

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Table with 2 columns: Circulation categories and numbers. Total: 943,255. Less uncollected and returned copies: 10,028. Net total sales: 933,157. Net daily average: 30,101.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 27th day of December, A. D. 1901. M. H. HUNTER, Notary Public.

It's up to the council to shove down the 1902 tax levy to the lowest possible limit.

January 29—anniversary of the birth of William McKinley. May his memory never die.

Chicago speculators can easily feel their oats when the price drops 1 cent a bushel in half an hour.

Postmaster Bushnell at Lincoln ought to have secured a "compromise" on the plan of that evolved at Fremont.

In the light of recent accidents, New York tunnels do not seem to match even a Kansas cyclone cellar as a place of safety.

According to the railroad magnates there has been no consolidation or combination—simply a case of benevolent assimilation.

All the democrats hereabouts will be for Mercer at the republican primaries and for the democratic candidate for congress at the polls.

The east appears to consider itself bound to get up a flood every time the west has a cold snap. Just by way of variety the two sections might swap.

It would certainly have been unfair to extend Prince Henry's visit to Milwaukee and leave St. Louis out. No discrimination between rivals can be tolerated.

Wrestling with the market house proposition ought to be sport and recreation for the councilmen after their heavy exercise with the equalization of the assessment rolls.

With two police judges, two fire chiefs, two county clerks, two registrars of deeds and doublets in several minor offices, a few duplicate police boards would not come amiss.

For Sale Cheap—Several sprouting ambitions of would-be governor-appointed police commissioners. Address simply "Disappointed Office Seeker, care World-Herald, Omaha."

President Roosevelt is to write a 300-word message which is to be used as a test in a telegraph senders' tournament. If the president ever gets down to business he will have trouble to ring off on 800 words.

A bill is being prepared for introduction in congress designed to secure fair elections in the south. This will probably be the signal for another outbreak of denunciation on the "unwarranted interference with the south."

There seems to be a decided division of the Nebraska congressional delegation on the division of the state into two federal judicial districts. In the meantime no need of fighting yet as to the location of the court sittings.

The seedsmen of the country are talking of forming a combine and refusing to furnish the government with its supply for free distribution. How do they expect the congressman to keep in touch with his rural constituents anyway?

The newspaper correspondents at Washington insist upon telegraphing it out every time Roosevelt, Jr., has a little brush at school with one of his fellows. It's too bad a president's son cannot enjoy the pleasures of boyhood without being made so conspicuous.

Our Dave has valiantly taken it upon himself to invite Prince Henry to visit Omaha. It will be remembered that our old friend, John L. Webster, performed the same act with an invitation to the prince of Wales to attend the Transmississippi Exposition.

TAXATION THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE.

In every state of the union where a legislature is in session this winter taxation is the paramount issue. The revision of the revenue laws was one of the principal objects for which the Texas legislature was called into special session last fall. It is almost the sole subject for serious consideration by the legislature of Mississippi, which was convened in special session by the governor of that state thirty days ago. The equalization of tax burdens, and especially the taxation of corporate property commensurate with the valuation of other properties, occupied the greater portion of the annual message of Governor Nash of Ohio and will take up the greater part of the time of the Ohio legislature now in session. The message of Governor Odell to the New York legislature was largely devoted to the subject of revenue and taxation and called special attention to the systematic evasion of taxes by the great corporations and the need of more equitable assessment. Governor Cummins of Iowa laid special stress upon the imperative demand for tax reform, more especially in the manner of the appraisal and equalization of the property of the railroads which, under existing laws and methods, did not bear their due proportion of the burdens of taxation in Iowa. The Minnesota legislature was called together only a few days ago by Governor Van Sant to aid him in his effort to thwart the merger of the Great Northern railroad with the Northern Pacific and Burlington systems, who have been urged to take steps for the enactment of measures for a more efficient distribution of taxes in Minnesota.

The paramount issue before the Colorado legislature, which has just convened under a special call, is railroad taxation. Governor Orman, in his message delivered yesterday, states: "I had no expedient left to provide for the enactment of such laws as will conserve the rights of the people untrammelled by the crushing heel of the great corporations." This is strong language, but it was doubtless warranted by the course which the railroads had pursued in defeating at the regular session a law that would have compelled them to pay a fair and equal share of the taxes imposed on all other property. The defeat of this bill through the railway lobby and the subsequent refusal of the railroads to contribute their share to the revenues of the state so crippled Colorado's state institutions that the governor had no other recourse than to call the legislature to legislate on the sole issue of railroad taxation.

The outcome in Colorado and in other states that are wrestling with tax reform will be watched with great interest.

CONTEMPLATING POSTAL TELEGRAPHY

According to Washington dispatches a bill for the acquisition of all telegraph lines in the country is now being prepared by a subcommittee of the senate postoffice committee to be introduced at an early date. It is confidently asserted in this connection that the Western Union and Postal companies will offer no opposition to the measure providing that satisfactory compensation is made by the government to these corporations. One of the conditions of the purchase that will be insisted upon by the respective syndicates owning a controlling interest in Western Union and Postal Telegraph stock is that the government shall buy in lieu thereof thirty-two per cent bonds. A purchase on these conditions, it is asserted, would still prove a profitable investment to the government.

Wall street financiers assert that by taking over the telegraph lines the government could reduce tolls from 10 to 20 per cent, using 3 per cent of the earnings to form a sinking fund with which the bonds can be redeemed and thus pay for the property out of the earnings.

Whether this information has been given out for the purpose of booming telegraph stocks or whether it comes from inside sources with a view to securing an amicable transfer of the telegraph companies' properties to the government is a matter of conjecture. If congress is in dead earnest about postal telegraphy no serious obstacle will be encountered in securing possession of the commercial wires at such figures as may be deemed reasonable.

Under the act of 1898 the right to purchase all the telegraph lines that exercise the right of eminent domain under the provisions of the act is reserved to the United States. Both the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies have accepted the conditions of the act and therefore are bound by its provisions, which permit congress at any time to take steps for the acquisition of their lines at a reasonable price. The outstanding stock issued by the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies aggregates \$177,000,000, or about \$100,000,000 more than the properties could be duplicated for. Whether the government would be justified in paying for this enormously overvalued telegraph property is an open question. The present market value of Western Union stock is 90 to 92 cents, but Western Union bonds are quoted above par.

It is now admitted on all hands that the government has been derelict in its duty to the people and to its own interest in deferring postal telegraphy up to this time. Ten years ago, or even five years ago, the telegraph lines of the country could have been acquired for nearly 50 per cent less than the government will now be obliged to pay should the present congress decide upon the purchase.

That a great saving can be effected by the government in the operation of the postal telegraph, even at considerably lower tolls than are now charged by private companies, is obvious. The Western Union now pays hundreds of thousands of dollars of rental which the government could save in most instances by transferring the telegraph to the federal buildings in the various cities, and a very considerable saving could be effected by utilizing the carrier delivery service for the delivery of telegraph messages. The same is true with regard to the saving that can be effected in the clerical force and in the accounting and other departments.

As a partial offset to these advantages there would doubtless be an increase in the number of postal carriers at higher wages than are now paid to telegraph messengers, and a probable increase in the wages of operators and cost of superintendence by reason of the fact that the government always pays better salaries than private corporations operated solely for profit.

There is a suspicion abroad, however, that the apparent willingness of the telegraph companies to acquiesce in the postal telegraph springs from the fact that recent inventions in wireless telegraphy and the more general use of the long-distance telephone would eventually materially reduce their income and might even almost destroy the value of their wire and cable systems which constitute the chief element of their investment.

In any event, however, the American people would profit by postal telegraphy and will therefore favor any action on the part of congress that would bring about the acquisition of existing commercial telegraph lines even if the government were compelled to pay an excessive price to their owners.

OUR SPOILED CHILD.

The melodrama of our spoiled child is still on the boards at Washington. For the last week the time of the ways and means committee of the house has been monopolized by the fervent appeals of the Cuban sugar and tobacco planters for an open door that will permit their products to enter the United States free of duty at the expense of the American tobacco raisers and beet sugar growers.

These tearful appeals lay great stress upon the obligation assumed by Uncle Sam toward the spoiled Cuban infant when he set him free and enabled him to start in housekeeping for himself.

In the main the song of the Cubans does not vary from the melodies poured forth by the Sugar trust representatives who are flooding the country with pamphlets that no protection is needed for the beet sugar industry, but that the national interest which we have in reducing the import duties on sugar and tobacco involve not only the highest instincts of duty and humanity, but also the plain suggestions of political and economical expediency.

Public sentiment regarding the duty of congress toward our Cuban wards is, however, rapidly becoming less sentimental. The Philadelphia Inquirer, for example, hits the nail on the head when it declares: "We have gone to work and we have set the Cubans free; we have told them that they are at liberty to conduct their own government and their own affairs. There may be a certain sentiment about the argument that having nurtured them in their infancy we must continue to support them for all time. But there is not very much business about it. We do not know why Cuba should be regarded in the light of a country that must survive on charity. It may be necessary to enter into a treaty eventually upon the basis of reciprocity, but it is becoming apparent that the whole subject must be handled with a great deal of care." In other words, Cuba, like a wayward child, is crying for more when she has already received all that could reasonably be asked. Charity begins at home, and it is certainly unreasonable to ask the United States to destroy an important home industry in order to enrich the sugar and tobacco planters of Cuba, who will import only such commodities from the United States as they can buy cheapest in our markets.

The democratic county attorney of Douglas county is not a new incumbent of the office. The prosecuting machinery of the county was in his hands before the late grand jury was called and before the exposures of Treasurer Stuefer's bond deals were made. But it seems to have remained until after the grand jury indictment of ex-Treasurer Meserve for that vigilant officer to discover that Mr. Stuefer might be liable to prosecution by him. All the facts relating to Mr. Stuefer's bond purchases were as much in the possession of the democratic county attorney before the grand jury as now, yet he has the audacity to assert that the indictment of Meserve has nothing to do with his sudden awakening to the questionable character of the recent bond deals.

The killing of several people, the wounding of many more and heavy property loss in New York is directly attributable to the violation of law in keeping a larger amount of explosive on hand than permitted. There is probably not a city in the land in which this same law is not violated every day in the year by people who find it more convenient or more profitable to violate the law than to respect it. While the public is clamoring to have railroad men held to a strict accountability for accidents due to carelessness, why not proceed against those whose willful violation of law endangers and in many cases causes actual loss of life.

Senator Bacon of Georgia complains that the newspapers do not devote enough space to the proceedings of congress. If the senators and representatives would devote their talk to subjects of real importance instead of wasting time on pure humbug the press would probably be more considerate in apportioning space.

Nothing could better illustrate the depth of German resentment toward Great Britain than the coldness of the Berlin populace toward the prince of Wales in the face of the effusive greeting of Emperor William. While the German taxpayer groans under the

A Startling Report

The report which the interstate commerce commission has just submitted to congress is certain to attract the attention of the country, even if it does not move congress to act. The irregularities which railroad managers admitted a few weeks ago in brief this report presents in detail. Rebates and discrimination in rates is the rule rather than the exception. The extensive producer is able to obtain much better rates for the shipment of his goods than is the small producer. By this injustice the latter is driven to the wall while the former thrives. There is no scheme by which monopolies can be more successfully built up than by a system of rebates which favors one extensive shipper to the detriment of others in the same business. It explains the success of a few large establishments at the expense of all others. The report declares that the practice of this great injustice is general; that it is a wrong that demands prompt remedy no one will deny.

The shippers are not the only sufferers, since the system has robbed railroad lines of the profits needed to make their good properties. For years, by "gentlemen's agreements" and by pooling arrangements, railroad managers have endeavored to check the evil; but gentlemen in that business seem not to have impressed traveling agents, and the supreme court has set aside the railroad pools as in violation of the interstate commerce law. The railroads have asked congress for a law to authorize pooling, but that body has refused. The recent consolidation and merging of lines is said to be an effort of the railroad managers to get into a position where the growing evil of the unlawful rebate can be broken off, not because they are conscience stricken because of the wrong inflicted upon the people, but because the rate-cutting policy is ruining railroad properties.

One of the charges of the commission is military burden, he is still proud of the army and whoever reviles it must expect resentment. Joseph Chamberlain wounded the German deeper than he knew in his Edinburgh speech. It is out of such comparatively little things that international animosities grow which sometimes lead to serious results.

It is in the eternal fitness of things for Congressman Mercer's census supervisor, D. H. Wheeler, who is largely responsible for the black eye given Omaha by the 1900 enumeration, to stand up as sponsor for Chief Redell in his frantic effort to connect again with the city pay roll.

While Schley is being dined, wine and feted in Chicago Admiral Dewey has been acting as cake-walk judge at Palm Beach, Florida. But Dewey has not yet told the nimble-beeled, cake-walk dancers whether he would be willing to compete in a presidential cake-walk.

If a South Omaha bank could pay the late populist state treasurer 3 per cent on deposits of state school money as a side line for his own private benefit, why cannot the banks pay the county some interest on its deposits of public funds?

Putting and Pulling. Boston Transcript. The British stockholders seem determined to smoke out the American tobacco trust.

Human Nature in Railroad. Baltimore American. We gather from the remarks of Mr. Hill that human nature pervades the railroad business with the same freedom it enters into other lines devoted to money-making.

Bring on Your Real Estate. Brooklyn Eagle. Here we go again! Two more islands! Pretty soon it will be a big island, and then—has Canada anything to sell, or Mexico?

Protecting American Soldiers. Indianapolis Journal. "When I refuse to vote to protect the life of an American soldier I hope I may be paralyzed." So said Representative Cummings (democrat), of New York, and voted with the republicans. The other democrats had no such regard for the life of an American soldier.

Placing the Blame. Chicago Record-Herald. The grand jury properly dismissed the engineer and fireman under arrest for the New York tunnel disaster. The company itself is held liable and blameable. The finding is based upon common sense and justice. The mere employees have suffered already severely for criminality clearly belonging to the corporation.

Powerless to Act. Indianapolis News. If the decisions of the Interstate Commerce commission are to have any real value in the future some provision should be enacted by congress whereby its verdicts would stand until overruled by the courts, which is based upon the case of Franco and Holland, lands which are and are likely ever to be our friends. Thus the problems of mixed sovereignties in the West Indies are gradually and most amiably being worked out to satisfactory solutions, with the States and Straits becoming steadily more conspicuous in those regions.

PERSONAL NOTES. The Washington Humane society is attempting to put a check on Attorney General Knox, alleging that he checks his horses too high. Frank Saxton, a nephew of Mrs. McKinley, has been dismissed from the position of supervising immigrant inspector at Ellis Island. He and two inspectors were accused of dereliction of duty regarding the admission of immigrants who were not entitled to land. The king of Corea has reluctantly submitted to pay his son's debts. Prince Euiwha cashed notes aggregating \$30,000 in Washington at various times, with which he gave the national capital the proper royal tint. The old man evidently appreciates the prince's skill as a town painter. Charles Edgar Jennings, a cousin of W. J. Bryan, is an aspirant to the democratic nomination for congress in the Twenty-fourth district of Illinois. Governor William Sherman Jennings of Florida is a brother and his law partner at one time was Judge Silas B. Ryan, a father of the recent presidential candidate. When Theodore Roosevelt was a member of the Civil Service commission W. C. Bowers, then a congressman from California, had some trouble with the commission and in an interview referred to Mr. Roosevelt as a "fakir." Mr. Bowers was collector of San Diego by President McKinley and has been reappointed by President Roosevelt, who remarked when reminded of the interview: "I shall reappoint Mr. Bowers. He is a good official. His personal opinions of me twelve years ago have nothing to do with the case." Which is correct—the United States are a nation, or the United States is a nation? Replying to these questions, asked by a Memphis correspondent, Hon. D. J. Brewer, justice of the United States supreme court, writes: "I use the plural because that is the form employed in the constitution. The last clause of section 9, article I, 'no person holding any office of profit or trust under them,' article III, section 2, 'treaties made or which shall be made under their authority,' article III, section 3, 'in levying war against them,' article III, amendments adopted after the war, 'within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction.'"

Advertisement for Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Includes illustration of a man holding a bottle and a child. Text: "The same old medicine I prescribed half a century ago." "I have used Ayer's Cherry Pectoral for over two years. I have never seen anything equal to it for acute diseases of the throat and lungs. I have arrested consumption with it, and have cured whooping-cough, croup, and bronchial affections." W. A. SHAW, M.D., Halifax, C. I., Va. May 24, 1890. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

IOWA PEOPLE TO THE FRONT.

A Bunch of Hawkeyes Talk Down Some Eastern Critics.

Iowa people touring the east are stepping high these days. The great prominence and influence of the Hawkeye state in national affairs justifies their pride and renders pardonable the gaiety of people who are "strictly in it." A bunch of Iowans enjoying themselves in a New York hotel recently were pounced upon by a New York Sun reporter. What followed the Sun tells: The spokesman of the party grasped the reporter coolly and presented the reporter all around. The Hawkeyes were congratulated on their well-fed and well-groomed appearance. "Oh, yes," said the spokesman, "we rather felicitate ourselves upon the fact that the average Hawkeye is capable of showing the gaiety of people who are 'strictly in it.' A bunch of Iowans enjoying themselves in a New York hotel recently were pounced upon by a New York Sun reporter. What followed the Sun tells: The spokesman of the party grasped the reporter coolly and presented the reporter all around. 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