

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

H. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 19th day of December, 1904. M. R. HUNGADE, Notary Public.

At last Colonel Bryan has found one presidency he is willing to decline.

One can but wonder how much of the Missouri senatorial entanglement is due to talk over the notorious "Harrison telephone" line.

When Kansas erects that proposed state petroleum refinery the Standard Oil company may have a chance to start a fight with an organization in its class.

So far in the proceedings it has been unnecessary to ask the politics of the newly elected senators, for in no instance has a republican given place to a democrat.

Judging by the unanimity that has characterized senatorial elections in all the republican states this winter, it would seem as if we had outlived the senatorial contest and legislative deadlocks.

Now that two men are on trial for responsibility for the Slocum disaster there is some hope that the Iroquois theater matter will be aired in the courts before the present generation passes away.

Fraternality society incorporation and fraternal insurance appears to monopolize about one-third of the time of the Nebraska legislature, although it is an open secret that grips and passwords are no passport to political office.

The city council has blocked the scheme for the erection of a gas plant at Twenty-second and Burdette streets. This would indicate that the council proposes to retain the monopoly on gas holders within its own membership.

Perhaps those Russian shipbuilders would have had too much patriotism to strike while their country was in a state of war and needed ships. If they were permitted to express themselves effectively on the subject in some other manner.

Another British ship loaded with munitions of war for Russia has been captured by Japanese. It is a wonder that the Japanese minister to London does not call attention to that "alliance" of which so much was expected when the war began.

The Mine Workers' union paid out benefits of over \$1,800,000 last year, of which nearly \$500,000 went to Colorado. During the same time it cost Colorado over \$800,000 to keep soldiers at the mines. Two good arguments in favor of arbitration of labor disputes.

It is to be hoped that the fire fiend will observe the peace while the volunteer firemen of Nebraska are showing off their fine points at Columbus. Under somewhat similar circumstances the president of the association lost his business house a year or two ago.

The juvenile court may do a great deal toward the reclamation of youthful criminals, but it will take organization and co-operation on the part of the men and women of Omaha who are interested in the juvenile court to accomplish very effective and lasting reform.

The operatives at Fall River have decided to return to work at reduced wages while other differences are being settled, which would indicate that Massachusetts made no fatal mistake when it elected W. L. Douglas, who has brought about the resumption of work, as its chief executive.

The proposed construction of a quarter of a million sewer system would commend itself to the great majority of South Omaha taxpayers if coupled with the assurance that at least half of the cost will be borne by the packing houses for whose special accommodation these sewers are said to have been projected.

SENATOR BURKETT.

Elmer Jacob Burkett has been duly elected by the legislature to represent Nebraska in the United States senate for a full term of six years from March 4 next. This action was foreordained from the time the last republican state convention made Mr. Burkett the party nominee for that exalted position.

While Mr. Burkett's new honors have come to him practically without a contest, his elevation to the senate involves two features which should not be allowed to stand as precedents. The Bee has for years been championing the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people, but this principle requires the candidates to go before the people with a declaration of principles and views on pending issues.

The second bad feature was the double nomination of Mr. Burkett for representative and for senator at the same time. Other members of congress have sought senatorial honors, but they have almost invariably first relinquished their places in the house before asking the suffrages of the people for the higher position.

In point of qualifications Senator-elect Burkett is unquestionably well equipped to meet the requirements of the office and to make an eminently respectable and creditable representative of the state in the senate.

Within the past ten years forced contributions have been levied upon the taxpayers of this county for the maintenance of county government amounting to very nearly \$6,000,000. During all this period the bulk of this money has been voted out of the county treasury by commissioner combines without taking the people into their confidence.

COURT PLAN GAINING GROUND.

The question of railroad rate regulation is receiving the most earnest attention at Washington and it is stated that the suggestion at present most favorably considered is that a court be created which shall be clothed with authority to declare a specific rate too high, and that only after a thorough investigation of all the conditions. It is said that accompanying this suggestion is the declaration that the Interstate Commerce commission can never act in a broader capacity than that of federal prosecutor before the proposed court.

There is no doubt that the more carefully the court proposition is considered the stronger it will become in popular favor. It has already received the indorsement of a number of prominent railroad men, on the ground that such a court would possess a higher standard and be composed of men of larger ability, who would be further removed from political considerations than any government commission could be.

It is argued that it would on the whole be better to have a court of high standing to decide finally whether a rate is just or unjust than to have a commission pass upon the rate with the right of appeal to a higher court.

The weight of argument is clearly in favor of an interstate commerce court, provided it be so constituted as to guarantee quick decisions in all cases and executive power sufficient to make sure that its decrees are carried immediately into effect.

Manifestly in the case of a disputed railroad rate a speedy decision is essential. What is obviously needed is some tribunal of high standing that shall make a fair but quick investigation, decide promptly and put its decrees immediately into effect.

Under existing conditions there is great delay and the public is the party that suffers from this. This would be remedied by the creation of such a court as is proposed and which has been advocated by the editor of this paper for years.

Of course it is suggested in regard to this matter that there may be some practical or constitutional flaw which will remove it from the field of consideration. We think there is not a question as to the constitutional power of congress to create such a judicial tribunal as contemplated and it is not easy to see what there is of a practical nature in the way.

There is very strong opposition in congress to enlarging the power of the Interstate commission for regulating railway rates and there is reason to doubt whether this will be done. In fact, it is confidently predicted at Washington that little increase of power will be conferred on that branch of the executive department of the government.

On the other hand, there is practically no opposition to the suggestion that a tribunal be established to determine issues arising under the interstate

COMMERCE LAW AND THE PLAN HAS BEEN

widely approved as the most practicable method for solving a troublesome problem.

JAPAN ALSO HAS GRIEVANCES.

It is an admitted fact that neither Japan nor Russia has strictly observed the rules of neutrality in the far eastern war, but so far as failure to preserve the neutrality of seaports may be concerned the burden of testimony is with Japan and against Russia.

While the former entered Che Foo forcibly on one occasion there was provocation for doing so in the use made of that harbor by a Russian torpedo boat escaping from Japanese attack. China then failed to maintain her status as a neutral and the Japanese admiral took the law into his own hands.

His course under the circumstances was very generally regarded as justifiable. It was a violation of neutrality, of course, but it would not have occurred had the Chinese authorities performed their duty.

On the part of Russia repeated violations of neutrality have occurred. The first instance was that of the gunboat Mandjur, at the very beginning of the war. That vessel stayed in port at Shanghai, while the Japanese waited and watched for it outside for several weeks and it was not dismantled until the end of March.

Another case in which Russia violated Chinese neutrality was that of the protected cruiser Askold, which ran into Shanghai for shelter and its commander refused to dismantle until ordered from St. Petersburg to do so.

Still another violation of Chinese neutrality on the part of the Russians was in using Che Foo as a naval base and maintaining there a wireless telegraph station in regular communication with Port Arthur. The recent raid of a large force of Russian cavalry into Chinese territory was another and very flagrant violation of neutrality.

These and other instances make up a bill of grievances which Japan may offer as an offset to the charges and complaints presented by the Russian government in its note to the powers.

That she will not fail to recall the attention of the world to these circumstances when she makes reply to the Russian allegations it is safe to say. That reply will be regarded with universal interest and there will be very general astonishment if it does not show, to the satisfaction at least of the unprejudiced, that the Russian allegations are for the most part baseless and, when not this, very much exaggerated.

Our government, which is manifesting a proper concern in the situation, should soon have information from its representatives at Peking that will throw some light upon the Russian complaints and possibly also the motives of that power.

TURN ON THE SEARCHLIGHT.

Within the past ten years forced contributions have been levied upon the taxpayers of this county for the maintenance of county government amounting to very nearly \$6,000,000. During all this period the bulk of this money has been voted out of the county treasury by commissioner combines without taking the people into their confidence.

The publication of the proceedings of county boards in a weekly newspaper is worse than a farce. Out of the 30,000 voters of Douglas county about 6 per cent read weekly newspapers and not 1 per cent of the taxpaying citizens of Douglas county read the particular weekly paper in which county proceedings have been published.

The only papers that have general circulation in this county are the dailies and publicity of county management and county expenditure in the daily newspapers has at best been fragmentary.

We make bold to assert that more jobs and steals and more crooked work has been done in the court house within the past five years than has been perpetrated in the city hall in twenty years. There have been bridge steals, road steals, vault steals, county hospital steals and jail steals innumerable, but it is almost impossible to run them down and trace them so long as existing methods of doing business continue.

While the county boards during this period have been dominated by democrats, all the bootlers and grafters were not of that political faith by a long way. Political creed does not set very heavily upon the conscience of the grafter, the bootler and the crooked contractor.

Up to 1890 there were annual publications showing the sources of revenue, receipts and disbursements of county funds, but under the pretense of economy that method of periodic publicity has been discontinued. As a natural consequence the taxpayers of Douglas county have been kept in the dark concerning the wastefulness and extravagance and the lawless raids upon the treasury sanctioned by the county boards.

It seems to us the time has come for turning over a new leaf. The taxpayers of Douglas county have a right to know from now on what is being done with county funds and how much is drawn out of the treasury by each of the departments, including the county clerk, treasurer, surveyor, county court, sheriff, register of deeds and clerk of the district court, and how much is expended and for what purpose for poor relief and the maintenance of the so-called poor farm, and how much we are expending for the making of new roads, building of new bridges, the maintenance of roads and the repair of old bridges.

In other words, the management of county affairs should henceforth be placed under the lime-light of publicity and every transaction of the county board and county officials affecting the taxpayers should be brought to the knowledge of the taxpayers and citizens generally.

South Omaha charter revisers propose to ask the legislature for a special permit authorizing the mayor and council of South Omaha to issue \$250,000 of sewer bonds without submitting the proposition to the people. That unique

SCHEME MAY NOT STARTLE THE LEGISLATURE,

but it certainly will startle the taxpayers of South Omaha. The precedent once established the issue of bonds without the consent of the people is not likely to stop with sewer bonds.

GOVERNOR FOLK OF MISSOURI HAS SERVED

notice on all reputable and disreputable legislative lobbyists that they must report at the governor's office promptly on their arrival at Jefferson City, or as soon as possible thereafter, by registering their names and the object of their visit, and must also pronounce themselves to representatives of the press.

If Governor Mickey will now emulate the example of Governor Folk the first step will be taken toward the banishment of the professional lobbyists from the state capital. It must not be forgotten, however, that the most dangerous lobbyists generally manage to have themselves enrolled among the employees of the two houses.

The pernicious work of this class can be checked only by rigid rules forbidding employees of the legislature from acting in the capacity of lobbyists under penalty of summary dismissal.

The first constitutional amendment has been introduced in the lower house of the legislature, but it is to be hoped that it may not be the last and only one. It is admitted on all hands that the constitution needs revision and if the present legislature would devote a few days to the consideration of constitutional amendments that have become imperative it would immortalize itself and earn the eternal gratitude of its constituents.

Some weak men, myself among the number, in order to secure peace and unimpeded passage on the highroads, promised to be present at such functions. It is true, however, to the rich lady to say that she did not resort to composition. She simply let it "come out" in the press and through her close friends that if any one was guilty of being absent from her functions at a given time, other who should be the victor would no longer keep them on her visiting list.

As the night approached the excitement grew intense. I determined within myself to keep friendly with both, and with that in view, drove to the "cave dwellers" dance first. "To get in was easy. The warmth of my welcome was intense—but when it came to getting out again—oh, no! There were at least six dragons guarding the single exit.

Several of the guests endeavored to pass them, but returned, crushed and shamed. Then I remembered the German waiter, and, followed by a youthful diplomat, gave that worthy a dollar. "Let us come with you into the kitchen," said I, and in the middle of a waltz, the dancing couples hiding us from the dragons, we went down the kitchen stairs and out through the area. We waited for nothing, but made a beeline through mud and slush to the "millionaire's." We arrived in time to be present at one of the most gorgeous entertainments of the kind ever given, and, indulging in champagne, congratulated the "cave-dwellers." At 11 o'clock nothing but the ladies of their families and one or two frightened conscripts were left, all having "gone over" to the representatives of the mighty dollar.

The Board of Education has voted a levy of 2.6 mills upon the taxable property within the city limits of Omaha. That levy will provide more than ample funds for conducting our public school system. A judicious use of the pruning knife to cut out fads, frills and sinecures would enable the board to accumulate a nice surplus by the end of the present year.

People who point to the carrying of revolvers as the cause for the many murders in the United States should not forget the knife wielder and the poisoner. While it is possible more murders are committed by shooting than by any other single means, it is a fact that more persons are killed at one time by poison than by guns.

REACTING IN.

During the fall following the fall of Port Arthur the Balkan war cloud will avail itself of the opportunity to play a brief engagement.

ITS BUSINESS, YOU KNOW.

Chicago, Inter Ocean. Another British steamer carrying coal to Vladivostok has been captured by the Japanese. This is, of course, an outrage. Japan should not interfere with the business of her ally.

FOLLY OF FREAK REFORM.

New York Tribune. New York is now reaping some of the fruits of the three classes system imposed upon it by sentimentalists who played into the hands of Tammany politicians. Soon or late, cities, like me, must pay the price of their follies.

GRADING OUT PENNSYLVANIA.

New York Sun. Saturday the house of representatives "broke the record" by passing 69 pension bills in one hour and forty-three minutes. This is not a "record" to endure or to be proud of. Surely, an automatic law-making machine can be devised that will pass sixty bills a minute.

CHANCES FOR THE POOR YOUNG MAN.

New York Sun. Mr. William B. Potter, formerly conductor of a freight train, becomes the president of the Long Island Railway company. He had the right to leave a job in the clerical department of the first railway that employed him and go to work with the pride of a millionaire. Like those that preceded it, was due entirely to "pull"—the "pull" that consists in knowing thoroughly one's business, devoting oneself to it entirely, and not being afraid to work.

Mr. Bryan says that the poor young man has no chance for advancement any more—for example, Mr. Potter and Mr. Hedley of New York and Mr. Bryan of Nebraska.

AMERICA'S LESSONS IN HEALTH.

Philadelphia Press. Not the least benighted thing which America has carried to the Philippines is the art of preserving human life. A regular army captain who has served in the islands and who is about to return there says he would now "no more fear cholera" because he has carried to the Philippines the art of preserving human life.

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Ex-Senator Shoup of Idaho, who died recently, clung close through all his residence in Washington to an old frontier precaution that seemed ingrained. It would never sit with his back to a door or an open window, but always took a seat or stood in a room where he could command the entrance and where no one could come up behind him.

Senator Morgan of Alabama has not learned to look with any great degree of favor upon young colleagues. While the statehood bill was being discussed last week he addressed the senate at some length, one part of his speech seeming to contradict another. Senator Beveridge of Indiana pointed out the alleged inconsistency in rather sharp fashion, whereupon the venerable southern statesman retorted: "That is an argument which might do for a debating society when no boy in it was over ten years old, but it will not do for the senate of the United States."

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Senator Beveridge of Indiana, who does not indulge in tobacco, has as his brands of cigars as can be found at any committee room in the capitol. Good smokers so testify, after ample opportunity for an expert opinion. Strange to say, most of the large and splendid assortment of woods came to the senator as Christmas presents from friends in Indiana, who did not know that he had forewarned the west.

PENALTY FITS THE CRIME.

Philadelphia Press. One Mormon has been discovered who is so stoutly against polygamy that he has set some people thinking there is no punishment for the Mormons.

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot.

Captain Algernon Sartoris, grandson of General Grant, contributed to Harper's Weekly a breezy sketch of Washington social life, its divisions, struggles, and heartburnings. He finds the situation "most amusing," from a European point of view, and the amusement he describes comes as a tender spot in Washington. The captain writes: "A certain very wealthy lady had evidently determined either to get herself acknowledged as the principal leader of the gay and smartest set or fall in battle, fighting bravely. Her courage entitled her to the success, her tactics brought her down."

Several prominent ladies of old Washington—"cave dwellers" (members of the exclusive residential set), for the most part had organized a series of subscription dances. The first adversary selected an evening upon which one of the most important of these dances was to be given and gave a great "collocation." The "cave dwellers" committee at once dispatched a messenger—with an ultimatum demanding the postponement of this "collocation" until after their own was over. A firm and courteous reply was sent to the effect that it would be too much trouble to recall the invitations—in fact, impossible, and suggested a postponement of theirs. This put the "cave dwellers" on their mettle, and they prepared for war. One scarcely dared to go out in the street for fear of being stopped and compelled to promise attendance.

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Advertisement for Ayer's Hair Vigor and Ayer's Eye-Sore Remedy. Includes illustration of a woman and text: "You cannot wipe off the blur! And the reason is there is nothing the matter with your glasses. The trouble is with you; you, yourself. Your head is congested, you are dizzy, you cannot see clearly, and you are all out of sorts. Wake up your sleepy liver! Get rid of a lot of bile. Take one of Ayer's Pills each night, for a few nights. These pills are liver pills, all vegetable, sugar-coated. They act directly on the liver, curing biliousness, constipation, dizziness."

PERSONAL NOTES. A Spanish estimate of American life is that the Americans try to see how much they can work and still live. The Spanish policy is just the opposite.

Miss Katherine L. Craig, the just-elected superintendent of public instruction in Colorado, is one of the best known women educators in the United States. She is the author of several text books.

Dr. Charles A. Eastman, the noted Sioux Indian lecturer, author and historian, is on the Pacific coast collecting material for his comprehensive history of the Sioux nation. The work is being prepared under direction of the interior department, special attention being given to land titles.

John W. Widgerson is the most interesting negro in Baltimore. He is connected with the Maryland Academy of sciences and is engaged at present upon the arrangement of a collection of coral, which he gathered last summer in and near Jamaica, and said to be one of the best in the country.

The legal formality of addressing a court sticks to many a lawyer of congressional preference. It is nothing unusual to hear an impassioned orator in the house, pausing in his argument or breaking in upon the argument of another, exclaim: "Now, if your honor please." Of course, the house always marks the slip with a burst of loud laughter.

A Parisian physician has founded a "mirth cure" for dyspepsia and receives a large fee for treating patients. He puts a number of them around a room and makes them grin at each other. All look so foolish that in time they get laughing heartily and are made to keep it up for two hours a day. Two weeks of this treatment is said to cure the worst case of dyspepsia.

AN UNHEARD EVENT.

Lack of Interest in Casting the Electoral Vote for President. Few persons realized that a president of the United States was elected a week ago. There was practically no mention of it in the papers. Some papers announced in obscure corners the meeting of the electors in one, two or three states between their own. There was no ringing of bells or tooting of whistles by day, or burning of red fire by night, no staring headlines in the paper to announce the fact that Theodore Roosevelt had been elected. Yet he was elected on that day and on no other. He was not elected, technically speaking, in November, but a week ago by all the electors of the several states meeting in their respective capitols and casting their ballots for him and Fairbanks or for Parker and Davis. Had the electors in New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois or any other ninety-nine electors in Roosevelt's 226 chosen to cast their votes for Parker, as he had a perfect legal right to do, Parker would have been elected. That such a course would have been exactly conducive to the health and longevity of the electors responsible may be granted. The lack of interest in the exercise by the electors of their immense constitutional powers and the common forgetfulness that the president is not legally elected until January, afford a striking example of the force of precedent, the ascendancy of custom and the might of public opinion. It would probably be difficult to find an elector who would not almost rather face death than to face the people of his state if he should exercise his constitutional prerogative in any other way than that to which he was implicitly pledged.

YOU'LL NEVER BE MISSED.

James Barton Adams in Denver Post. In sailing over the sea of life, my brother, do not think of leaving the Progress craft 't'd do to wreck and sink; Don't feel that you possess the earth and all that in it lies, And hold a chattel mortgage on the planets in the skies. You're but a tiny single drop of water in the sea. Of all the great and active tide of life humanity, And you should always bear in mind the smallness of your might—The earth will sink on just the same when you drop out of sight.

Though you are rich in gold and lands and bear an honored name, Remember that the humblest man you meet may stand you equal at the bar of justice up on high. Though you may think yourself above the honest working man, May look on him as dross while you're a nugget in the pan, You scarcely will be missed when from the earth you drop out of sight. The world will never feel a jolt when you drop out of sight.

The president monarch on the earth must some day die. He is dead, and he is ever fanned. And when by kind of God the seals of that great book are given The man of folk may be a prince, the king about the throne, Then as you meet your fellow men don't face a moment's gloom. That in the endless chain of life you are a leading link, And always keep this grain of truth within your memory bright: This world will never slip a cog when you drop out of sight.

Jap Rose Soap.

is exquisite and delightful. These qualities are the result of simple purity and extreme care in manufacture. It has the delicate odor of spring-time flowers. Soothing to an irritated skin; it makes bathing a pleasure.

JAMES S. KIRK & COMPANY