

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 30th day of November, A. D. 1903. M. B. HINES, Notary Public.

And has Judge Kohlsaat, too, joined the Dowdlets? Whenever women's clubs find reasons dragging they tackle the member from Utah.

It looks as if the Omaha postoffice plum might not get into the Christmas pudding this time. No one is encountering any trouble in identifying the present bit of winter as a sample of the real thing.

If ex-Governor Savage is liable for Colby's alleged shortage why not call on Joe Bartley to make it good? Nebraska has secured a position of clerk in the senate postoffice at Washington. Small favors thankfully received.

The Japanese do not believe Russian forces will land on Corea, but evince a readiness to land on the said forces if they do. At any rate the Omaha grain market project is keeping the railroads running out of Omaha busy with their grain tariff schedules.

Baron Arthur de Rothschild has died, leaving a large estate—what latter circumstance won't make any material difference to most people. General Reyes does not have to consult the calendar to make sure that he has arrived at the court of Uncle Sam in the midst of the cold season.

Trouble often starts over a woman passing fair, but that street car riot in Chicago appears to have started over a woman who was not passing fair. Relief funds for the families of dead firemen are eminently proper, but preventive measures that would safeguard the lives of our fire fighters would be still better.

The Colombian army that threatens to defy the United States in Panama consists of 1,100 men—which is almost as many as the average South Omaha packing company employs. The worst part of the failure of those Iowa senators and representatives to agree on a successor to Judge Shiras, recently retired is that a good substantial salary is going to waste.

If Congressman Hinshaw will only advertise his exploits as a pension-getter as widely as possible, he will have no occasion to exert his usefulness as a public servant anywhere outside of the pension office. The bill posters working as advance circus men have stunk the big shows for an advance of wages for the coming year. Now watch the bosses recoup by decoating a lemonade without any lemon in it whatever.

When the Traveling Men's Protective association presented President Roosevelt with an associate membership he remarked that it is an unusual experience for a delegation to call to give, instead of to receive. And that's no joke, either. And now it is Federal Judge Swayne of Florida whom the house is asked to investigate. The general public is beginning to suspect that some congressmen would rather probe other men's records than legislate to the glory of their own.

The California legislature is moved to prevent the manufacture of impure wines. Before its members can act intelligently they will of course have to be shown the difference, and after they have been shown enough of the difference they won't care how they act.

FARMERS WITH CHAMBERLAIN.

It appears that Mr. Chamberlain has succeeded in winning over to his policy a portion at least of the agricultural producers of the United Kingdom. The farmers who constitute the membership of a national association, who are said to be thoroughly representative of the agricultural interests of the kingdom, at meetings, recently held discussed the subject of fiscal reform and adopted a resolution favorable to the Chamberlain proposals as being necessary to the welfare of the farmers. This seems to be an important gain for the cause championed by the former colonial secretary and it is not surprising that the agricultural producers should go to him. The cardinal feature of his policy is a tax on food stuffs, except such as are imported from the British colonies, and the farmers of the United Kingdom of course understand that their products would probably increase in price to the extent of the tax or nearly so. This would not mean very much for them, for Mr. Chamberlain does not contemplate a very high tax, but the British farmers generally are not particularly prosperous and therefore will welcome anything that promises to improve, however slightly, their condition.

The question that naturally suggests itself is how this attitude of the farmers, taken in expectation of higher prices for foodstuffs, affects the great body of consumers and especially the working classes. Among the latter Mr. Chamberlain has many supporters, whom he seems to have persuaded that under the operation of his policy they would have to pay little if anything more for foodstuffs than at present. May they not see some incompatibility between this assurance and the favorable view of the fiscal reform policy taken by the agricultural producers? Manifestly if the British farmers are to profit by that policy it must be at the expense of the British consumers.

However, it appears evident that the Chamberlain cause is making progress and that there is good promise of its being successful.

NATURALIZATION FRAUDS.

Not for the first time is the attention of congress called by the president and the attorney general to naturalization frauds, which are far more numerous than is commonly supposed, and an earnest recommendation made for remedial legislation. The president states that forgeries and perjuries of shameless and flagrant character have been perpetrated, not only in the dense centers of population, but throughout the country, and it is established beyond doubt that very many so-called citizens of the United States have no title whatever to that right and are asserting and enjoying the benefits of the same through the grossest frauds. Such a statement should certainly command the earnest consideration of the national law makers, for as the president further said, "the body politic cannot be sound and healthy if many of its constituent members claim their standing through the prostitution of the high right and calling of citizenship. It should mean something to become a citizen of the United States and in the process no loophole whatever should be left open to fraud."

In his reference to the matter Attorney General Knox recommends legislation which there is reason to believe would provide a thorough remedy. He would have omitted from the statutes as they now stand the question of intent and guilty knowledge where an offender has in his possession a fraudulent certificate of naturalization unlawfully obtained in any matter whatever, or where a fraudulent certificate so held and obtained is used for any purpose whatever. He further recommends that the law be amended so as to compel an alien at the time of applying for citizenship to present from the appropriate immigration authorities a certificate showing his age and the date of his arrival, and containing also his physical description. An important suggestion by the attorney general is that the power of issuing certificates of naturalization should be withdrawn from the various state courts and restricted to federal courts and that all administrative matters relating to naturalization should be committed to one central government bureau. These are practicable recommendations which ought to receive the careful attention of congress. There cannot be too great care exercised in granting American citizenship.

THE NEW DEPARTMENT.

The first report of the secretary of commerce and labor does not present much of a practical nature, the department having been organized only a few months and not yet being in complete working order. But the report, gives information as to what may be expected in the future, which shows that the new department has a great amount of very important work to perform. The secretary points out that a principal branch of the work will be that of statistics and it is proposed to supply statistical information promptly and with the greatest possible completeness, which will certainly be appreciated by the business community. The department is now sending out daily consular reports and other statistical matter will follow in due time. Development of American commerce is a leading object of the department and the secretary says that in employing means for the extension of our export trade in products of the farm as well as the factory there will be co-operation as far as possible with the Department of Agriculture, so that the two departments may work together for the interests of the American farmer. In the ascertainment of facts relating to industrial conditions the report states that "capitalists and wage receivers are to be treated on an equality," which is of course necessary to a fair and accurate presentation of conditions. It will undoubtedly be the effort of the department to interest intelligent labor in its work and to this end its investigations must be impartial and trustworthy. Secretary Cortelyou says that to be of service to those interests which it was created to care for the department should have their hearty co-operation and support and doubtless it will have no difficulty in securing this. In regard to the principles which must govern the administration of the department the report says: "It must be progressive, but at the same time conservative. It must not deviate in its course from the pathway of justice, strict and impartial. It must be nonpartisan in the highest and broadest sense. It must recognize no distinction as between large and small interests, as between the affluent or powerful and the humblest citizen." With these principles strictly observed it is not to be doubted that the Department of Commerce and Labor will become of great service to the industrial and commercial interests of the nation.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL DEPUTIES TO THE GOVERNOR.

Is the governor of Nebraska liable for moneys stolen or property unlawfully appropriated by any state official or employee appointed by him under the title of "deputy"? That question has been raised at the state capital since the alleged shortage of ex-adjutant General Colby has become a matter of public discussion. While the Colby deficit is not chargeable to Governor Mickey directly or indirectly and no appointee of Governor Mickey who draws pay from the state treasury under the title of "deputy" has been charged with peculation, the question comes home to Governor Mickey because of the bearing it would have upon him and his deputies in case any member of his staff of deputies should turn up in default. The question raised by the Colby incident forcibly directs public attention also to the fact that the commissions held by officers calling themselves deputies of the governor are in conflict with the plain letter of the constitution, which expressly prohibits the creation of any other executive offices than those enumerated by the constitution. This includes the governor's deputy labor commissioner, deputy oil inspector, deputy game warden, deputy state veterinarian and half a dozen other deputies appointed by the governor to perform executive functions. It will be remembered that the secretaries of the former State Board of Transportation, acting as railroad commissioners as deputies to the governor, the auditor and the secretary of state, were deposed by a decision of the state supreme court that declared unconstitutional the appointment of deputies to the state executive officers. This decision did not, however, affect the deputies employed by executive officers to perform functions connected with their respective offices, such as the deputy auditor, deputy commissioner of public lands and buildings, deputy treasurer and deputy secretary of state. It would be a stretch of the imagination to assume that the decision of the supreme court by which the railroad commission was wiped out should not also be construed to apply to other deputies that have been injected by succeeding legislatures into the machinery of state government. All these deputies, whether they fill a long felt want or a much-coveted graft, whether self-sustaining or not, would be legislated out by the supreme court if a test case was brought before that tribunal and decided on the same lines as the Board of Transportation case. The question whether the governor is responsible for the embezzlement of public funds or the appropriation of public property by officers holding commissions as the governor's deputies therefore brings up the other question, Can the governor be held liable for the acts of deputies appointed in contravention of the constitution? Are they his deputies if they have no valid existence? In a nutshell, can an executive state officer be held accountable for depositions committed by constitutional outlaws? If not, what is the remedy? Does not his obligation to enforce the constitution impose upon the governor the duty to discharge his unlawful deputies and leave the positions they occupy vacant until a constitutional amendment has been submitted and ratified granting to the legislature the power to create such additional executive officers as are not expressly enumerated in the constitution? Another charter provision that should be more strictly enforced is that which requires the approval of the health commissioner of all plans and specifications for new buildings and construction work before building permits are granted. The object of this provision is to insure proper sanitary equipment for the protection of the health of occupants and neighbors and it is by no means an unwarranted requirement. The same purpose as regards old buildings can be subserved only by periodic sanitary inspection, with rigid compliance with the recommendations of the authorities for curing defects likely to become dangerous. A stricter enforcement of the building regulations by the municipal officers might not please the people directly affected in their pocketbooks, but it would be decidedly popular with the general public. Mayor-elect McClellan of New York declares that he is going to disappoint the people who have been predicting a carnival of vice and graft as soon as he is installed in the executive office of the metropolis. If the reform administration of Mayor Low will really have forced Tammany to put the brakes on its own machine, it will have produced more permanent civic betterment for the people of Greater New York than ever before accomplished in a much longer period. It is suggested that all the republican members of Nebraska's delegation at Washington exercise a voice in the matter of federal appointments to the state

after the fashion of the senators and representatives from Iowa.

Unfortunately, however, the suggestion comes just at a time when the Iowa delegation is indefinitely deadlocked in a vain endeavor to agree on a satisfactory candidate for the federal district bench, so that its example is not overly inspiring.

The senate committee on privileges and elections will investigate the oath exacted by the Mormon church of Apostle Reed Smoot with a view to determine whether it conflicts with the oath he took as United States senator. The church authorities might take the hint and appoint a special committee to report whether the oath taken by Apostle Smoot for admission to the senate contravenes his obligations as an officer of the Mormon religious organization.

If all those deputies on the state payroll were dropped what would become of the people of Nebraska? How could the laboring men labor without a deputy labor commissioner? What would the horses and mules do without a deputy state veterinarian? What would the rabbits and prairie chickens do without the protection of the deputy game warden?

J. Pierpont Morgan refuses to define his attitude as yet on the various applicants for presidential preferment. The great Mr. Morgan, like another great Wall street financier of other days, is not particular about party affiliations. He wants to wait till he feels sure which way the cat will jump.

The chairman of the republican state committee has just been appointed to a lucrative federal position in recognition of the services rendered the party. In some other states we know of, the rule seems too often to be "least service—biggest reward."

Sup for the Anti.

Anti-imperialism ought to feel easier. Eleven thousand men have been dropped from the army this year.

The Only Divorce Preventive.

Divorce is not likely to be prevented or diminished in frequency except by a religious conscience to which divorce is sinful. Over 200,000 Americans are now in the army as expressed in laws in favor of it, and fashionable practice is on the same side.

Let Democrats Sleep On.

The secretary of the treasury estimates that the national expenditures will increase \$35,000,000 during the next fiscal year. No considerable surplus is now in sight to disturb the democratic party, which always frets when the income is greater than the outgo.

Danger in Grabbing.

Members of congress proposing to take the constructive mileage would do well to keep their hands off it, until the last day of the term. Strangely enough, the people of this country still have a lingering prejudice against the grabbing of money without the shadow of a pretense of earning it.

Improving Rural Mail Service.

The president in his message calls attention to the importance of rural free delivery service. He asks for the attention of congress to the question of compensation of the carriers and clerks. This is a matter that deserves consideration. The rural service ought to be put on the same basis as the service in cities. The carriers should have sufficient pay and should not be expected to do out a livelihood by engaging in other occupations than that for which the government employs them.

RAILROAD RETRENCHMENT.

While the approaching discharge of shop employees and track laborers by several great railroad companies must not be overlooked by those who desire to know the condition and prospects of business, the causes of such reductions of force should be carefully noted. These men are not to be laid off because of a present depression, nor wholly on account of a depression that is expected. It is predicted that from 15,000 to 20,000 men employed in the shops or on the tracks will be dismissed before January 1. Traffic continues to be heavy, and the forces engaged in actual transportation are not to be disturbed. But it is expected that within a short time the Vanderbilt companies will discharge 2,500 men, the Harriman roads as many, and that the movement will affect possibly 20,000 employees. In the Lake Shore shops the change has taken the form of a reduction of hours.

These dismissals will be due in some measure to the approach of the cold season. This cause accounts in part for the discharge of 3,500 men employed in the lake iron ore mines. On the railroads many costly improvements have recently been made, and in some instances these have been designed to cause a reduction of the number of employees. Expenditures on the Harriman roads for equipment and various betterments during the last three years were \$104,000,000. The Pennsylvania company, however, has recently called a halt on improvement contracts involving \$10,000,000. It may be that similar action by a considerable number of roads will make thousands of men idle, in addition to those to be dismissed from the shops.

Such action, together with the reported cutting of orders for rails, which is said to have caused a suspension of work last week in the Youngstown mills, does indicate retrenchment. And undoubtedly the reduction of shop forces is due in part to a desire to reduce expenses in view of expected dullness. Railroad traffic is large now, as we have said, but some railroad officers are looking forward to a decline and are getting ready for it. Demand has already fallen off in the iron trade, owing partly to the folly of some labor unions and partly to the embarrassment of investors. The effect is seen at the ore mines and the furnaces, and in the prediction that wages at the Homestead works will be reduced. Continued decline in the iron trade must affect railroad traffic.

It is true that one cause, and probably the most influential of all causes, of the reduction of the railroads' operating forces and of the suspension of improvement work is not only an expectation of some general depression, but also a few signs of the beginning of it. If such depression shall come, it will be due chiefly to the quarrels of powerful capitalists, the writ that the owners of some railroad companies are getting ready for it. Demand has already fallen off in the iron trade, owing partly to the folly of some labor unions and partly to the embarrassment of investors. The effect is seen at the ore mines and the furnaces, and in the prediction that wages at the Homestead works will be reduced. Continued decline in the iron trade must affect railroad traffic.

Signs of Coming Depression, the Fruit of Wild Financiering.

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Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot.

Postmaster General Payne has thrown a barpoon into a bunch of fakirs who have been using the mails to enlarge their graft. Isaac Walton, a colored minister, was first on the list of fraud orders issued by the department. Isaac made use of the mails to secure subscriptions from the colored men and women of the south on the plea that he was to use the funds to obtain the passage of a bill in congress to pension ex-slaves. This scheme is as old as the hills and has caused half a dozen persons to be barred from the use of the mails.

Mammy Graham of Great Forest, Ark., can no longer have the benefit of the United States mails for the purpose to which she has been devoting them for the past two or three years. She started by writing one letter to a woman interested in charitable work. It is claimed that she represented the same woman as being poor, and that she would feel comforted for the balance of her days if she possessed a piano. She appealed to her correspondent to send her a nickel, and she to write three letters to three friends, each to be sent to her with a nickel, and she to send one more letter to the girl and to secure her services in various ways. It is alleged that she has been doing this for three years, and that she not only got enough nickels to buy a piano, but also to build a house about the piano. Postmaster General Payne yesterday directed to bar her from the use of the mails.

One of the fake schemes that sprang up with the St. Louis fair has been nipped in the bud by the Postoffice department. It lasted only a month or so, but gave signs of being a veritable gold mine for the promoters. As for something like the following, was published in various parts of the country: "Wanted, for the St. Louis fair, waiters, bartenders, clerks and good all round men; good money to hustlers; car fare paid to St. Louis." Those who answered the ad were led to believe that the employment agency was under the management of the St. Louis Exposition company. They were told to remit \$5 and that railroad fare to St. Louis would be forwarded at once, and that on arriving at the latter place a good position would be found for the applicant. When \$5 was remitted the correspondent would suddenly send them only a nickel at the scheme complained to the postal authorities, and a fraud order was last week issued against the concern.

The Federal Remedy company of New York will also be barred from the use of the mails. The concern advertised that it would give a handsome amount of money to any person selling a small amount of its medicine. Complaints against the company began to drift into the department and a fraud order was issued.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Evening Post writes that "the irrigation melon" has occasioned a lively dispute as to the manner in which it should be cut. Senator McCumber of North Dakota leads off with a bill designed to justify the fears of the opponents of federal aid on so stupendous a scale. McCumber wants to do what the secretary of the interior from proceeding according to his safe and wholesome plans, which treat the problem as a national one, and makes the disbursements where they will do the most good, respecting only in a general way the theory of disbursement by states.

Under the McCumber bill, the secretary would be required to continue making surveys, investigations and experiments until the entire area of the state had been covered; this might consume many years and would doubtless result in the waste of a large part of the fund. Under the existing law, the secretary may use his own discretion as to the amount of money he shall devote to the surveys and investigations each year, and is able to allot to investigation such reasonable proportion of any one year's funds as appears to him proper after a study of the results of previous examinations.

To confine the expenditure of this money entirely within the boundaries of the states which contribute it," said a well-known irrigator today, "is just as senseless a proposition as to insist upon its expenditure within the exact area from which it was derived."

The passage of the McCumber bill would mean immediate cessation of reclamation work in Arizona, where construction has already begun on one of the largest irrigation projects in the country. It would stop the work already under way in Nevada, and would render impossible any consideration of feasible irrigation in Utah, Kansas, New Mexico, and possibly Wyoming, since the funds derived from the sale of lands in these states and territories would be inadequate for the construction of important works. In Oklahoma, where, with the exception of one county and perhaps part of another, irrigation is not essential to the cultivation of crops, the fund is ample, thanks to the large sale of public land. Nevada, on the other hand, the most arid state in the west, has contributed but \$3,875 to this fund, while the government work now in progress there will necessitate an outlay of \$1,500,000. Should the McCumber act become a law, this would have to stop.

Just as the cabinet meeting broke up the president found a quarter on the floor. "Who lost a quarter?" he asked. "I didn't," said Secretary Hay. Secretary Hitchcock counted his money. "Strange to say," he announced, "I have just as much as I had when I came in." "Is it yours, Cortelyou?" asked the president. "No, sir," said the secretary of commerce and labor. "How about you, Knox?" asked the president, holding up the silver between thumb and forefinger. "I never carry so much money in one place," the attorney general replied. The other members of the cabinet—Moody, Shaw, Root, Wilson and Payne—were absent.

It was decided to turn the money over to the conscience fund as a contribution from the five states, for, as the president remarked, "Even if they have no consciences, they should have."

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