

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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Table with 3 columns: Copies, Total, Returned Copies. Rows include various circulation figures for different days and months.

Net Total 1,354,287. Daily Average 43,234. DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager.

Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

After the blizzard comes the chink. Wonder what our governors would do if they didn't have Omaha to throw bricks at?

Who wants to start a state bank in Omaha to get the benefits of the Nebraska deposit guaranty law? Those democrats up in Maine are not through rubbing their eyes yet.

What this country needs just now is a revival of the good old custom that once made highway robbery unpopular as an industry.

Trust prices on steage rates must be to get the immigrants used to it before they reach the country where trust prices prevail on everything.

It seems that two years' occupancy of the governor's office completely destroys all appreciation of the adage about brevity being the soul of wit.

Still, the undemonstrative quiet with which Omaha ushered in the New Year may have attracted the attention of old Father Time by its uniqueness.

A Georgia railroad has ditched its fast train twice within a month at the same place. Maybe this will be taken as notice that the track at that point needs fixing.

Accomplishing a change of governors without the presence of a retinue of colonels establishes a record for Nebraska. Maybe we really are entering on a new era.

If Fred Bruning wasn't promised anything, then, of course, there is no reason why he should get it when there are so many democrats with real claims at the pie counter.

Ak-Sar-Ben is going after a new roof and new floor for the Den this year. That means that the improvements will be forthcoming, for the good king never misses fire.

Eighty-three per cent of California's growth during the decade was in urban population. And yet that is supposed to be the state to which farmers and fruit growers are attracted.

It would be really too bad if our old friend, Jasper L. McBrien, were compelled to put in all his time at the legislature lobbying to hold his job instead of lobbying for other special interests.

The foreign steamship companies say they welcome the suit started by the United States government, for they are curious to know if the anti-trust law applies to them. They will be satisfied, but perhaps not content, at the conclusion of the suit.

Two points in Governor Shallenberger's valedictory will get much applause in Lincoln. One is the recommendation that \$500,000 be put into a state library building before anything is done to erect a new state house, and the other is that the salaries of all state officers be increased to double or triple what is now paid.

Senate Mortality.

When the senate reconvened in December, after a recess adjournment taken in the preceding June, a longer list of deceased members was announced than ever before at one time. And now, within a month after reconvening, another senator has been called, again lengthening the shadow, and there will be much moralizing over a pace that kills our public men.

It is naturally to be expected that the mortality in the senate shall be more marked, for the total membership of the senate has been steadily increasing. It now numbers ninety-two and when Arizona and New Mexico become states it will stand at ninety-six.

A senate consisting of nearly 100 members may be looked to to furnish more funerals than a body of only half that size. Another reason that conduces to high senate mortality, is the advanced age classification which its members will average up. The constitution fixes the attainment of 30 years of age as one qualification for a United States senator. But few reach that high position within ten years of that line, and the large majority are over 50. Where senators are practically re-elected indefinitely, they are bound to die in the harness.

The number of living ex-senators, under the circumstances, is not abnormally large. And yet, taken all in all, the conclusion is fairly justified that the pace of public life is the pace that kills. The official duties devolving upon the senator are even less exacting than the social obligations, and it is the latter that usually constitutes the loadstone drawing them back and keeping them there until the grim reaper gets in his deadly work.

That Railway Commissionership.

The courts will undoubtedly be called upon to determine whether Peter Mortenson, who was the popular choice of the voters at the polls for that railway commissionership made vacant by the death of Commissioner Cowgill, is entitled to the office.

When this vacancy occurred The Bee was the first, we believe, to point out the fact that it could easily be filled at the then impending election by inserting on the ballots the names of petition candidates or committee nominees, and if all the political parties had followed this course, eminently fair to everybody, no difficulty would have been presented. The governor's appointee ad interim would have had his name put on the democratic ticket and whoever won out would have had a right to the office for the four years of the unexpired term. If there was no election last November, then the appointive occupant of this office can hold only until next November, when he must make way for the legally elected successor claiming the remaining three years of the unexpired term.

We submit that it would have been better, all things considered, for the democrats to have accepted the sage thrown down and to have allowed the question to be settled once and for good by popular vote. That they did not do so is simply proof that they preferred to play politics, regarding the holding of the office by appointment for one year, as a sure thing in the hand worth more than a chance to hold it for four years by election.

Dead Letters.

During the twelve months covered by the last report of the fourth assistant postmaster general there were 10,295,716 letters and packages opened up by the dead letter office for the purpose of ascertaining the names and addresses of the senders. Of these 4,889,740 were delivered, leaving over 5,000,000 letters and packages, whose destination could not be ascertained, in the hands of the post-office officials. The undelivered postal cards and picture post cards have constantly increased in recent years until during the same period more than 11,000,000 of them were received by the dead letter office to be destroyed. A total of 73,101 letters, enclosing money in aggregate amount of \$64,303, were unclaimed, and the revenue derived from dead mail matter, including postage stamps removed from letters and found loose in the mails which could not be returned to owners, aggregate \$36,099.

All this information is contained in the report of the fourth assistant postmaster general, who makes several recommendations with reference to dead letters which must appeal to sensible people. In the first place attention is invited to the fact that the work of the dead letter office is a special service which could, in most cases, be avoided by reasonable precaution on the part of the sender, and a nominal charge is urged for the return of such letters to compensate the department for the additional service rendered to patrons, who disregard the advantage of having their unclaimed letters returned free, by inscribing a return request on the envelopes.

With reference to postal cards, which are not returnable, the cost of transportation to the central office and the work incident thereto is, in the opinion of the bureau, unnecessary and should be discontinued when postmasters everywhere could just as easily make final disposition of undeliverable cards in their respective offices under suitable regulations.

The application of stricter business methods to the operation of the post-

office requires more co-operation on the part of the public, for whose benefit the postoffice is provided. The return of a single letter or the correction of a defective address appears to be a small matter, but when multiplied into the millions not only entails a needless expense, but clogs the channels of legitimate mail. The work of the dead letter office is therefore a live subject.

Common Courtesy.

In its monthly bulletin, directed to its employes, the Union Pacific railway calls their attention to the fact that "courtesy and good will are of inestimable value in our daily life; in commercial life they are as important as brains and energy." The bulletin goes on to expound this thought, for the benefit of the employes of the great corporation, and to impress on them the need of its application. The lesson might well be heeded by others. One of the regrettable features of our busy life is the growing disregard of the little things that make up much of our daily existence. We fall in common courtesy, where it would be just as easy to show a little consideration for others. It is not necessary to adopt a ceremonial formula for conduct in business; just a little thoughtfulness in the matter of dealing with others, a show of self-restraint when the impulse is to push forward and grab, and a slight sign of consideration at all times for the folks we meet along the way is all that is needed.

It is as easy to be courteous as it is to be impolite; no more time is required to give a considerate reply than to brusquely shut off the inquirer. It will pay anybody to observe the suggestion of the Union Pacific to its employes. Just a little common courtesy in business dealings will do much to win good will, and success in business is founded on good will.

High Cost of Municipal Living.

While the high cost of living for the individual and for the family has been going up, it has also been rising for the city as a whole in its corporate capacity. Of this we are reminded by the schedule of funds agreed upon by the charter revision committee which is to be submitted to the lawmakers at Lincoln for engrafting on the charter. The comparative table produced gives the figures as at present and proposed, but a still better idea can be had by inserting the figures incorporated into the charter of 1905, when the prevailing system of a fixed maximum was inaugurated. Under the respective headings the table will look like this:

Table with 4 columns: Fund, 1905, Present, Proposed. Rows include Police, Fire, Lighting, Library, Park, Street Clean, Sewer, Grading, Paving, Garbage, Interest, Sinking, General.

Total \$1,000,000 \$1,300,000 \$1,350,000. *Plus all royalties from lighting companies. **All unapportioned remainder.

This tabular exhibit will repay perusal. If Omaha was not a metropolitan city five years ago it is certainly fast coming up to its name.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Fred Bruning was elected county commissioner as a republican and by republicans. If the democrats had had their way he would never have been elected, but nonetheless as commissioner he turned his back on republicans and worked with the democrats to give democrats control of the court house. There is no example on record where an outgoing republican county commissioner has been put on the salary list by a democratic county board. If the democrats deliver the goods to Bruning as per agreement no diagram will be needed.

Governor Shallenberger found that the initiative and referendum plan involves more than the mere adoption of a resolution by a platform convention. After full investigation of the law as operating in other states, and listening to the ardent advocates of the plan, he has found it necessary to issue to the legislature grave warning of many dangers and difficulties that cluster around the proposed move. Maybe after the lawmakers have given the subject due consideration they, too, will realize that it is not so simple as it looks.

The Bee never objects to the exercise of executive clemency in deserving cases, but the piling up of petitions for pardon and commutation of sentence upon a governor in the act of packing up to vacate his office invites doubt as to the worthy character of the case to be presented. If we had a permanent pardon board, whose favorable recommendation was necessary to secure action by the governor, this periodical performance would be avoided and the chances decidedly improved for a strictly impartial exercise of the pardoning power.

Stephen B. Elkins was almost the last of the "old guard" in the senate. He was one of the men who made history, and whose services will not be fully valued by his contemporaries. His death will be noticed more because of the fact that he was prominent among the body of senators

whose personality was stamped on their time, but who have passed away and made room for a younger and more vigorous set of lawmakers.

Up in Minnesota Governor Eberhardt is trying to eradicate the fee system of paying public officers. Here in Nebraska we have practically put an end to the numerous fee-grabs formerly permitted and only a few remnants remain. The public office which allows its occupant to pocket all the fees paid in is a dangerous incentive to graft.

History is repeating itself at Lincoln again. Twenty years ago the speaker of the house made a dreadful mess of things by refusing to publish the election returns in joint convention of the legislature. A mandamus settled the controversy then and may have to be resorted to once more. But Speaker Kuhl is not Samuel Marshall Elder, by a good deal.

A conscience-stricken Nebraska woman has sent to the Postoffice department at Washington a 2-cent stamp to make up for a cancelled one she used a second time several years ago. The presumption is that if it were \$2,000 instead of 2 cents the pangs of conscience would have gotten in their work earlier.

Wyoming's project to build a pipe line from its oil fields to Omaha will surely receive all proper encouragement from this end. The Commercial club has acted promptly in the matter and we may soon expect to see the crude oil spouting from the pipes into the tanks on the banks of the old Mizzou.

"Let the people rule" is the democratic slogan, in pursuance of which the democratic legislature is trying its best to keep out of office the republican state railway commissioner elected by the people in order to keep in office a democrat appointed by the governor.

Ex-Congressman Mercer has broken into print to let us know that war with Japan is imminent. Wonder if our "Dave" is looking for an engagement with the armor plate concerns or the smokeless power makers who have iron in the fire at Washington.

Four of a Kind.

The Mummies supply Philadelphia with a highly picturesque substitute for a New Orleans carnival, the procession of the Veiled Prophet in St. Louis and the masquerading of Ak-Sar-Ben in Omaha.

Reading Matter for Stay-at-Homes.

Stay-at-home republicans in New York and New Jersey will now have the privilege of reading the inequalurals of democratic governors, and, according to the lessons of political history, the worst is yet to come.

A Problem for Sociologists.

Is a man who accumulates within six years of graduation from college \$3,350 in assets and \$331.64 in liabilities to be regarded as more successful, say, than a classmate who just manages in the same time to make both ends meet?

Delaware as a Trust Maker.

A \$200,000,000 octopus to operate in California has just paid Delaware \$10,100 for its charter. The spectacle of a "sovereign state" deriving a considerable part of its revenue from a charter mill, and able to grant corporate powers that reach from ocean to ocean, is far from edifying.

They Need the Money.

It is explained that the county in Ohio where all the vote sellers are coming from is really a highly moral one, but the voters needed the money. Here is a plea whose simple philosophy and practicality puts to shame the elaborate legal technicalities of the big financial criminals, who also do dishonest things and have not even the same pressing reason.

Prospective Great Thing.

There is decidedly more promise in the use of cornstalks for making paper than for making cellulose. The demand for paper in this country is enormous, whereas the demand for cellulose is limited. Great quantities of cornstalks annually go to waste on American farms. They are plowed under, burned, or left standing to decay. If the cornstalk paper mill becomes a commercial reality it will be a great thing for the American farmer.

People Talked About

Joke from Taft's speech at the National Press club: "I congratulate you that you had the good sense to re-elect your president."

Miss Della Sharp has just been declared elected circuit clerk in Jasper county, Missouri, after a strongly contested campaign.

Her opponent was one of the most popular farmers in the county. Miss Sharp is described as a keen business woman and very attractive in looks. She was admitted to the bar in 1901.

A man in a Philadelphia theater tore to pieces a large hat which obstructed his view of the stage, and he was arrested. There are not enough jails to hold all those who have had a similar inclination.

James Forbes Foster, 107 years old, who knew Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, is going to lose his only home. Foster is living in a small room in a condemned building in Kansas City, Mo. He has been given notice to leave within a week. The Humane society has taken up his case.

E. S. Shaffer of Pennyn, who was mail-carrier from Lutz to Elm and Pennyn, Pa., which route was discontinued by the Postoffice department on December 1, made a good record. He was carrier for twenty-one years and five months, and he never missed a single trip; no matter how the winds blew or how the snow was drifted, he always managed to get through.

Dr. Mary Stone, a Chinese girl whose family dates back more than 2,000 years, is the first woman named in her family tree. The pedigree is contained in twelve large volumes and gives the history of the family for more than 2,000 years. Other women, daughters and wives are designated by numbers. Dr. Stone was reared by missionaries and chose to become a physician.

Washington Life

Some Interesting Phases and Conditions Observed at the Nation's Capital.

A recklessly-driven automobile dashed into Pennsylvania avenue from a side street the other day and narrowly missed colliding with Chief Justice White and the venerable Associate Justice Harlan. The machine came perilously close to the latter and he was not slow in expressing his feelings in judicial phrases. "Let me make a prophecy," he said, on catching his breath. "Some day a real man from the west, from the plains—from that section of the country where men do not permit other men to tittle with their feelings—some day such a man will come to Washington. He will walk down Pennsylvania avenue, just as you and I are walking. As he starts across the street an automobile will come bowling along at breakneck speed, and come within an inch of taking off a leg. It will be an old story with the driver, but a new one with the man from the west. That particular man from the west will pull his shooting iron from his pocket and fill the reckless driver full of holes, and judge though I am, I believe the man from the west will go out free."

United States senators are a good deal like a pack of children. After all, observes the Boston Transcript correspondent. They have their frolics and their little squabbles over one thing and another, and they run to somebody to help them out as brightly as the sun in the sky. Somebody runs home to mamma. Somebody in the great legislative body in the world must have the authority or influence to settle these childish troubles, and it is a great tribute to the personality of men like Aldrich and Hale that they are appealed to so often by their colleagues, often of the democratic side.

An instance of this peculiar dependence of the senators upon each other was given in the preliminaries or announcing deaths of senators when the upper branch convened the first Monday in December. Senator Daniel of Virginia, McHenry of Louisiana, Clay of Georgia and Dolliver of Iowa had died since the adjournment in June. Some innocent feeling existed as to precedence in the announcement of the deaths. Foster of Louisiana contended that as his colleague had died twenty-four hours before Daniel he should make announcement first. Senator Martin of Virginia declared that as Daniel was the senator in the service announcement of his death should be made first. Senator Money, the democratic leader, declined to intervene, and all hands promptly trotted over to Senator Hale, the republican floor leader, who settled this curious democratic dispute by saying that seniority should prevail and the death of Senator Daniel should be announced first.

A newly elected senator, relates the National Magazine, came on early to Washington to arrange for rooms, and had an object lesson furnished him on "the high cost of living"—the winning slogan in the recent campaign. He wanted to start in "with the swim" and be at the center of things, so he priced the "focal" hotel.

"We make it \$50 per month, two rooms and bath, to you, senator—without meals," said the clerk breathily. When the senator caught his breath, he was two blocks up the avenue.

He tried another hotel; a moderately exclusive house whose lobby was a sort of edifying pool of statesmen and "influential" lobbyists. To him the attendant flamen of this gilded shrine remarked: "Now, we have a choice two rooms with bath, at \$50 per month—"

"Without eating—just for a sleeping place!" broke in the senator, "why, I'd burn up with fever if I had to sleep at that price!"

The salary of a senator is \$7,500, and it is figured on the high level of "simple living" in Washington that he ought to part with that much for assured rest at a good hotel. But the new senator didn't feel that way about it. Finally it was suggested that he might take a room at the simple hotel of the old days, at \$1 per twenty-four hours, and save money, using the parcel room for baggage when away over Sunday. Then he could take a peep at Peacock alley and meet friends in the "lobby," which his more wealthy statesmen and tourists support.

Senator Chamney M. Depew has a double who looks so much like the New York senator that he once fooled the doorkeeper of the senate and walked into the middle of a secret session. He is Colonel W. W. Smith of Topeka, one of the confidential men of Senator Charles Curtis of Kansas. Walking to the capitol the other morning, Colonel Smith was stopped three times by persons who mistook him for Mr. Depew.

Only a few selected employes, who are sworn to secrecy, are permitted in the senate during its secret sessions. Colonel Smith's appointment gives to him the privilege of going upon the floor during open sessions. Not knowing that the senate was in secret session he walked past the doorkeeper, who mistook him for Senator Depew hurrying in to look after some nominations. As he stepped inside a doorkeeper from Colonel Smith's own state hurried up to him in alarm.

"Come inside the cloakroom, quick, Smith," said the man.

Safe inside the swinging doors, Colonel Smith learned of his innocent infraction of senate rules and disappeared as soon as he was able from the scene.

Political reverses often break up long friendships. Until this session it has been noted that Messrs. Payne, Dalzell and Boutell gathered each day to partake of their luncheon together. Occasionally they would admit another to the unarmied circle, but usually it was restricted to this trio. Their exclusiveness almost was offensive. Boutell has been re-elected, however, and his defeat had a curious effect on his luncheon habits. No longer does he seek the company of Payne and Dalzell. The one-time powerful trio has been dissolved. Boutell is more likely to be found at table with an odd lot of statesmen than in the company of his former intimates.

In the same way Uncle Joe Cannon is not so much sought as formerly. To be near him seemed to be the desire of all the republicans. Although he is popular, personally, there is no longer a struggle for places about him. Now the crowd gathers in the neighborhood of Champ Clark.

Figure Plot "a Haller," Pittsburg Dispatch.

While the year's statistics show that the railroads of the United States made not only the largest gross, but also the largest net earnings in their history, they will keep right on with the demand for increased rates. Having made up their minds that they want the money, a little thing like the actual figures does not stop them.

Stripping the Coal Stars.

In 1910 there were mined in the United States 590,000,000 tons of coal. This would be more than twenty-seven tons for every family of five persons. The production will at the present rate be a billion tons by 1920. How long can the deposits stand it?

PEN POINTS.

Atlanta Journal: How time flies. In a few weeks only we shall be cursing the spring post.

Washington Herald: Never mind whether the other fellow sticks to his New Year resolutions. Watch out for your own.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: A claim that the air is conquered cannot be allowed as long as the casualties continue at the present rate.

Washington Post: A New Jersey woman wants Governor Wilson to get a law enacted making all married men wear a ring on their thumbs. If it is passed the sky dogs will keep their thumbs in their pockets.

Chicago Tribune: In the year 1910 the American hen laid seventeen dozen eggs for every man, woman and child in the country. We have reason for believing, however, that at least several dozen of those eggs are still in cold storage.

Chicago Inter Ocean: We hold it no derogation of Commander Peary's fame that he was unable to "stand off" the strange water and had to leave his overcoat in pawn until he could go out and find the nickel needed to discharge his indebtedness. The chances are that Napoleon would have done no better under the same circumstances.

PEANUT POLITICS.

Congressman Rainey from Jackpot State Makes an Exhibit.

Congressman Rainey's resolution providing for a committee of five to investigate President Roosevelt's traveling expenses no more or less than a cheap and silly example of peanut politics. The plea that it should be made "in justice to the Pennsylvania railroad stockholders" is distasteful and ridiculous. That is a matter wholly between the stockholders and the directors, and if any genuine complaint has been made we have not heard of it. In any case, it is no part of the business of the government to prosecute or to persecute. Undoubtedly President Roosevelt accepted courtesies from the railroads, in conformity with custom, and as his predecessors had done before him. That he violated any statute by accepting passes after the anti-pass law was enacted is not alleged. If official practices prior to that time are to be made a subject of investigation, the inquiry should comprehend the innumerable favors sought and obtained from the railroads by senators and representatives. The fact that the resolution singles out Mr. Roosevelt is enough in itself to prove its unfairness and its animus. No good purpose can be served by its adoption and none is anticipated. The obvious intent is to put Mr. Roosevelt in a false light before the country. It ought to be unnecessary to say that such an attempt at mere nagging is unworthy of Mr. Rainey or any other representative. The resolution should—and we have little doubt will—be consigned contemptuously to the waste basket, where it belongs.

A Shining Example.

Pittsburg Dispatch.

The Iowa Railroad commission has ordered a reduction of from 5 to 20 per cent in maximum express rates in that state, declaring the profits of the companies are excessive and unconscionable. This is an Iowa idea other states would like to copy.

WHITTLED TO A POINT.

The Sympathetic Pal-Wotcher. Bill! You looks laid! Been laid up? Bill-Yus, sort of. Aven't been out doors for free muntz. The Sympathetic Pal-Wot was the matter why you? Bill-Nuffin'; only the judge wouldn't believe it.—London Sketch.

"Behn' consanctious don't allus mean dat you is important," said Uncle Eben. "Da Christmas tree is bigger dan da bunch of mistletoe, but 't don' exert near de influence."—Washington Star.

"For \$200 I'll fix your teeth so you can chew without difficulty." "If I was to give you \$200 I couldn't get nothin' to chew on."—Life.

"I have a remarkable history," began the lady who looked like a possible client. "To tell of 'em," inquired the lawyer cautiously.—Washington Herald.

"They are criticizing the methods in the schools all around. They criticize, among other things dividing the children into sections." "Well, isn't that enough to make anybody feel cut up?"—Baltimore American.

"A reformer's work is never done," said the sincere citizen. "That's right," replied Farmer Cornucopia, "because once he gets into office himself than he has to get busy keepin' people that ain't reformers out."—Washington Star.

Applicant—Did I understand you to say that you accommodate 200 persons at this hotel? Hotel Proprietor—No, I said this hotel had capacity for 200.—Browning's Magazine.

Lady—Did that last nickel I gave you go for beer? Wear your Walter—Not alone, mum, I went for the beer and took it along.—Puck.

Uncle—My dear boy, it's a fact that the bacilli on paper money have caused many a death before now. Neighbor—You're right, you might let me have a few notes. I'm very tired of life.—Toledo Blade.

"Say, who is that beefy chap over there with the remarkably broad shoulders?" "That's the champion chess player of the college." "And who is the midget with the red hair?" "That's the great left end of our football team."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

McGINNIS THAT WAS.

Bertan Braloy in Harper's Weekly.

McGinnis is dead, but begorry, He left a great record behind; He died at the height of his glory, In '01 he was the glorious kind; His initials called him a grafter, An' maybe he was, but I know He was head up the legions of laughter An' I'm happy to think as him so.

He was brimmin' wid blarney an' blanter, An' buzzin' wid humor an' fun, He rolled through life at a canter, When it wasn't a race or a run; To women—his best—up the secret one— His voice was a tinker's carter, He'd spend his last cent like the first one Wid a manner no words cud express.

He was fond of good dinners and suppers, An' fond of good liquor as well, An' though he was off on his uppers, He'd spend his last cent like the first one Wid a manner no words cud express.

McGinnis is dead an' departed, Big-headed, big-voiced, an' big-hearted, A frind that was always a frind; From New Year's clear through to DeceMBER.

He wint the whole route, good or bad, Ochoone, we'll be proud to remember, An' 'sre to be missin' the lad!

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