

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Douglas City, 1904. George H. Trechuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, deposes that the actual number of copies and complete copies of the Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of December, 1904, was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Copies, Paid, Total. Rows include Daily Bee, Sunday Bee, and Total for various dates in December 1904.

Net total sales, \$11,644. Daily average, 28,500.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 21st day of December, 1904. (Seal) G. H. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

The third big, new grain elevator for Omaha is now in sight. Let the good work go on.

It was hardly necessary for China to affirm that it would be neutral. What is wanted is for belligerents to recognize its neutrality.

Representative Dodge's primary election bill prescribes a test oath more odious even than that embodied in the Gilbert test-then bill passed by the last legislature. Cut it out.

Senator Smoot on the witness stand declares he has no sympathy with polygamy, which ought to be true, seeing how much trouble the institution has caused him since he was elected to office.

Now that a British steamer has been condemned by Japan for transporting contraband of war, Great Britain may insist that allies should treat each other with a degree of courtesy not accorded strangers.

President Loubet is said to have been a mechanic in his younger days, but he surely never had a more difficult job than building a cabinet out of the heterogeneous material from which he must choose.

Omaha now counts among its citizens a Knight of the Order of Wasa to keep company with its Count of the Holy Roman Empire and its distinguished Bearer of the Iron Cross. Nothing is too good for Omaha.

The German emperor and the Russian czar now have opportunity to show which has studied the labor question to the greater advantage by bringing about an amicable settlement of the strikes which are in progress.

Austria and Russia have agreed upon plans for governing Macedonia. It may be easier to secure the approval of Turkey than of the Macedonian insurgents, who are now piling up arms for a fight and may want to use them.

Lincoln republicans have fixed upon February 7 and 14 for their direct primaries to nominate candidates for city offices. They will take no chances by waiting for the legislature to enact a new primary law for them.

If Wisconsin legislators carry out their promise to send LaFollette to the senate of the United States President Roosevelt will be assured of one hearty lieutenant in the upper branch of congress when he tries to adjust the railroad problem.

It is to be noted that the World-Herald's uncompromising opposition to the supreme court commission has become really vehement since the supreme court, which is vested with the appointing power, passed from fusion to republican control.

St. Petersburg employers say the question of an eight-hour day is one to be settled by the government, while in America every opponent of a shorter workday insists it is something the government should let alone. And both are striving for the same object after all.

On one thing, fortunately, all our charter revisers are agreed. They all admit the uselessness of the Board of Public Works as now constituted and the need for the transfer of its functions to some authority that will promote public improvements when demanded instead of blocking them.

Senator-elect Burkett says he is opposed to the government doing anything which private individuals can do. That means, probably, that he is opposed to a parcel post. We apprehend, however, that the people of Nebraska, by a large majority, would prefer to have the express companies' monopoly broken up.

WAITING FOR OPPOSITION.

A few days ago a conference of prominent railroad officials was held in New York City to discuss proposed legislation affecting railway rates and according to report twenty-nine systems, comprising practically every railroad in the country, are being merged into a concrete unit for the specific purpose of overcoming legislation at Washington having for its object rate regulation. It is stated that the alliance is to be offensive and defensive, but largely the former. The report says: "The determination of the railroad companies to act as a unit in the fight to prevent the legislation has already buried some of the individual antagonisms which have existed for a long time between presidents of different systems. . . . The combined power of the railroads of the country in Washington is held to be greater than that of any other combination of interests. With all of their energy and power concentrated upon a single purpose, they are counted upon to make a fight that will test the strength of President Roosevelt."

WITHOUT GIVING FULL CREDIT TO THIS REPORT.

It can be said that it is by no means improbable, in spite of the fact that some of the men who attended the conference have been understood not to be averse to further legislation in the direction recommended by President Roosevelt. At all events it is well that the leading railroad men should confer and let the country know just where they stand in regard to this most important question. If they intend to unite in fighting against additional legislation for remedying abuses that they admit exist, and which they profess to be unable to correct, the sooner the public is assured of their intention the better. There is no doubt as to the attitude of the national administration and it is fully approved by the people. There is every reason to believe that there will be no departure by the president from the position he has taken. The disposition shown in congress is to comply with the views of the president. If the railroads are determined to resist the public demand represented by the president let them so declare without delay. The people want to know definitely how the railroads stand in respect to this vital matter—whether they are willing to have existing abuses corrected or propose to have perpetuated conditions that are admittedly injurious to the general welfare.

NEW JERSEY CORPORATION LAWS.

New Jersey is known to the country as the foremost trust-making state. Her corporation laws are peculiarly liberal and have been taken advantage of by the trust organizers to a greater extent than those of any other commonwealth. From this state has derived a large revenue and the new governor, Edward C. Stokes, is desirous that this source of income shall not be disturbed. In his inaugural address he pointed out that more than three-fourths of the income of New Jersey came from corporations domiciled there and he raised the question whether or not this revenue can be maintained in its present volume, saying that other states are competing for incorporation business and that the rates in those states are cheaper than are New Jersey's.

Governor Stokes said that legislation for revenue only is unsound and should never be encouraged, but honest legislation, which safeguards the rights of the public, and thereby attracts capital and enterprises and produces increased income, is New Jersey's aim. The state "does not compete in any race between states for revenue where the inducement to incorporation is laxity of law." He urged that not only should the rights of investing stockholders be protected, but also the obligations of the corporation to the state and to the people at large should be efficiently enforced. He recommended the appointment of a commission to revise the corporation laws, with a view to eradicating any abuses that may have crept in and bringing them into accord with more advanced conditions.

We do not know that the corporation laws of New Jersey are any more objectionable than those of some other states that have followed her example, but there is no doubt that they can be improved and ought to be. That state is to a very large extent responsible for the great corporations of which there is so much complaint and while she has found profit in it a great deal of injury has been done to the people at large. It is time for a change of policy in this matter.

ASIATIC LABOR.

The feeling of hostility on the Pacific coast to Chinese and Japanese labor appears to be as strong as ever and has recently shown itself in an aggressive form. Referring to this the San Francisco Call remarks that the time has come when the good name of California requires that the mobbing of Chinese and Japanese shall cease. It points out that those people are there in the exercise of their treaty rights and statutory privileges and says that these treaties and statutes are made by the constitution of the supreme law of the land. "If that law is wrong it may be amended or repealed," declares the Call, "but it would be a cowardly congress that would repeal it or abrogate a treaty at the behest of mobs." To do this would be to turn the country over to mobs.

In regard to the employment of Asiatic labor, the San Francisco paper says it is necessary to the great fruit-growing industry of the state. There are many large fruit growers who insist that the increasing scarcity of this reliable and adapted labor imperils the whole fruit interest. "Here then is an industrial condition that must be faced and a problem that must be solved. If mobs refuse permission to the Japanese and Chinese to labor, the fruit industry must contract and perish down to the proportion in which white labor will do

the work required to maintain it."

It would seem from this that there is an awakening, at least in California, to the disadvantage of excluding Asiatic labor when there is not sufficient white labor to supply the demand and undoubtedly the difficulty which the fruit growers of that state are now experiencing will become more serious as their industry grows. No change of sentiment on the Pacific coast in regard to the keeping out of Asiatic labor is to be expected, but it ought to be practicable to protect the employment of such labor as is already there from the interference of mobs and it will be a discredit to California if this is not done.

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY.

The proposition to confer upon the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners the power of enforcing the laws of the state and ordinances of the city cannot commend itself to all who desire responsibility for law enforcement centered in the executive, whether the executive functions devolve upon the governor of a state or the mayor of a city. Such a scheme is, moreover, in conflict with the principle of home rule, unless the police commission is made elective the same as the mayor. To confer upon a police commission appointed by a governor and responsible to the governor only, the exclusive power to enforce the laws within the limits of the city would practically make the governor the chief executive of the city instead of the mayor.

The proposed change would, moreover, create confusion and frequently tend to defeat rather than promote law enforcement. A board of police commissioners could not act individually, but must act collectively in giving orders for law enforcement. Consequently, every order would have to be given by a majority of the board at regular or special sessions of that body. This would be found a hindrance to prompt law enforcement in case of sudden mob violence or unforeseen disturbances and spontaneous outbursts of lawlessness, unless the commission could delegate the power to exercise its functions to the chief of police and leave to him discretionary power of action in all emergencies calling for police protection.

In plain English, the proposition to divest the mayor of executive authority in the enforcement of law would make the chief executive of a city a mere figurehead when by rights he should be the name implies—the head of a municipal government, responsible for the maintenance of peace and good order in the city and for prompt and decisive action in the suppression of lawlessness in any and all emergencies.

It goes without saying that nothing would gratify the people of Nebraska more than the enactment by the legislature of sane and well matured laws that would effectually curb the power of trusts and prevent extortion, discrimination and favoritism on the part of public carriers, including railroads, express companies, telephone and telegraph companies. It goes without saying, also, that members of the legislature will make no political capital by the introduction of anti-trust bills and anti-railroad bills they know to be unconstitutional or impracticable of enforcement. In other words, the people of Nebraska are not likely to be imposed upon by any grandstand play under the flag of anti-monopoly. We already have on the statute books very rigid anti-trust laws and a maximum rate law has never been repealed, although it has been made inoperative by the decision of the supreme court declaring unconstitutional the State Board of Transportation, acting as a railroad commission. Manifestly the legislature does not need so much to enact new anti-trust laws and new railroad regulation laws as it does to amend the laws now on the statute books so as to make them effective under the interpretation given by state and federal courts. Is the number of members in the present legislature sufficient to make up a majority of the two houses willing and ready to do this?

POLITICAL DRIFT.

Dispatches from the capital of Missouri give the impression that Mr. Niedringhaus and Mr. Kerens do not speak as they pass by.

After an absence of six years Thomas H. Carter comes back smiling as senator from Montana. Thomas belongs to the tribe you see lose.

A Colorado man is trying to get the legislature of his state to pass the ten commandments; but the legislators are for the most part agreed that it is folly to place upon the statute books laws which public opinion is not ready to uphold.

Pennsylvania's Capitol commission renews its assurance that the building will be completed for the original appropriation of \$4,000,000. With the memory of Philadelphia's city hall in mind, Keystoneers hesitate about accepting the promise at face value.

On President Roosevelt's forehead there still remains the red mark of the violent fall from his horse paid in his honor only his great victory on November 6. Few were aware at the time of the seriousness of the accident or how miraculous was the president's escape from death.

For the first time in its history a president of the United States—Mr. Roosevelt—is to be the guest of a friendly son of St. Patrick at their annual dinner in New York City on March 17. The Friendly Sons are not a political organization, although many of the members are powerful politicians. They are an organization which cares for, if necessary, poor Irish gentlemen and gentlemen.

Thomas Lawson halts between knocks on his former friends to define an alderman. "An alderman," he says, "is a person into whose mouth good things are perpetually going and none come out. His shoulders, like some city streets, are widened at the expense of the corporation. But an alderman has his redeeming qualities. He always has wisdom, for he has a wise tooth and he always has something good about him—his digestion."

There are now in the senate five men who have at one time or another held important positions in presidential cabinets, and each is a lawyer of enviable reputation. Philander Chase Knox gave up the attorney generalship that he might sit in the senate with Senator Penrose as representing the state of Pennsylvania. Henry M. Teller of Colorado sat at the table of President Arthur's official family as secretary of the interior. Redfield Proctor of Vermont, Russell Alexander Alger of Michigan and Stephen Benton Elkins of West Virginia all have served as secretaries of war—Alger under McKinley and the two others under Benjamin Harrison.

Senator Thomas C. Platt of New York has a record that is probably not equalled by any man in the country, and certainly by no senator or representative in congress. Senator Platt has been a delegate to eight national conventions in succession, beginning in 1856 and down to 1904. For twenty-eight years he has been going to the national conventions of his party and participating in the nomination of Hayes and Wheeler, Garfield and Arthur, Blaine and Leach, Harrison and Morton, Hanna and Reid, McKinley and Hobart, McKinley and Roosevelt and Roosevelt and Fairbanks. Only two of the eight nominations has he seen defeated at the polls.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The last great labor war in the German mines took place in 1892. Then about 100,000 men went out in Westphalia and the Rhine provinces and, although the strike was settled in less than two weeks, there were fatal collisions between the strikers and the populace. Fires were extinguished in many forges and factories and the whole empire felt the disruption of normal conditions very severely. Intervention by the emperor brought about concessions to the miners' industrial peace. Since the coal miners' industry of Germany is on a far larger scale, the socialists, radicals in all matters pertaining to work and wages, who were comparatively weak in 1892, are the largest political body in Germany. They cast over 3,000,000 votes in 1902, and they are full of aggressive confidence. Another very serious phase of the strike which began this week is the fact that German industries are just recovering from the depression caused by the financial crisis of 1902. Captains of industry in the German manufacturing and mining districts are not in the mood to submit gracefully to a long blockade of business in the most important productive centers of the country. Nor is the government less anxious to avoid such disaster.

A Boost that Pays.

Perhaps turning a listless out of a \$3,000 job into one paying \$5,000 was a kind of "kicking upstairs;" but, if so, we know quite a number of people who would be willing to submit to that sort of humiliation.

Sarcasm of a Doubter.

It is discovered that people are going back to the farms—that the movement which built up the cities at the expense of the country is reversing itself. Statistics are given, but as they are mere guesswork it is not worth while to consider them. If people are going back to the farms, perhaps it is because the rural trolley cars are heated and offer less opportunity to the microbes of pneumonia than do the town cars.

"Imaginary Grievances."

The general traffic manager of the Santa Fe railroad tells the cattle shippers that their grievances are all imaginary. They are like the man who tells his wife he was going to the dentist to have an aching tooth pulled. She informed him confidentially that he had no toothache, it was all imagination. "Then I guess I'll have him pull my imagination," he retorted. It may be imagination with the cattle shippers, but it hurts and they won't be happy until they get it pulled.

Is There a Connecting Link?

Considering that Mr. Chadwick has habitually asserted that he was a blood relative of Mr. Carnegie, and considering that Mr. Carnegie has for the last two months positively refused to contradict her assertion or to tell what he does or does not know about her, the public may regard it as significant that he should repay anyone who has lost money through her fraudulent use of his name. Wealthy people will certainly consider that he is setting them a bad example.

THE SPOIL OF WAR.

Useful and Valuable Property Captured at Port Arthur.

It appears by reports sent by the Japanese government to its legation at Washington that the Russians did not succeed in so completely wrecking their fortifications, ships and stores at Port Arthur as to prevent the victors from gaining valuable spoils of war by the fall of the fortress. The official reports indicate that four Russian battleships are considered to be in such condition that they can be raised, repaired and made available for service. Two cruisers are also counted among the vessels which can be fitted for Japanese use, and there are four gunboats and several torpedo boat destroyers in the same condition. Thirty-five small steamers are so little damaged that they can be used without much loss of time or outlay of money for repairs. The battleship Sevastopol seems to be deemed a total wreck.

The immense importance of such additions to the Japanese navy as this report indicates needs no explanation. The four battleships will undoubtedly require months of hard work to put them in condition for service, but they will promise to add at least ten per cent to the fighting strength of the Japanese line of battle at sea. It will make a vast difference, a few months hence, in the naval power of Japan.

The spoils of the forts also prove of great value, for they include 84 guns, of which fifty-four are rated of large caliber, and over 82,000 projectiles for artillery. There are more than 5,000 rifles, some 65,000 pounds of powder, besides two and a quarter million cartridges for small arms; not to mention a vast quantity of munitions, but still an addition to the military stores of Japan which is worth taking into account. Over 1,500 horses will be prized by a country poor in such animals.

Clearly the taking of Port Arthur, terrible though the price paid in blood was, has proved a rich and memorable triumph from every point of view.

COAL WOOD COKE KINDLING

We sell the best Ohio Cooking Coal—clean, hot, lasting. Rock Springs, Hanna, Sheridan, Walnut Block, Steam Coal. Best medium grade is Illinois No. 56; Egg and Lump \$6.25. For heaters and furnaces—Cherokee Nut \$5.25; Lump \$4.75. Scranton—the best Pennsylvania Anthracite mined. Spadra—the hardest and cleanest Arkansas Anthracite. All coal hand-sorted and weighed over any city scales desired.

COUTANT & SQUIRES, 1406 FARNAM STREET Telephone 930

Our Genuine Mark Down Sale

of Men's, Boys' and Children's Wearables is meeting with meritorious success—while we make no extravagant assertions, you will find a great part of our many lines of merchandise reduced in price—

25%, 33% & 50%

(An especially good time to buy an overcoat for next winter).

Besides the generous mark down on our Suits and Overcoats—We've a lot of \$5 and \$6 pants that we are selling at a special price of

\$3.50

Boys' Sailor Blouse Suits that sold for \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8.50 now

\$3.50 and \$5.00

Child's 2-piece \$6.50 Suits, \$5 | Child's 2-piece \$5 Suits, \$3.50

50c and up to \$1 Winter Caps and Tams, 10c odds and ends

60c, 75c and \$1 Skating Tams, 25c at

Men's Winter Caps at about half price.

"NO CLOTHING FITS LIKE OURS."

Browning King & Co

R. S. WILCOX, Mgr.

UNBLUSHING HOAST OF A FULL TILL FROM DUBIOUS SOURCES.

Edward C. Stokes, the new governor of New Jersey, stated some facts in his inaugural address which are of interest to people outside of his state.

Congratulating the people of New Jersey on their good fortune, he stated that at the close of the last fiscal year the balance in their state treasury was over \$2,300,000. The ordinary receipts for the same year, he said, amounted to more than \$4,500,000.

The point of the governor's congratulatory lay in the fact stated by him that "of the entire income of the government not a penny was contributed directly by the people," and that nearly 75 per cent of it "came from railroads and the business companies domiciled in our state."

These business companies, as we all know, are mostly companies originating outside of the state and doing most of their business elsewhere. The big Steel corporation is a conspicuous example. Its way of formal compliance with the law these companies have offices in New Jersey which are within easy reach of their main offices, just across the river in the city of New York.

These companies are the source of most of the revenue of which the people of New Jersey indirectly contribute only a trifle.

Happy people! Governor Stokes reminds them that the revenue which they contribute not a penny directly nor only surfeits to meet all the ordinary expenses of the state government, including those for charities and education, but also to develop "a magnificent road system, embracing one-third of the macadam or state roads of the United States."

The people of New Jersey have reason to feel about as comfortable as a certain suburb of Chicago which gets enough out of race tracks and a lot of saloons to cover nearly all its public expenditures. . . .

Governor Stokes' inaugural is a shameful confession of Jersey selfishness and of a purpose still further to shape its incorporation laws not for the good of the general public, but to get the utmost revenue out of them and by making the trusts at home otherwise in New Jersey.

THE OLD WATER WAGON.

James Barton Adams in Denver Post.

It started on its mission at the dawning of the year.

Now the water wagon's standing in the shed.

'Twas bright and newly painted and its wheels were all in gear.

Now its gaudy tints are fading in the shed.

Many pettifolious fellows clambered up its shining side

And sat them down all eager for a long and pleasant ride.

But they were with sober pleasures far too quickly satisfied.

And the wagon soon was backed into the shed.

How proudly it went rolling with its precious load on board,

Now it is standing there neglected in the shed.

How gaily on the breezes its triumphant trumpet roared.

Now it slowly gathers cobwebs in the shed.

Its banners fluttered proudly on the air of mountainland.

A more attractive chariot the breezes never fanned.

As rolled it onward close behind the Prohibition band.

Ere a lack of custom backed it in the shed.

We have ridden on that wagon many times.

Both you and I.

That old wagon that is standing in the shed.

We have ridden till the roadway got uncomfortable dry.

Then abandoned it and sent it to the shed.

And, perhaps, through force of habit more than any great desire

To escape the liquid monster with the breath of bourbon fire.

We will ride again that wagon now, with lust on every tire.

Standing silent and inactive in the shed.

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