

## THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.  
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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, Evening and Sunday Bee, for the month of December, 1901, was as follows:

1. Total number of copies printed	30,000	17. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
2. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	18. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
3. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	19. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
4. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	20. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
5. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	21. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
6. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	22. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
7. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	23. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
8. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	24. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
9. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	25. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
10. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	26. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
11. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	27. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
12. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	28. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
13. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	29. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
14. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	30. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
15. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	31. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
16. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	32. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
17. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	33. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
18. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	34. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
19. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	35. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
20. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	36. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
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22. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	38. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
23. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	39. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
24. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	40. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
25. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	41. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
26. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	42. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
27. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	43. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
28. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	44. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
29. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	45. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
30. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	46. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
31. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	47. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
32. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	48. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
33. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	49. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
34. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	50. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
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36. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	52. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
37. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	53. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
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39. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	55. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
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53. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	69. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
54. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	70. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
55. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	71. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
56. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	72. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
57. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	73. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
58. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	74. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
59. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	75. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
60. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	76. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
61. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	77. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
62. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	78. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
63. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	79. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
64. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	80. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
65. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	81. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
66. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	82. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
67. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	83. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
68. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	84. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
69. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	85. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
70. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	86. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
71. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	87. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
72. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	88. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
73. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	89. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
74. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	90. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
75. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	91. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
76. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	92. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
77. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	93. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
78. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	94. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
79. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	95. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
80. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	96. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
81. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	97. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
82. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	98. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000
83. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee	30,000	99. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee	30,000
84. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee	30,000	100. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee	30,000

Net total sales, \$93,157  
Net total average, \$30,101  
Less unreturned and returned copies, 10,008  
Net total sales, \$83,149GEO. B. TSCHUCK,  
Notary Public.  
Subscribed in sworn to before me this 21st day of December, A. D. 1901.  
M. B. HUNGATE,  
(Seal.) Notary Public.

Now that the city assessment roll has been completed, the next question is, What will the tax rate be?

We suggest that the state poultry convention use its influence with the balky hen to induce her to return to a full time workday.

Prince Henry is to visit St. Louis and Milwaukee. This goes to show that the prince has had a hunch as to where the largest breweries are to be found.

Why couldn't the Elks let the good people of Omaha fill two baskets at once by dividing the proceeds of their forthcoming benefit fair with the auditorium fund?

The prospective bride of Inventor Marconi has asked that the engagement be declared off and he has consented. The inventor's system does not appear to be a success in conveying love flashes.

The problem of planting six county commissioners in five places has solved itself by the elimination of one of the claimants. Perhaps the problem of seating two police judges on one bench will solve itself also.

The democrats in congress are making a fight on the deficiency appropriation bill. Deficiencies are democracy's long suit and anything the party representatives have to say on that subject should be listened to respectfully.

Interstate Commissioner Yeomans denies that he is an aspirant for the democratic presidential nomination. Mr. Yeomans has lived in Iowa long enough to know how it feels to be stepped on by a big republican majority.

One French legislator has challenged another to fight a duel because he took offense at some remark made in debate. What would be the result of an Omaha Board of Equalization meeting held in Paris, under the French code?

Two Kansas men are promoting a company to combine all the creameries in the country, with a capitalization of \$18,000,000. If the new trust becomes too exacting the public will have to fall back on the farmer's cow and the old hand churn.

Having rung off the telephone ordinance, the South Omaha council is about to wrestle with a new gas franchise whose promise to reduce the cost of illuminating material holds out a prospect for a liberal contribution to the spring campaign.

The coal mine operators are preparing to ask the miners to accept a reduction of wages on the strength of a claim that owing to close competition they have made no profit during the past year. But the man who pays for and consumes the coal is certainly convinced that somebody has made a profit.

The chairman of the Missouri democratic committee recently delivered an address in which he stated that republicans hated the state because it remained steadfast to democracy. The speaker is mistaken. Republicans do not hate the state; they simply pity it. Missouri is too good a state to be continually going to the bad.

The silver element among the Iowa republicans is mourning because the democratic caucus did not select Fred White and "Pansy Blossom" Butler for their senatorial bouquets. Instead of Thayer and Seelye, as if the two first named had not had enough empty honor nominations to last ordinary men a lifetime without adding to their collection.

## IRRIGATION SHOULD BE NATIONALIZED.

The irrigation bill prepared by the sub-committee appointed by the congressional delegations from the semi-arid states, as outlined by our Washington dispatches, will not meet the demands of the hour. The scheme is fundamentally wrong and at best a makeshift for irrigation in dribs and patches.

The proposition that the proceeds from the sales of the public lands in the states and territories between the Missouri river and Pacific coast be set apart as a special fund for the reclamation of the arid and semi-arid lands is wrong in principle and would prove wrong in practice. There is no more reason why the proceeds from public land sales should be devoted to the reclamation of arid lands than there is no more reason why the construction of irrigation reservoirs and irrigation canals should be made dependent upon the amount realized from public land sales than there is for making the improvement of harbors on the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard dependent on the amount of port duties collected in each respective harbor.

The country at large is fairly informed as to the scope and advantages of irrigation and is fully prepared to meet the rational demands upon the national treasury for the establishment of a comprehensive system of irrigation works. It is not only imprudent, but improvident, to authorize internal public improvements without definite knowledge of the amount to be expended. If congress decides upon the establishment of an extensive system of irrigation that will necessarily involve the expenditure of many millions, the amount to be expended each year for that purpose should be clearly set forth in the appropriation bills.

Congress will be justified in making liberal appropriations for the reclamation of the arid and semi-arid lands, but no scheme for the reclamation of these lands deserves encouragement unless it contemplates the nationalization of irrigation.

First of all, congress should provide for the preparation of a comprehensive plan for a national system of irrigation by expert hydraulic engineers on a scale commensurate with the vast area to be reclaimed. This may require a topographical survey of that portion of the country not yet surveyed and mapped.

No rational plan that would embrace within its scope the entire region to be reclaimed can be presented without first ascertaining the volume of water that can be drained into the irrigation canals from the rivers at their lowest stage and the area and capacity of storage reservoirs necessary to insure a sufficient amount of water for the land to be irrigated. With these prerequisites kept in view, congressional legislation should proceed on the line of least resistance without abandoning the idea of nationalization.

The greatest obstacle to be met in the nationalization of irrigation will be the conflicting state laws relative to water rights, which make effective co-operation between the various state irrigation systems almost impossible. To reconcile these differences and bring the state laws into harmony with national legislation will be the work of many years, and congress may as well begin the demolition of the fences erected by the various state legislatures by which they have sought to establish exclusive water privileges for irrigation companies who seek to monopolize the waters of the streams that flow within their borders.

Without uniformity in the irrigation laws any attempt to reclaim the great body of arid and semi-arid lands would prove a dismal failure.

## MERELY AN OPPOSITION PARTY.

Although the session has hardly gotten down to real business, the proceedings in each branch of congress are daily adding new proof to the demonstrated fact that the democratic minority represents merely an opposition party. The debates, no matter what the questions at issue may be, disclose the democratic leaders almost invariably posing simply as opponents to whatever legislative measures the republicans may be urging. The minority reports rendered from the important committees on bills of unusual moment simply present arguments designed to tell why the recommendations of the majority should not be accepted. Speaking generally, the position of the democrats on all things before congress is negative rather than positive and the tactics of their floor managers obstructive rather than corrective.

While no one will contend that an opposition party is without notable functions to perform in a popular government like ours, it can not be fully serviceable as a part of the political machinery so long as it rests content with that role. Constant criticism of the administration will force public officials to exercise utmost care in all their actions and watchful vigilance over appropriations will hold in check extravagance and wastefulness, and insofar as the opposition works to this end it makes itself to that extent useful. But it is always the party of construction that distinguishes from the party of obstruction that accomplishes results. It is the party that meets issues as they arise with tangible and practical propositions that furnishes the motive power for progress. It is the party that originates ideas and formulates them into legislation, correcting the abuses that appear and strengthening defective parts, that builds up the nation and clears the path for its expanding energy.

That the minority in the present congress has no settled policy except that of opposition is nothing strange. That has been the dilemma in which the democrats have regularly found themselves whenever the republicans have controlled congress and even when

the democrats have been in the majority they have fallen lamentably short of the demands for constructive legislation.

## LOOK OUT FOR A DAY OF RECKONING.

The arbitrary action of the majority of the city council in overriding the remonstrance of representative taxpayers against the flagrant undervaluation of the five franchised corporations cannot fail to awaken the people to a realization of the pernicious influence exerted by these corporations upon the taxing machinery of our city and county governments.

The reduction of the assessment of the Bridge and Terminal company and of the Belt line railroad in palpable violation of the letter and spirit of the law is absolutely indefensible. According to the estimate presented by the committee of the Real Estate exchange, which is regarded as conservative, the value of the properties of the street railway company, the water company, the gas company, the telephone company and the electric lighting company within the limits of the city would aggregate \$12,500,000. Assessed at 40 per cent of this valuation, the same as real estate, these corporations would have been called to pay taxes upon \$5,000,000, in round figures. By confirming the assessments fixed by the Board of Review, they will pay on \$1,761,810, or only 14.5 per cent, instead of 40 per cent of the true value.

The East Omaha Bridge and Terminal company represents an investment of more than \$2,000,000, and assuming that the shrinkage in the value of this property is 50 per cent, its present market value could not be less than \$1,000,000, of which one-half is taxable in this city and county. The terminals and right-of-way in the city limits cannot be worth less than \$200,000, which at 40 per cent would be assessable for \$80,000. At the mileage rate accepted by the council, its assessed value will be less than \$12,000. The same rank inequality is perpetrated by the council in the assessment of the Belt line, which paid for its right-of-way within the city limits at least \$250,000 per mile, but is assessed at \$8,000 per mile.

The pretense under which the state mileage valuation is adopted is that railroads can be taxed for city and county purposes at the rate fixed by the State Board of Equalization. This assumption, however, is contradicted by the provision of the law relating to railroad assessment, which applies exclusively to railroads that traverse more than one county. Neither the East Omaha nor the Belt line railroads reach beyond the boundaries of Douglas county, and, while they may be used by other railroads, they are not part of them and are under the law subject to the same method of assessment that applies to street railroads and wagon bridges.

Whether the action of the council shall be overturned by the courts or not, the great body of taxpaying citizens feel outraged and exasperated. They will not rest until the wrong perpetrated is rectified in some way. There will be a day of reckoning that will bring the corporation managers to realize that the policy they are pursuing in the evasion of their just share of the public tax burdens is in the end more costly than a cheerful submission to the law that would insure a friendly feeling toward them by their patrons and the community at large.

It might have been expected that the heads of departments in the court house would object strenuously to a veiling out of the superannuated who are always able to bring pressure to bear upon their superiors. It has always been difficult to pry men loose from the public crib when their services were never needed. But the county commissioners should not allow themselves to be bulldozed or importuned into an abandonment of the policy of retrenchment. They need only to make a comparison of the present pay rolls with the pay rolls of five and six years ago to be convinced that they can dispense with a good many of the men who have been smuggled into the various offices during the last few years under all sorts of pretenses. The court house has not been enlarged, neither has the jail or county hospital; the volume of business transacted by the county officers is no greater and the number of jail inmates and poor farm dependents has decreased. There is no good reason why the cost of county government should be greater now than it was in 1895 or 1896.

The United States has only one ship at Panama, while the liberals, who threaten to bombard the town have three. The commander of the American ship has notified the liberals that bombardment will not be permitted. As the liberal ships are converted merchantmen, they are not likely to clash with Philadelphia. It might be a good thing for some other countries of South America if they could induce the United States to guarantee free transit through their dominions, but Uncle Sam has enough wards at present without accepting additional responsibilities.

The organ of the county attorney is much worked up over the fact that the two highwaymen who held up the cashier of a gambling house at the point of a revolver are liable to go scot free because no one has appeared in the police court to complain against them. Such a state of affairs is really deplorable. But why don't the county attorney enter complaint and prosecute the men? Suppose they had killed everybody in the room and no witness remained to make complaint, would the county attorney sit still and let them walk out of town?

It is to be hoped that the county commissioners will discontinue their star chamber sessions. There is no reason why the public should not know the position of every member of the board

on every question that comes before it. The secret session may cover the tracks of men who are on the wrong side, but it also does great injustice to those who have the courage to stand up for the interest of their constituents.

The contest for the county clerkship has developed one fact, and that is that a large number of intelligent voters are not intelligent enough to mark an Australian ballot according to the requirements of the law. The man who votes a scratched ballot always prides himself on his higher intelligence, but for some reason he does not exhibit that intelligence in the exercise of his privilege as a sovereign voter.

With the announcement of the coming visit of Prince Henry of Germany come stories of renewed activity among the anarchists, particularly at points he is expected to visit. His royal highness, however, need have no fear. He will be in less danger from anarchists in this country than he is at home in Germany.

A speaker before the Woman's club apologized for his paper on the ground that it was prepared for lawyers and would have been differently projected had it been prepared for the women. The question is, Is this a compliment to the women or to the lawyers?

## Some Cause for Thankfulness.

Washington Post.  
The American women who paint their faces are doubtless thankful that they are not under the jurisdiction of the Interior department.

## Maryland's Relief.

Washington Star.  
After its experience with Senator Wellington, Maryland will experience a certain relief in welcoming as his successor a man whose conversation is always modeled on the strictest lines of diplomacy.

## What a Change, My Countrymen.

Indianapolis News.  
The spectacle of congressmen presenting a petition to the speaker of the house for the consideration of certain measures is a beautiful one. And this is a representative government, too! When Speaker Reed was called a czar no joke was intended.

## Parole of Prisoners in Iowa.

Indianapolis Journal.  
Ex-Governor Shaw of Iowa explains that the actual pardons granted during his term of office were fewer than those of his predecessors, but he says he did parole a large number on the condition that if they violated the laws they were to be returned to the penitentiary. Governor Shaw followed the policy involved in the indeterminate sentence.

## One Credit Mark.

Minneapolis Journal.  
The United States Steel corporation is a trust, and the people of this country are good is spoken of it. But fair play demands that it should be said that there are many evidences that this corporation is being managed in a spirit of fairness, justice and generosity. The latest evidence of its liberal management is the offer to the engineers of its "Lake States" of salaries about \$300 in excess of what the men had expected.

## Earthquakes in Nicaragua.

Philadelphia Record.  
The earthquake shock experienced on Thursday last in southwest Nicaragua illustrates and exemplifies the unstable quality of the territory lying along the Sierra Madre range of mountains. And it is through this range that the western section of the proposed Nicaragua canal is to be cut. Thereafter the fearful cry "Tremors!" will mean something more in the isthmian region than destruction of frail buildings and perturbation among an ignorant peasantry.

## What Are Free Schools For?

Chicago Chronicle.  
Not to enable rich parents to send their sons and daughters to universities.  
Not to teach any language but English—at least until every child of Chicago of school age and attending a public school shall have mastered English.  
Not to teach the dispensable until every child in the schools shall have mastered the indispensable.  
The indispensables are reading, writing, spelling, grammar and arithmetic.  
These it is now a fashion to sneer at. But every intelligent man and woman knows that these are the foundation of all knowledge. Without these education is impossible. As well conceive a column without a base as education without the three R's. With the three R's any child may proceed to the top of success in the United States, success in any field. Without the three R's a child starts out in life as a "perpetual development" whom no after opportunity can avail.

## TRAVEL BY RAIL.

## Risk of Life or Limb Exceedingly Small.

Washington Post.  
Travel by rail is the safest of all methods of locomotion, not excepting even the primitive way. It may be doubted if there be any other place or any amusement or occupation in which such a degree of personal safety is assured as the passenger in a railway car possesses. The annual report of the New York state railroad commission for 1901, just issued, derives special interest from the tragedy of the tunnel which marked the first month of the new year. During 1901 the number of passengers killed on the steam surface railroads in New York state was only sixteen for the entire 17,518 miles of track in operation and out of a total of about 82,000,000 passengers carried, but even that comparatively small number was an increase of exactly 100 per cent over the record of 1900, when there were only eight passengers killed out of a total of about 74,000,000 carried. In 1901 these New York railroads killed one passenger out of every 5,115,313 carried, as against one killed for every 9,230,764 carried in 1900. The average of fatalities for the past five years has been fifteen. The record for the current year begins sadly, but there is no reason to look for a series of such calamities as that which the metropolis is being phenomenally worked up by yellow newspapers.

The report as to injuries not fatal received by passengers while traveling on New York steam surface railroads in 1901 shows that there were 375 persons so injured, as compared with only 165 injured in 1900. This increase is not accounted for, and it is regarded as strange in view of the fact that there was an increase in the number and effectiveness of safety appliances. The New York Commercial, speaking of the figures for 1901, says that "when only one passenger out of 5,000,000 is killed the chances of death are really so remote that most of us can take a seat in a railway car without a thought of the risk involved."

"I once won a case with one of James Whitcomb Riley's poems," says Congressman Brick of Indiana, who is a lawyer, "and so I stand for him. I was defending a man charged with stealing silk, and it looked so bad for him that I decided on an appeal to the jury. I did the best I could with the evidence, but I banked most on the fact that the defendant was a young man with a wife and child, and it would go hard for all of them to have him go to the penitentiary for a term of years. My whole argument led up to the point where I closed with Riley's little poem, 'Back from a Two Years' Term.' When I finished the jury was in tears, and even the judge and the attorney for the prosecution were affected. The jury took just one ballot and returned a verdict of not guilty."

## BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

## Etchings of People and Events at the National Capital.

It is announced that the Century will print in the February and March numbers an authoritative account of the plans for the beautifying of Washington, as devised by the congressional commission. A planter model of the plans is on exhibition in Washington and is very generally recommended. A glimpse of the scale on which the improvements are projected may be had in these paragraphs from the first article in the February number, by Mr. Charles Moore, clerk of the senate committee on the district:

"Let one imagine himself standing on the western terrace of the capitol on a summer afternoon. At the foot of the extended great stairway a dense cloud of people is refreshing spray in the heated atmosphere. From the foot of the capitol hill to and up the monument slope, a mile and a half distant, two lines of stately elms march majestically in column of fours, one column on each side of a carpet of greenward 200 feet wide. Buildings of white marble gleam behind the rows of elms; where the streets cross the Mall great bands of light blue across the stretches of tree-shade; carriages and riders pass and repass on the roadway half covered by the grateful shade, while pedestrians linger under the wide-spreading trees. Thus, by a simple device of planting, the monument is brought into the vista