a Chicago attorney expressed the opinion that every railway and street railway company in the state made a business of jury-bribing.

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BETTER ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORN.

It is now up to the Omaha Bee to say that the investigation and report of the officers who checked up the state treasurer in the matter of the school funds is wrong. It is either that or an acknowledgment that the Bee is wrong.

When a public man makes a mistake he can gain more in the esteem of the public by trying to undo it than by sticking to it. The Bee never charged that the investigation and report of the state officers who checked up the state treasurer was wrong, but it did charge that the exhibit made by the treasurer and certified to by these officers did not explain away the questionable bond deals by which the school fund has been milked for several thousand dollars for the benefit of speculators.

The position of the Bee in this respect is impregnable and cannot be successfully assailed by petting or by quibbling. While it does not contend that the books of the treasurer are incorrect, it makes bold to assert that the exhibit was prepared to meet the untenable assumption that every cent of the school fund reported as "balance on hand" has been kept constantly in the vault at the state house.

Why not acknowledge the corn and face the situation as it is? The members of the Board of Educational Lands and Funds were not charged with complicity in the bond deals. In authorizing the treasurer to purchase bonds for the school fund, the board simply sanctioned the investment of a fixed sum at a fixed rate, leaving the details of the transaction to the treasurer, who was presumed to pursue business methods in their purchase and give the state the benefit of the best bargain.

It is only when the board seeks to cover up and excuse such transactions that it becomes subject to criticism and distrust. Its course should have been to disarm suspicion by taking such steps as would right the wrong and fix the blame where it justly belongs.

WILL SELL AT ANY PRICE.

The Panama Canal company is now willing to dispose of its property to the United States at any price. At a meeting in Paris Saturday of the directors and shareholders of the company, marked by great excitement, Mr. Hutin, the president, who made a bad mess of the negotiations here with the Isthmian Canal commission and had his schemes exposed by Senator Morgan, resigned.

It seems safe to say that this comes too late. Had the Panama company shown a disposition at an earlier time to negotiate on a reasonable basis and had been straightforward in the matter, there was a good chance of its having accomplished something.

We think it extremely doubtful if congress will now give consideration to any offer that may come from the Panama company. It let go by its opportunity and in consequence has lost about all the American support it had.

No opposition of importance has been recently shown to the bills for the construction of the Nicaragua canal and it can be confidently predicted that the proposed legislation will be enacted very soon after the reassembling of congress.

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represent the situation as extremely acute, with the chances apparently unfavorable to an amicable settlement of the controversy. While the governments are employing the agencies of diplomacy in seeking an adjustment, popular sentiment in both countries is strongly in favor of war. Chill, it appears, is responsible for the trouble. The territory in dispute is occupied by both countries under an agreement that neither party should treat its presence as anything but temporary until an award was made and should maintain unchanged existing conditions.

One of the fallacies common to statistical discussion is brought out strikingly in a recent article which tries to find a redeeming feature of the increase in divorces in its correspondence with the increase in the employment of women.

The census is cited to show that the number of women in the United States having "gainful occupations" increased from 1,836,288 in 1870 to 2,647,157 in 1890 and to 3,914,571 in 1890, with a probable increase of similar proportions in the census of 1900, when it is finally tabulated.

For the past few weeks probably four-fifths of the potatoes reaching New York City for consumption have come from Europe. That America should be a buyer of trans-Atlantic potatoes seems pretty strange to the private consumer, and even these on the inside of the potato market admit that it is rather odd.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION.

The transformation of our system of production has, in its very nature, lengthened the wages list by forcing into mill and factory production which was formerly carried on by piece work or in the home. It is safe to say that while the opportunities for women to support themselves independently are much greater, the necessity for such support has become less.

One of the problems with which the Board of Education will be compelled to grapple is whether the free book system should extend from the kindergarten to the university. While the kindergartens undoubtedly absorb a greater amount for the purchase of free picture books and pianos, it is a serious question whether the free book distribution in the high school is not carrying free education altogether too far.

The head organ of Nebraska populists professes great astonishment at the report that Henry C. Payne, who is to be the new postmaster general, favors government ownership of telegraphs and telephones. Why should there be anything astonishing in that if true? Several republican postmaster generals have favored the postal telegraph, most notably General Creswell and John Wauwauker, who urged it repeatedly upon congress.

AT THE CROSSROADS.

When The Bee pointed out the obstacles that would have to be overcome by the promoters and managers of the auditorium some eight months ago and ventured to make suggestions for the modification and improvement of the plans it was at once stigmatized as an enemy of the enterprise and denounced as a malicious knacker.

The breakdown in the British telegraph system on account of the recent storms has brought out an urgent demand that all telegraph and telephone wires be placed under ground beyond the reach of storm damage.

ANOTHER KIND OF DEMOCRAT.

The three Louisiana democrats that voted with the republicans for the Philippine tariff bill constitute another kind of democrat.

WHAT A JOELY PROSPECT.

The spectacle of a Vanderbilt running for congress against Belmont would be a fine thing for the Amalgamated Association of Political Wire and Leg Pullers.

EFFECT OF A BOUNDARY LINE.

The price of live cattle to climb in the United States, but in Canada the ranchmen are complaining that they can get only 3 1/2 cents a pound for fine cattle.

BETTER GO SLOW.

The proposed Pacific cable may be worthless in ten years, in view of the progress wireless telegraphy is making.

THE COUNTRY IN CLOVER.

Agriculture is in a decidedly flourishing condition just now. The corn yield was greatly reduced by the drought, but there was a good wheat crop and the scarcity of corn helped to keep up the price of the other cereal.

POINTS FROM ABROAD.

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BRIEF BITS OF NEBRASKA POLITICS.

Wayne Herald (rep.): It now looks very much as though Norfolk would lose the asylum, or in other words, the establishment will not be rebuilt.

Tekamah Herald (rep.): The Bond Surety company this week made good the shortage of J. N. Gaffin, former state oil inspector.

Rushville Recorder (rep.): Governor Savage must take the people of Nebraska for a lot of suckers if he thinks the statement of the Board of Educational Lands and Buildings, of which he is a member, disposes of the Stuefer bond deals.

Western Laborer: David the baby bieser, "Our Inker," has introduced a bill in congress to macaronize the military road between Omaha and Fort Crook.

Rushville Recorder (rep.): The most unsatisfactory part of Auditor Weston's semi-annual statement is the little matter of the state's indebtedness of over \$2,000,000.

South Omaha Independent: Editor Rosewater is still after State Treasurer Stuefer in regard to the Oteo and Burt county bond issues.

Growth of the Merit System in Lines of Industry. Kansas City Journal.

One of the most important steps in the direction of closer relations between capital and labor is that just taken by the Steel trust, which has adopted the civil service idea in its dealings with its 2,000 employees.

At the assessments placed upon them several local franchised corporations are to pay taxes on less than their actual annual net earnings.

Another Kind of Democrat. Indianapolis News.

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What a Joely Prospect. Washington Post.

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Effect of a Boundary Line. Louisville Courier-Journal.

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Better Go Slow. Springfield Republican.

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The Country in Clover. Minneapolis Times.

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Points from Abroad. New York Sun.

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THOROUGHBREDS OF THE WEST.

Francis Bellamy in Saturday Evening Post.

Young men go west for business and young men have gone east for their education. That has been the drift, and it still seems to be a natural tendency.

Though conservatism often seems broken up in the swirl of western enterprise, it is usually a tenacious influence.

Likewise, when the boy from the west has finished the course of study in the case, it may be assumed that for him as an individual a finer equilibrium has been gained.

But conditions are changing, at least those pertaining to a liberal education in the west, and the change is affecting the flow of student life.

What results from this rather new tendency is a new product in the types of educated youth—a thoroughbred of the west, untouched, except indirectly, by eastern influence.

The reasons why a boy does well to travel far to an old university are familiar. What are the reasons why he may do better to keep to his own section of the country for his studies, as well as for the chances of business?

To be sure, the two new-rich universities which bound the west have added vastly to its educational prestige.

But these great institutions will receive all or half of the work. State universities also are growing in popularity.

The new motto is, "A western education for a western boy," just as it is more broadly declared that an American boy needs an American education from start to finish.

Gifts to Education. Philadelphia Press.

The year 1901 will be the banner year for gifts to education. It was thought that the record of the year 1899 would long remain unsurpassed.

The largest of all the gifts recorded this year is the one made by Mrs. Jane L. Stanford to the Leland Stanford university in California.

But there are many other large and small gifts for the same purpose which will foot up to even a larger figure.

These great gifts, with numerous smaller ones, will make up a phenomenal total for 1901.

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A MUNCH OF SEASONABLE SUGGESTIONS ON THE PROBLEM OF THE YEAR.

Now is the time when all the Christianity and civilization one possesses is put to one grand test in Christmas shopping.

The shopping season has already begun, and the wise woman will avail herself of its early advantages.

It is the next glance she will cast upon her plan of campaign and decide, as far as possible on what she wants, so that her shopping may be done quickly and systematically.

Certainly she will not forget that she owes consideration to other shoppers that the must be prepared to give way when necessary to make her turn patiently.

Flashes of Fun. Somerville Journal: Flattering Cavalier—Are you the head of the house, Mary? No, I am only one of the hands.

Brooklyn Eagle—But I thought you said it would be the same old, same old. Mr. Loggans's appendix? Mr. Loggans's appendix? But I need to buy an automobile.

Washington Star: "Did you look at both sides of his argument?" "I did," answered Senator Sorghum, "as soon as I saw the other side, I turned it over to see that it was properly endorsed."

Yonkers Statesman: Patience—I hear women refer to me as a chook. I turned it over to see that it was properly endorsed.

Chicago Tribune: Dealer—A couple of fortunes of this kind will receive the best of my business. But much more than that of these sums will be given before 1901 closes.

Philadelphian: "Henry," his wife whispered, "there's a burglar downstairs in the dining-room. I just heard him rattling the silver."

Philadelphia Press: "Listen," she said, "that would be as if he was sampling the delicacies of the table."

Detroit Free Press: Mrs. Dash—The idea of Mr. Dash having a second wife, why, her father was a rascal. Mr. Dash—Yes; she's certainly too forward. She ought to be shot and buried.

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ALL DAY THE SALESMAN SCURRIED AND FALTERED NOT A SPEAK.

Yes, quailed not, like the boy upon the burning pyre.

And showed the women eye goods who never bought a thing.

So when the woman's eye decimated round about that store.

This easy to imagine he was hungry, lame and sore.

It seems there was a "rammance" sale or sort of church fair.

Connected with a supper to draw the hungry there.

And raise the preacher's salary, to change around the pews.

Provided, always, that it met the congregation's needs.

To eat the girls invited him, and as he liked the girls.

He stopped to sample their cuisine and reveal a smile.

At first they tossed him sandwiches and oyster soup in bowls.

And then came the salad, some turk and cornmeal rolls.

Ham, lamb and sheep and mutton and pork and beef.

Welsh rabbit, dressed eggs, fritassee and pearls on toast.

And then the girls, in gowns and hats, and with their hair done up.

With collars—puff mentioning—which he described.

He looked beneath his vest the grub and poked it in his face.

He held the cork, and rising up, ambled from the place.

When with a sudden effort his sleeping form was on its feet.

He felt like—as the saying is—he was too full for his shoes.

But when he donned his "nighty" and laid him down to sleep.

Expecting that sleep would be the slumber of the best.

But the old-fashioned nightmare came raining round his bed.

And gave him the dyspepsia and his vision dimmed red.

He saw well-favored women and dreamed of things which he had not.

That stood upon his stomach and trod upon his toes.

His coffee, he kicked and doubled him and hid him in a hole.

Nearly worked him into a finish while for him they made it hot.

To shake the ghostly horde somehow he would not get the knack.

For every time he sprang ahold would slip, but 'till that much back.

But all things have an end, 'tis said, when morning did appear.

He thanked his stars that Christmas time came only "stark" a year.

—D. H. CLARK.

Kearney, Neb., December 16, 1901.