

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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WHEN OUT OF TOWN: Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should notify the office...

Senator Jeff Davis' anti-trust bombs are loaded with gas.

"Third term talk should stop," says the New York World, it has.

Will the city authorities take notice that all of the Omaha ministers worked yesterday?

The senate is convinced that Jeff Davis' argument is fully as good as his grammar.

"E. H. Harriman is suffering from a cold," says a New York dispatch. Head, chest or feet?

It is a lucky thing for that White House doorkeeper that Mayor "Jim" did not have his list along.

After President Roosevelt's decision, no future president will ever consider talk of a third consecutive term.

Speaker Cannon is said to be having trouble with his teeth. He ought to quit indulging in biting sarcasm.

"Buy good land," says the Chicago American. That's just another way of advising folks to buy Nebraska land.

An Oklahoma Indian named John fit. Air is a candidate for office. The initial "H" undoubtedly stands for "Hot."

There will be real fun in the senate if the occasion ever arises for Tillman and Jeff Davis to match invectives.

A. Meal has announced himself as a candidate for mayor of Harrisburg, Pa. The floating vote may be relied upon to vote for A. Meal ticket.

Senator Bailey is trying to earn the gratitude of the country by confining his official vocal exercise to answering "Present" when the roll is called.

Secretary Cortelyou has changed his plans for increasing the circulation. He has discovered that he was preparing for something that didn't happen.

The University of Nebraska debaters won from Iowa and lost to Minnesota, leaving the score a stand-off. This is not quite as well as the football team did.

"Is too much money harmful to American women?" asks the Saturday Evening Post. The question cannot be answered. No woman ever had too much.

The Japanese appropriation for naval purposes is \$15,000,000 less than for last year. Japan evidently takes the Hobson war scare at its real value.

"Hogs drop 15 cents," says a Chicago dispatch. That's not surprising, in view of the fact that a hog is not built with facilities for carrying much change.

If Omaha cannot lead in the increases in the clearing house comparisons, we have the satisfaction of knowing that its record of decrease is very nearly the smallest.

The Portland Oregonian serves formal notice that it will no longer be the organ of the republican party in the state, but will express its convictions without fear or favor, refusing to obey the dictates of any party machine. The Oregonian will, accordingly, be a better republican paper than ever.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS RIGHT.

Secretary Root of the Department of State has refused to take any action for the relief of a score or more of young bloods in New York who are languishing in prison down in South America because they conceived the deluded notion that they were soldiers of fortune and it was up to them to overthrow the government of Brazil and rescue an oppressed people who had not found out that they were oppressed.

The scheme, it appears, originated in the brain of one Magall, a Brazilian exile, who enlisted the services of 100 dare-devil Americans for the purpose of capturing the standing army of Brazil, overthrowing the government and taking charge of affairs of the most prosperous country in South America. The plan looked simple and alluring, as explained by Magall, but some difficulties attended the execution of it. The expedition landed at Bahia and the members of it found themselves in jail the next morning. Now tearful pleas are being made to the State department to save the fools from the penalty of their folly, and Mr. Root has declared that the affair is one in which the United States has no concern.

An appeal is to be taken from the secretary's decision to congress and jurid speeches will doubtless be made relative to the duty of the United States to protect its citizens in foreign countries. The fact remains that such talk will come under the classification of "moonshine." The men who became members of Magall's crazy expedition at once forfeited their right to protection by the American government. Their expedition was one of piracy and loot, and if they are treated as pirates by the Brazilian government, as now seems probable, they will have none but themselves to blame.

PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

The five Central American states that have attained the highest average in the world's revolutionary contests for many years past have finally agreed, through a conference at Washington, to sign an agreement which provides that all differences which may arise among them for the next ten years shall be settled by an international court. The provisions of the agreement may furnish a hint to the members of the peace conference at The Hague, who labored all summer and accomplished nothing. Under the terms of the treaty, a court is to be established, to be composed of one member from each of the five states. If this court cannot decide a case in a way to meet the approval of the conflicting parties, the matter is to be referred to the joint arbitration of the United States and Mexico.

The decision is one of the most important that has been reached in many years, tending as it does to bring peace to these Central American states that have lived in more or less open conflict since the days of Cortez. With the opening of the Panama canal and the development that must follow in the southwestern portion of this continent, peace is absolutely necessary in the Central American region. The successful negotiation of the treaty means much to the parties to it and a great deal to the commercial and industrial interests of the United States and Mexico, the two republics that have stood sponsors for the conference and must act as guarantors of the enforcement of the peace provisions.

KILLING OF BORIS SARATOFF.

The scriptural adage to the effect that they who live by the sword shall perish by the sword has found another demonstration in the assassination of Boris Saratoff, the young Macedonian leader, who has lately been confining his activities in the vicinity of the blood-stained throne of Serbia. Saratoff's history was one of conflict and trouble. According to one of the stories, he was a school boy in Salonica when one day he saw a file of prisoners in chains march into town, under the guard of Turkish troops. He recognized his father and grandfather among the prisoners and the next morning he drew his sword and started a campaign against the Turkish forces, vowing vengeance on the entire Turkish race.

Saratoff was called a bandit, but the record shows that he made good his declared determination to live as a thorn in the Turkish flesh. He headed a gang of devoted followers and made the mountains of Macedonia his refuge, capturing prisoners, collecting ransom and perpetrating atrocities that even made the Turkish sultan shudder. Evidently fascinated by the love of loot, Boris forgot his determination and did not confine his operations to the Turkish alone. He was the acknowledged head of the bandits who captured Miss Ellen M. Stone, the American missionary, in 1894, and created an international disturbance that had a monetary, religious and political significance, before the incident was closed. In that way America became acquainted with him and has some interest in his taking off. After he had accumulated a competence by highwaymanry, he retired to Serbia, to meet death at the hands of an assassin.

The only lesson apparent in the killing of Saratoff is in the impotency of his methods in accomplishing reforms in Turkey. The need of such reforms as he planned has been felt for 400 years, and movements such as he led have been in progress for four centuries. All of them have resulted similarly. The leaders, inspired at first with a hatred of Turkey and a desire to free Macedonia from Turkish rule, have started their handiwork campaigns, yielding in the last to the love of plunder and retiring when they have

amassed funds sufficient to buy peace and protection from the hated sultan. There is no hope for the future of Macedonia in the actions of reformers and avengers of the Saratoff type.

A PROPER UNDERTAKING.

The dinner given to the surviving members of the directory of the Transmississippi and International Exposition association remind one very forcibly of the flight of time. It is ten years since that organization was at the height of its activity, and in the business whirl and bustle of this decade much that was then considered vitally important has been lost sight of or forgotten entirely. Therefore, the proposition that a history be compiled for publication is an eminently proper undertaking.

It has been said that history should not be written by contemporaries, but this is a case in which an exception to the rule may be noted. The efforts of the exposition association may well be preserved in chronicle form by some one of the men who aided in bringing the great project to its successful consummation. The record compiled by General Manderson was not intended for circulation, but to be deposited in the archives of the city as a mine of information for future inquirers. Mr. Wattles, who was president of the exposition association, gives assurance that he will guarantee the publication of an abridged edition of the chronicles of the association.

It was scarcely possible that many of the thousands who have come to Omaha to establish their business and make their homes since the day of the exposition should understand just how vital this event was to Omaha. It more than marks an epoch in the city's career. It was the turning point and divides enthusiastic progress from discouraging depression. The patriotic effort made by the people of Omaha in taking up this affair, in providing the money with which to carry it on and giving loyal and unswerving support to the men who directed it, cannot be overestimated or praised too much. It is one of those rare examples of civic pride and devotion on which great cities are firmly founded. It will be a pleasant task for the historian to write of this phase of the exposition, at least. Of the work and worry of the men who composed the directory and the executive board much may be said, but the half will never be told. That all of this should be prepared in proper form for the edification of the present and future generations is an undertaking which all will endorse.

THE DUKE AND HIS MEAL TICKET.

Eugene Zimmerman of Cincinnati, who achieved a fortune by brewing a rather high grade of beer and fame by becoming the father-in-law of the duke of Manchester, should have no difficulty in getting a Carnegie hero medal or any other fitting token of recognition for an American citizen who knows his rights and, knowing, dare maintain. The story comes in a cable from Belfast to the effect that Zimmerman is personally auditing and paying the bills of his aristocratic son-in-law, and has ordered his grace of Manchester to evacuate Tanageradee castle, the historic home of the Montagues, and to remove bag and baggage to Kylemore and to cut his expenses. In the meantime, Papa Zimmerman is living at the castle and enjoying luxuries of high life that would make his old college chums in Cincinnati turn green from envy.

THE CHEMIST WHO DECLARED THAT CHICAGO HAS THE PUREST DRINKING WATER IN THE WORLD.

The chemist who declared that Chicago has the purest drinking water in the world need not think that he helped to bring the republican convention to that city.

CRECE FOR THE FISHERS.

One of the ominous things about Senator Jeff Davis is that he may spur Uncle Ben Tillman to an extraordinary effort to regain the lead.

SMOKE WREATHS OF A FROLIC.

If Evans' squadron shall escape the smoke of battle it will be wreathed with smoke of a different sort. The supply ship is at Havana loading 70,000 cigars. That is a rather small allowance for 15,000 men if they are to be kept on Havana cigars, but it is certainly a very liberal allowance for the officers.

TRACING THE TROUBLE.

The name of the native chief, Diniulnu, who is stirring up revolt against the British in the Orange River colony, recalls Kipling's intractable, red-haired Hillman whose family devotedions included the chanting of a Eurasian version of "The Wearing of the Green." The Native chief's name needs only an auto-suggested suffix to establish a hereditary cause for his anti-British proclivities: Diniulnuvan.

SORROW DECKS DAVIS' PATH.

Secretary Taft's trip shows the lights and shadows of life. With the great one of the world vying for the honor of entertaining him, and acclaimed on all sides, he is hastening home to a scene of private sorrow and domestic loss. The grief from the Baltimore American.

PERIL OF A PATRIOT.

There is a base republican attempt to dethrone one of the most illustrious of Kentucky characters. Colonel Jack Chinn is a member of the Kentucky senate. He is also a member of the Kentucky State Bazaar commission. Of the latter body he was, indeed, the creator. The republicans pretend that no man has a right to hold two state offices at once. Possibly they are right. Colonel Jack Chinn, however, is more than a man. He is a hearty and heroic character, endeared to the world by his spirits, his humor and his aboundingness. We should say that about thirteen jobs would be needed to keep him fairly busy.

WHERE THE SHOE FITS.

New York Editors Held Up an Irresponsible Panic Makers. Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

President A. B. Stickney of the Chicago Great Western road, speaking in New York Monday night, took the shoe constructed by the newspapers which are holding Mr. Roosevelt responsible for the panic and fitted it to their own foot—fitted it as closely as they had fitted it to the president. He declared that "unnecessarily worded editorials" in denunciation of the president had been spreading a feeling of distrust among country bankers, and mentioned one up in Minnesota, who never needed more than \$2,500 or \$3,000 on hand to do business with, but who grew more and more panicky (as he read certain New York papers) until he had called in about \$22,000. This he placed in the bank's little box of a safe, "with a dog and a man to watch it, sir, and now I'm safe," as he told Mr. Stickney. It was a hard question then asked by the latter of his New York audience—how an emergency currency was to remedy such a panic as that.

ON PRESIDENTIAL FIRING LINE.

Governor Johnson of Minnesota Under the Spotlight. Kansas City Star (Ind.).

It is exceedingly interesting to note the favorable impression made in Washington by Governor John J. Johnson of Minnesota. Although he went to the capital only as a visitor, without occasion or pretense to make himself conspicuous, he has become, in a few days, the leading topic of political discussion. This spontaneous recognition of Governor Johnson's personal points will not be a surprise to those who have made themselves familiar with the individuality of the democrat who has been twice elected governor of a normally strong republican state, and by tremendous pluralities. It only needed a close observation of the man, taken with his well known political record, to define in the politician's mind as a political factor of great possibilities. And back of his personality and his record are the humble origin, the upward struggle and the self-made career of the man—elements that always have been potential in American politics.

Colonel Lowden of Chicago indignantly denies the report that he has raised a fund of \$3,000,000 for the election of Mr. Cannon to the presidency. The denial will have to stand. In the first place, that amount of money could not be raised for campaign purposes this year, and in the second, it would not help the Cannon chances any.

The democrats in Nebraska are working up quite a frenzy over the question of which republican aspirant will get Nebraska's support, but, as usual, are doing it not to help the republicans, but to cause confusion, with the likelihood of having about the same effect that they have lately had in making other choices for Nebraska republicans.

A captured chicken thief promised the man who held the shotgun reformation if he would not shoot. Many another sinner has been brought to book by similar methods, but the effect of the lesson is likely to be forgotten as soon as the pressure is removed.

COLONEL WATSON IN CAMP.

Louisville Courier-Journal (dem.).

The Courier-Journal wishes to deal fairly by Mr. Bryan, but it owes the obligations of candor to the democratic party and of respect to its character and opinions.

It may be that the old democracy of strict construction has passed from the scene never to return, and that a new democracy very latitudinious in its methods and its aims has arrived upon the stage to stay. In the latter event it cannot be doubted that Mr. Bryan in his program of action will surely be in the next presidential campaign its leader, and so, going back to the mid-summer of last year, we recall the acclamations with which we welcomed his homecoming, and in perfect good faith we repeat: "Hail Roosevelt!"

The readers of the Courier-Journal have not failed to note that our opposition to his candidacy has turned largely upon points of expediency and that our efforts have been mainly addressed to inducing him to do what we think we see—that he is not likely to do. The strongest argument in the debatable states, but, next year, there may be no debatable states; the country may be so tired of the republicans that it will be swept by any presidential ticket the democrats may put up. It cannot be denied that Mr. Bryan has made a headlong dash into the campaign of a man of fast fight, that he is a clear-headed, energetic, and that even among the masses of the republicans he is well considered and well liked, all of which may be set down as so many political assets at a time when the public mind is so unsteady and variable, party lines and disciplines are broken, and the party mood and tense so impressionable.

CHEAP CLAIMANT TURNED DOWN.

Washington Post.

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RAILROADS AND WATERWAYS.

"Wizard of Transportation" as a Navigation Prophet. Cleveland Leader.

James J. Hill, the president of the Great Northern Railroad company, is not only a "wizard of transportation," a business prophet and an adviser to the farmer, but he is also a source of the unexpected. In a speech he made before the rivers and harbors convention in Washington, he said that the railroads must depend, in the future, from the construction of a canal, transportation needs of the country had grown beyond the capacity of the railroads. A series of prosperous years, Mr. Hill declared, would make what is now considered a wonderful network of lines appear as inadequate as the coaching systems of colonial days. The existing traffic, in his opinion, called for the building of 35,000 miles of tracks, at the cost of \$5,000,000,000, covering terminals. All this, he said, the railroad people realized.

The history of railroads has seen no sharper reversal of attitude than this. The railroads, which were once the backbone of the nation, are now being out-gunned by competition with canals and rivers and lakes has not always been aboveboard on the part of the railroads. Some of them have labored in congress and the state legislatures to defeat the development of waterways. The influence of the Pacific railway is credited with holding up the Panama canal project for years, and, even after the beginning of work there, with seeking to convince the country of its ultimate failure. In one New York election in which the deepening of the Erie canal was voted upon, the Vanderbilt line fought the proposal, tooth and nail, but its efforts have languished, has been delayed and sometimes utterly abandoned, because the railroad lobby had sufficient strength to crush appropriation measures.

The new light which some of the transportation lines have seen bears a curious relationship with the defensive position into which they have been forced in recent years. For a while they were concerned only in the protection of their pooling and trust arrangements. Now they must struggle against the flood of business, which, in Mr. Hill's horoscope, threatens to keep the roads in a chronic condition of blockade. We have more than we can do, they cry, will not some kindly water transportation come to our relief and help us move these mountains of grain and coal and merchandise?

President Hill is not merely a sage. He is a leader. If the waterways are to aid the railroads, depend upon it the railroads will aid in the legislation and the construction which the waterways require.

AN EMERGENCY CIRCULATION.

Wall Street Journal.

The Proper Thing to Do and Do Quickly.

While President Roosevelt might easily have said more in regard to financial legislation, what he did say was excellent. The critical nature of recent financial events would have warranted a presidential message which would have gone deeply into the question of banking and currency reform. President Roosevelt has not seen fit to do this and the question is treated only as one of many problems, some of which Mr. Roosevelt evidently regards as of equal or even greater importance.

It is quite true that any comprehensive banking and currency reform which is expected from this congress, the subject is too large to be disposed of in a hurry. Practically all that can reasonably be expected is just what the president himself recommends. Nevertheless, it is to be regretted that the president, while putting into the public domain his own views, has not at least laid before the country the idea of a more comprehensive reform, a reform which might be worked out after investigation by a high class special commission and based upon adequate security of money. The establishment of a great central bank would be of enormous advantage to the country, or if public opinion were opposed to this then such an enlargement of the powers of the secretary of the treasury as would practically make the treasury department a central bank of reserve and issue.

It is not, however, the ideal, but the practical that we must hope for. The present thing to do, the thing which congress, as the season which has now started, might and ought to do, is to provide the means for a strictly emergency circulation in accordance with President Roosevelt's recommendations.

LOW FARES INCREASE BUSINESS.

More Evidence of Wisdom of Passenger Rate Reduction. Minneapolis Journal.

Thomas Yapp, expert statistician of the Minnesota Railway commission, who figured out that the railroads were making more money than ever out of the 2-cent fare, was roughly handled by the lawyers for the railroads. They intimated that Thomas did not know much more than his name suggested. They threw logarithms all over the courtroom to show that bankruptcy and losses in the face as the result of the 2-cent fare law.

The state of Minnesota was impressed. It almost feared it had made a mistake. But if it did, another mistake has been made. This one was made by the managers of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad. They have allowed the passenger earnings of the road to mount up under the 2-cent fare until they seem destined to eclipse anything a railroad ever did before. The New York Times, which apparently considers it news just fairly to print, reports: "Philadelphia, Dec. 11.—The monthly report of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad company for October, 1907, compared with the same month last year, shows an increase in net earnings of \$12,665, notwithstanding the 2-cent rate law. The net earnings for October, 1906, were \$1,564,900 and for October, 1907, \$1,709,365, a gain of \$124,665."

There is no doubt that in trying to kill off 2-cent legislation the companies were greatly alarmed at the prospect. There is no doubt that the most conservative public servants felt that the reduced-fare movement was being pushed too fast. There was scarcely any criticism of Governor Hughes' veto of such a bill in New York, though there, if anywhere, the lower rate should make money for the companies. Nevertheless, the public is seeing some remarkable results from 2-cent fares. The Minnesota figures showing gains were attacked as being based on insufficient data. It is remarkable fact that wherever figures have been made they all tend one way, toward showing that the lower fare is good for the road in bringing about its largest possible utilization for travel.

THE FIGHT ON TAFT.

Kansas City Times (Ind.).

The friends of Secretary Taft now know the combination they will have to fight if they secure the republican nomination for the secretary of war. That combination represents all who are opposed to the Jewish administration of the treasury, and some who are not directly opposed to the president and Mr. Taft, but are in favor of such candidates as Mr. LaFollette or Mr. Hughes, who cannot be classed as reactionaries unless their supporters choose in the end to align themselves with the retrogressive administration.

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