

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Circulation figures. Total 801,718.

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George E. Tzschuck, secretary of the Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee, printed during the month of November, 1899, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Issue and Circulation figures. Total 26,340.

Jim Dahlman resents the imputation of the W.-H. that he is a Do-nothing, and Joe Edgerton—he is sawing wood.

Turn over a new leaf the first of January by resolving to read The Bee every day of the year, the best newspaper printed in this section.

Jim Dahlman says he does not propose to lay himself liable to be accused of harboring a sting of ingratitude just to please the fusion organ or any one else.

Omaha's business men are taking an inventory on the most prosperous year in their career. If 1900 will only go 1899 one better there will be no cause for complaint.

With five trunk lines running into Chicago Omaha will have no difficulty in finding ample passenger train facilities to the Lake Michigan metropolises to meet every convenience.

Nebraska teachers have accepted a compromise candidate for president of their state association and all is again serene where it was political contention and wicked wire pulling before.

Patriotic Americans are responding liberally to the appeal for funds to place the wife and children of General Lawton beyond want and Omaha will not be backward. No man ever deserved better of his countrymen.

If the sting of ingratitude is sufficient to nerve the popocratic organ up to the point where it could demand action in the freight rate question it might not be a bad idea to put it in operation on other sections of the fusion combine.

Members of the State Board of Transportation just that they have been doing all they can in the way of railroad regulation. They certainly have been doing all they were expected to do by the men responsible for their appointment.

General Wood is experiencing no difficulty in securing enough men to fill all the offices at his disposal in Cuba. If the Cubans would devote as much energy to developing the resources of their island as they do seeking office Cuba would soon be a paradise.

During the year just closed Omaha's police force has been reduced nearly 50 per cent, while Omaha's fire department has been increased nearly 50 per cent. A board of equalization might get in some good work between these two necessary branches of the city government.

Governor Plueger is finding the state senate a difficult proposition to handle. The legislature was called in special session to pass laws to enable the state to secure more revenue from the railroads, but the senate refuses to pass the measure. If the governor has a card up his sleeve now is the time to show it.

The reform superintendent of the School for the Feeble Minded has been in hot water ever since his appointment. He had trouble getting into office and is now having a hard time keeping in. Only one way is open to settle the popocratic squabbles and that is to provide each one of the faithful with an office, attached to a fat salary and little work.

The opponents of the administration are often driven to the ridiculous point in the effort to discover something about which to find fault. The story that the cruiser Montgomery is patrolling the west coast of Africa for England in order to release English ships for service elsewhere is of this class. At present there are English ships by the score unemployed and as well suited to this purpose as the Montgomery.

On the next throw the opposition should dig up something which has the appearance of plausibility.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION.

The situation in South Africa has undergone no change, so far as can be learned from the dispatches, since the reverse to the British in the attempt to cross the Tugela river. The hostile armies are in about the same positions as before that Boer victory, though undoubtedly the Transvaal forces have been fully improving the time in strengthening their position and adding to the difficulties to be encountered by the British in the next effort to cross the river and relieve the besieged garrison at Ladysmith.

The Board of Education has been given practically unlimited power to impose school taxes on the property owners of Omaha. That power, however, should not be exercised with reckless disregard of the conditions under which the taxpayers are laboring.

It is usual for the British to advance with the sword in one hand and the bible in the other, but in this instance they seem to have their hands full without the bible.

It is in making this demand The Bee voices the sentiment of both the taxpayers and the friends of the public schools. The board is not expected to be parsimonious in essentials, but it has no right to distribute public money to worthless political onagers or hoodlums.

The Board of County Commissioners is still wrestling with the bank depository problem. The law requires the commissioners to designate depositories for the county treasury, in which the funds of the county are to be deposited on call at not less than 3 per cent interest.

The money market in South Africa is in a state of confusion. The demand for land product values of the west are unaffected.

Money is plenty for loaning on good farms at 6 per cent per annum the same day that call loans in New York on stocks and bonds stand at 125 per cent a year.

The arrest and trial of members of the county board on a charge of employing an unlicensed engineer in the county building disclose a defense based on the assertion that the engineer in question is fully competent, but was arbitrarily refused a license by the city boiler inspector for purely political reasons.

There was a Democratic Party where the Party Law was.

A correspondent asks the Conservative to tell him how many democratic voters there are in Nebraska.

There is a reminiscence of a party in Nebraska which has an existence independent of any other political party.

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THE BOARD SHOULD BREACH.

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WHERE IS THE MONEY TO COME FROM?

Before the force can be increased we must have increased revenue and the home-owners are now burdened as much as they can well bear.

Omaha street car holdups should move out to Seattle. On these the passengers have been making targets of the holdups with such good marksmanship that the latter immediately and permanently retire from the business.

When and Where. The Bryan campaign, it is announced, will be discontinued on January 3. But when was it ever closed?

Ad Nauseum. The Bryan campaign, it is announced, will be discontinued on January 3. But when was it ever closed?

Prefer Lydite Tests. Detroit Journal.

Suggestion for Brexity. Washington Post.

Bring On Your Taxes. New York Mail and Express.

Sparks on the Rails. Philadelphia Ledger.

Advances in Freight Rates. Philadelphia Record.

Western Values. J. Sterling Morton's Conservative.

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POLITICAL DRIFT.

Kentucky's political volcano is ready to throw a few more jets of mud on slight provocation.

The special session of the legislature assembles every Michigan editor who publishes all the laws there and then enacted a president of it.

Congressmen and senators will have 15-600,000 packages of seeds to distribute next year. By careful cultivation a moderate crop of votes may be harvested in the fall.

New York papers are crying out for a short session of the legislature. It won't do. Albany statesmen can be depended on to squelch any proposition that would put them on the short side.

According to the report of the secretary of the senate, Colonel Quay sent 247 telegrams to political workers in Blair county during the republican primaries were held in that county last year and the tolls on them were paid out of the contingent fund of the senate.

There is some talk in Connecticut of asking Arthur H. Brewer of Norwich to take the republican nomination for governor next year. Mr. Brewer at the head of the largest coal and lumber business in the eastern part of the state and, though scarcely 50 years of age, has been associated with the same firm for fully thirty years.

Representative F. W. Cushman of Washington state made his maiden speech in the house the other day. He afterward expressed himself as very much disappointed with it. He says he found it quite different making a speech in the house from making one on the stump and fears that he did not make the serious impression he wished to.

Mayor Proctor of Somerville, Mass., knocked a cog out of his political machine and amazed New England by refusing to accept a raise in his salary. He said his salary was high enough and the increase could not be earned. Mayor Proctor's conduct is admirable, but it isn't practical politics—which means, "Get all you can, and keep what you get."

The free and easy manner in which election results are made to tally with the will of the political machine in Philadelphia was shown by the opening of the ballot box of the Twelfth division of the Fifth ward. "There were three democratic votes cast at that election," reports the Ledger, "but Mr. Ryan, democratic candidate for city commissioner, received 169 votes. Apparently three-fourths of the ballots were prepared by one hand, and that not an expert. They were republican throughout, except that Black's name was scratched out and a cross put opposite Ryan. The marker forgot to mark Wildmore, but the election officers overlooked the fact he was not voted for and cast the most votes for Wildmore as well as for Ryan. The assessor's list was not large enough and sixty-eight names were added in pencil so as to enable the division to do itself full justice in its return to court."

CHEAP FOOD PRODUCTS. Cargoes of American Corn to Feed the Poor of Russia. Philadelphia Times.

The chartering of two steamers to carry cargoes of corn from this port to Revel, in northern Russia, taken in connection with the fact that several cargoes have already been shipped to the same port from other Atlantic coast seaports, shows that Russia begins to realize the value of American corn as a cheap food for its people, especially those living in the northern and colder sections of that country.

Europe, but even the wheat-raising peasant farmers of central and southern Russia live largely on rye and other coarse food products in order that they may sell their wheat. The poorer classes in northern Russia cannot afford even Russian wheat if they can get anything cheaper.

This want our Indian corn can supply, for weight for weight it contains quite as much nutriment as wheat, besides being an excellent food in a cold climate. With wheat selling at about 70 cents per bushel at the seaboard corn is quoted at a fraction less than 40 cents. The money that will buy a bushel of wheat will pay for nearly two bushels of corn at the present prices. The difficulty heretofore has been to convince European consumers that corn could be utilized as a nutritious food for human beings.

Large quantities have heretofore been shipped abroad for brewing purposes, but the prejudice against it as a food product was extremely hard to eradicate.

Little by little, however, American corn has been making headway in Europe, and the Russian importations now in progress give promise of an extensive demand from that country in the near future.

The sections of Russia which can be grown profitably will also grow wheat, and the Russian farmers are likely to continue to raise wheat, leaving American corn to be imported as a cheap food for those who cannot afford to pay the prices wheat will bring in the European market.

Fortunately corn is the one grain crop that can be grown in all arable sections of the United States and upon nearly all varieties of soil. This insures a supply equal to any probable demand, and the sooner the people of Europe learn its value as a cheap food product the better for themselves as well as for American farmers.

The shipments to Russia now in progress should be but the beginning of a large export movement, not only to Russia but to Great Britain, the continent of Europe and all parts of Europe for corn will prove as excellent a cheap food for Germans, French, Italians and Scandinavians as for Russians.

WORTHY OF HIS NAME. "Sly Peter" Jonbert and One of His Tricks on the Enemy. New York Tribune.

General Jonbert, as we have hitherto frequently remarked, is one of the worst fellows in the whole Transvaal oligarchy. He is a brave soldier, a skillful commander, a clear-sighted statesman and an honest man. His countrymen call him "Sly Piet," or "Sly Peter." That is a deserved tribute to his shrewdness, but no reflection upon his integrity. In the present war he has conspicuously vindicated his right to the name, for not in all the country has any military leader more completely outwitted the enemy than has he the British.

Not even the French in 1879 were quite so deceived at the Germans, or rather, so much deceived themselves, as the British army staff was deceived at the beginning of this campaign. And so far as they were anything more than self-deceived, it was "Sly Piet" who did it.

That one, that one, we may say without reflection upon his integrity, for deception of the enemy is fair play in the great game of war.

"Sly Piet" now tells us how he did it. In a letter to the Echo de Paris he says frankly that the Boers have for years—ever since the Jameson raid—been secretly preparing for war. "To arm ourselves unperceptibly and to hide these armaments from the English—such was our object. We have fully succeeded therein. We often allowed secret English agents to penetrate into our arsenals, where there were merely old artillery material, but we carefully concealed our modern material, of which they thus knew nothing until the very eve of the war." Thus were the British tricked, as they have since been tricked in the field.

It was clever work, akin to that of Hannibal and Washington, and it is not to be wondered at that the British have been so deceived. They were deceived, and they were deceived by a man who had been so long in the field.

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OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The increase of the German navy, which it is officially explained means the doubling of it as soon as that object can be accomplished, has nothing whatever in common with the increases of the British navy. These latter are well understood to be mere acts of self-defense, even of self-preservation.

A powerful navy is an absolute necessity to the being of an island kingdom, vulnerable all around its coasts which normally import two-thirds of its food supply and has only on hand some three weeks' consumption. But of course Germany is in no such situation. The little strip of coast on the North sea is defensible by her forts and armaments against any force that can come to attack it even better than by a great navy. And that there might be no question about the object of the increase it is officially given out that, while the navy is to be doubled, the coast defense squadron is not only not to be increased, but is actually to be discontinued altogether.

This is a startling and formidable program. To foreclose it will seem to have been taken in pursuance of a fantastic policy. The expansion of the British navy has followed the expansion of British commerce, whereas the expansion of German trade is expected to follow the expansion of the German navy. It remains to be seen what view the heavy laden German taxpayers will take of the scheme for doubling the navy avowedly by way of entering upon the career of a conquering world power.

For the month of November the output of gold from the mines in the Transvaal is stated at 61,788 ounces—a vast falling off from the yield of the Witwatersrand during the peaceful period of untroubled production. The average monthly output of the mines for the current calendar year up to October 1 last was about 40,000 ounces, ranging from 410,000 ounces in January to 461,000 ounces in September. This vast and regular output of the world's largest stock pile has been reduced temporarily to a nullity by the war in South Africa. The gold now mined in the Transvaal will be melted at Pretoria, instead of going at the rate of about \$8,000,000 per month to swell the cash reserves of European banking agencies, as has been the custom heretofore.

In his recent talk with a representative of the Paris Figaro, which has been quoted extensively, M. Lockroy, the French minister of marine, began by declaring that the English at sea are more than twice as strong as the French. They can face France and the triple alliance quite by themselves. This is due, he explained, not merely to the number of their vessels, but to the quality of their crews. He does not suggest that British sailors and officers are better than the French, but holds that with her coaling stations all over the globe England can do pretty much what she likes. France, he points out, has none, or at least not a sufficient number, which might possess at Bizerta or in Corsica and Tunis for these purposes being virtually as yet non-existent. Moreover, if the French fleet sought refuge at Bizerta it could be blockaded as easily as the Spaniards were at San Juan de Ulua.

The more the editor of the Figaro, M. Lockroy thinks, is of no account whatever if it has no coaling stations and supporting points everywhere. Even Dakar, he says, is not seriously protected by defensive works, yet in case of war, with the Suez canal closed, it would be indispensable. The same is true of Diego Suarez and Noumea. At the moment of the Fashoda crisis there was not even a torpedo boat at any of these points and the land batteries were either non-existent or useless. Even the military ports were utterly unprepared for the eventuality of war, and at Brest, out of 250 guns hardly fifty-two were ready for use. M. Lockroy dwelt also on the danger to France from a death of telegraph cables of her own.

Some pretty serious problems are likely to arise if the mortality among British officers in the Transvaal continues long at its present rate. Already the British military authorities in India have taken alarm. The commander-in-chief, Sir William Lockhart, has issued an order from Simla, directing that no officer of the British or Indian service is to be allowed to go on leave to South Africa without direct reference to army headquarters. Having regard to the large number of officers ordered to South Africa with the Indian contingent, Sir William is of opinion that it is most important that an adequate proportion of officers should be retained with British troops in India. It is expressed, therefore, on lieutenant general commanding that, in granting leave for private affairs out of India, they should take steps to ascertain that the officer applying for such leave is not doing so with the view of going to the seat of war in the Indian contingent.

It is not often that so prominent a public officer as a secretary of state for the marine has to express recent opinions expressed in his report within the space of two years, but this is what has happened to Admiral Tirpitz, the new German naval minister. In 1897 he opposed the plan for a great increase in the German fleet, holding that construction was limited arbitrarily by the inability of the shipyards to turn out more than a certain amount of tonnage, or armor plates and arms. He saw great difficulties also in the way of obtaining sailors enough to man a big fleet after it had been built, and declared that it would not be possible to build more than two squadrons of battleships in the next few years. Now he says that he has been convinced that he had underrated greatly the capacities of German industries and that, judging from the number of men now offering themselves for service in the navy, it will be easy in the future to secure all that may be wanted. Moreover, he asserts that when he said that Germany could not build a large fleet he never meant to imply that the fleet she had was sufficient for all purposes. The enlightening effect of office upon ideas is wonderful sometimes.

A BODY BLOW FOR CLARK. Montana's Junior Senator Hit Hard at Home. Chicago Tribune.

The supreme court of Montana has disbanded a Mr. Wellcome, who has been for some years counsel for Senator Clark of that state. The charge is that Wellcome, acting in Clark's behalf, gave a \$50,000 bribe to Whittlesides, \$30,000 to buy for Clark his vote and those of two of his colleagues. Whittlesides made a statement to that effect before the joint assembly prior to the election and handed over the money to the presiding officer. Nevertheless, Clark was elected, and an attempt was made to turn over to him the money on the ground of bribery. The findings of the Montana supreme court will be used as evidence against him.

In a statement printed in yesterday's Tribune Mr. Wellcome makes what is at the first glance a plausible defense of his own innocence and of that of Senator Clark. He neglects to mention the important fact that he did not deny the charges when his denial would have had the most significance—namely, before the supreme court of Montana itself. The court commented pointedly on the fact that Wellcome did not deny the charges when he had the opportunity to do so. He understood that the senator Clark has not denied them under oath. The allegations made before the court are practically uncontradicted. One of them is that twenty or more members of the legislature were bribed to vote for Clark. Clark has not filed an affidavit in contradiction of the grave charge and Wellcome left the state. Between remaining mute and entering a plea of guilty there is a vast difference. Mr. Wellcome alleges that this \$50,000 transaction was a "plot" devised by Marcus Daly a bitter personal enemy of Clark, to defeat his election. The enemy is not denied. That Daly would conspire so clumsily and expensively to beat his enemy seems absurd. Few men are willing to forfeit \$50,000 in the delusive hope of stampeding a legislature. It cannot be assumed that either Clark or Daly would shudder at the thought of using money to influence the action of legislators. They are "aristocrats" so far as a lack of moral scruples on the point is concerned. It was natural that Clark's agents should try to buy the votes of members like Whittlesides, who were friends of Daly. But if the latter had gotten up a conspiracy against Clark he would not have used as his agent a legislator who was his known friend, and therefore might be suspected of complicity, and hence whose word would not have been taken as that of some friend of Clark or some doubtful member.

It is impossible to escape the conclusion that Senator Clark bought his seat, and that his election is the greatest senatorial scandal which has come to light since the day when "Solid" Pomeroy was defeated in an attempt to corrupt the Kansas legislature. The United States senate cannot in this case give its sanction to the contention of Senator Clark that that body can only determine the legality of an election, and cannot inquire into the motives which induced the electors to vote for a particular man. When it can be shown that corruption governed the action of a legislature the senate should not condone the crime. Clark should be unseated and the legislature of the rotten borough state of Montana be given an opportunity to elect a senator honestly, if it can.

OLD YEAR SMILES. Detroit Free Press: "Her manners are decidedly gauche!" "Yes, she acts as if her glasses fit her!" Chicago Tribune: "As to the 'one man power' being dangerous to the liberties of a people," observed the professor, "that's all nonsense. Did you ever see anything worse than the 'one man power' system of transportation?" Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Some scientific fellows say the red noses are caused by yells." "Well, come in and have a yell with me!" Chicago Post: "Several women entered the theater together in business attire." "Get up," said the fat man to the thin man, "and give a lady your seat." "Fat men always think they are privileged to remain seated." "Get up yourself," retorted the thin man, "and give two ladies your seat." Somerville Journal: When an unmarried woman falls in business gloom must be deplored by the fact that he hasn't a wife that he can blame it on.

Chicago News: "Sir," said the frate individual with a wicked look in his eye, as he entered the editorial sanctum of a rural weekly, "I am told you called me a loafer in your last issue." "You have been misunderstood," replied the editor, calmly. "We print only the very latest news." Detroit Journal: The cannibal's captive now falls in business gloom must be deplored by the fact that he hasn't a wife that he can blame it on.

Chicago Tribune: "Maria, did you read about that Philadelphia woman who was cured of her mental troubles by fasting forty-five days? I believe such a treatment would cure that unhappy fellow of yours." "Yes! It would make an angel of me! Is that what you would like, John Billust?" SONG FOR THE PARTING YEAR. S. E. Kiser in the Times-Herald. Goodby, old year, goodby! You have not brought me wealth; You have not raised me high; But you have made me wretched— Goodby, old year, and as you go My praises go with thee; You leave me talking up the hill, I see you passing on, but still Hope lingers here with me! Goodby, goodby, old year! You have not made me great; Beyond new tasks you have set; And I must work and wait— Goodby, old year, but as you go Still hear my praise along; Since I may toil, and still, toiling, hear Within my breast the faith of old That sings a coming day. Goodby, old year, goodby! You have not brought me fame; You leave no honors I May proudly rush to claim— Goodby, old year, yet, as you leave, O take my praise