

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: I, George B. Tzschentzsch, 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 January, 1908, was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Number, Circulation, Total. Rows 1-16 showing circulation figures for various editions.

Less unsold and returned copies, 8,490

Net total, 1,114,640

Daily average, 35,924

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of February, 1908.

ROBERT H. HUNTER, Notary Public.

WHEN OUT OF TOWN

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

Taft continues "far in the lead."

The M. A. degree has been conferred by Yale on a football expert.

The motto is to be restored to the coin. Now if they will only restore the coin everybody will be happy.

Charles Dana Gibson says there are more pretty women in this country than ever before. And always will be.

New York bankers are opposing the Aldrich bill. That may result in getting some western support for the measure.

The Balkan war cloud serves its purpose. All the countries interested are voting more taxes to meet the emergency.

New York dispatches state that "Banker Morse is very busy hunting money." He has plenty of competition in that line.

An eastern parson says Mr. Bryan should have been a preacher instead of a politician. The answer is that Mr. Bryan is both.

"Can a whale scream?" asks the Brooklyn Eagle. Perhaps, but it is usually content to express its emotions by blubbering.

Readers who want to follow the trip of the battleships and the New York to Paris autists will have to brush up on their geography.

In suggesting J. Pierpont Morgan for the presidency, Leslie M. Shaw must have felt like the theatrical prompter who had given the wrong cue.

The local democratic organ refers to its party as the "party of Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan." Why not make it a quartet by including Grover Cleveland?

Kentucky and the Philippines should both be assured in the national convention platforms that they shall have self-government whenever they are fitted for it.

Senator Hale announces his intention to make a speech in vindication of the navy. At last accounts the navy was considered in perfect condition to vindicate itself.

Blanche Bates, the actress, is agitating a project for the establishment of a home for the needy Forty-niners. There is greater need for a home for the needy Nineteen-eighters.

Notwithstanding "Bill" Gurley's polite effort to re-christen them "pseudo reformers," we prefer to stick to the more understandable, if not more expressive, term, "fake reformers."

No Sunday closing law seems to have any disturbing effect on Colonel Bryan's speech-making activities. It may be assumed, however, that his Sunday lecturing is not labor, but simply physical exercise.

After reading all the things that Washington and Lincoln are alleged to have said in public addresses and messages, the student of history must be glad that they had to write their thoughts with a pen instead of having voluble typewriters at their disposal.

MR. TAFT'S PLAIN TALK

Secretary Taft is establishing an enviable reputation for using plain words to define his position and that of the administration, so far as he represents it, on public questions, national and international. He has a habit of speaking with the utmost candor. Some time ago he told the citizens of Oklahoma very frankly that he did not like some features of the constitution they had adopted and a little later, through an address in Kentucky, he spoke right out to the south on the negro question. He has met the veiled charges of labor leaders by a full exposition of his views on labor and capital and he has just added a very interesting and wholly frank statement of his views on the trip of the battleships to the Pacific and of our future relations with the orient.

Efforts have been made to construe the cruise of the fleet into a menace against Japan. This has been encouraged by jingoism on both sides of the ocean and has resulted in denials which did not satisfy and explanations which did not explain. Mr. Taft, in his recent speech at Concord, N. H., declared in very plain terms that the purpose of the cruise is to furnish the powers of the far east an object lesson of the might of the American military arm. Asserting that the United States does not want to use a navy to fight, but to prevent fighting, and that for that purpose the navy should be commensurate with "our wealth, our population and with the extent of our jurisdiction," Mr. Taft said:

"It is nobody's business" may sound a little saucy, but when said without boasting, and without fear, it is void of offense and unquestionably voices the real sentiment of our people. Conditions in the far east are unsettled. China is complaining of Japanese aggression in Manchuria. It is no secret that most of the European powers are in secret sympathy with every movement looking to the impairment or destruction of the integrity of the Chinese empire. The battle of the nations for commercial supremacy is destined to be fought on the Pacific and our potential interests in the orient demand the presence of a proper fleet in the Pacific. The fleet has been sent to the Pacific, not as a menace, but in the assumption of a responsibility which the United States incurred when it secured the open door policy in China, a policy which it cannot abandon any more than it could abandon the Monroe doctrine.

WRECK OF THE MAINE. Congressman Sulzer of New York has introduced a resolution asking the secretary of the navy to inform congress whether our government has the right to remove the wreck of the battleship Maine from Havana harbor and give the imprisoned dead proper burial. He has also asked for an estimate of the probable cost of removing the hull of the destroyed ship. It would appear useless to question the right of this government to remove the wreck from Havana harbor, but the resolution may possibly attract the attention of congress to a duty that should have been performed long ago. The remnants of the Maine lie in the chief harbor of Havana, a menace to navigation and an obstacle to extensive harbor improvements which the Cuban government proposes to undertake at an early day. It serves no purpose other than to attract tourists and to emphasize American neglect in the matter of its proper disposition. An American marine engineer has estimated that the hull of the Maine could be raised and towed to deep water at a cost not to exceed \$300,000. The cost alone should not cause congress to hesitate about clearing Havana's harbor of this obstruction and giving proper burial to the dead of the vessel whose destruction precipitated the war with Spain.

The raising of the hull of the Maine might, too, throw valuable light on the cause of the destruction of the vessel. Marine experts waged bitter war over this question when the Maine was blown up a little over ten years ago. Most of the experts contended that the ship had been blown up from the outside by emplacements of Spain, and this version was generally accepted at that time by the American people, whose blood was at fighting heat. Spain's contention was that the magazine had been exploded from within, either by accident or by design, to bring a climax to the agitation for war. The war has been fought and its results accepted. If the hull of the Maine is ever raised and examined we may have conclusive proof of the real cause of the explosion.

CONTRACT-JUMPING TEACHERS. It is a sad reflection upon the whole body of Nebraska public school teachers, although entirely undeserved by the great majority of them, that the authorities of the State university and the state normal schools should feel it necessary to join with the state superintendent in a public circular to teachers against contract-jumping and threatening revocation of certificates as a penalty for breaking employment agreements. The inviolability of contracts, whether entered into by business men, mechanics, laborers, lawyers, clerks, or teachers, must be respected and should be enforced. If a school district should repudiate its obligations to its teachers they would have a right to insist on specific performance or upon adequate compensation for damages.

The average teacher, however, has no financial responsibility that could be enforced, even if the school authorities were disposed, as they usually are not, to pursue the contract-jumper with legal remedies. Yet the fact that the teacher cannot easily be held to the terms of the contract, nor has anything at stake to be lost, should not be allowed to enter into the case. Neither is the threatened revocation of teachers' certificates likely to be effective, although it may have some good influence, because it would not necessarily extend beyond state borders and because, further, most of the contract-jumping is done by teachers ready to abandon the profession for matrimony or other avocations.

The real remedy for contract-jumping should be applied in the normal schools by emphasizing to the students preparing for teachers' work the importance of scrupulous honesty in business dealings and the disastrous consequences of broken faith. The aspiring teacher should also be impressed with the peculiar position of the teacher in every community as setting an example not only to the pupils in the school room, but to their parents outside.

Nebraska's pride in its unexcelled public schools should include a pride in its public school teachers, which, however, can be supported only on a firmly established reputation of the teachers for efficiency, fidelity and square dealing in every relation of life.

Where President Roosevelt Stands.

Public announcement made December 11, 1907: "On the night after election I made the following announcement: 'I am deeply sensible of the honor done me by the American people in thus expressing their confidence in what I have done and have tried to do. I appreciate to the full the solemn responsibility this confidence imposes upon me, and I shall do all that in my power lies not to forfeit it.'"

"On the 4th of March next I shall have served three and a half years, and this three and a half years constitute my first term. The wise custom which limits the president to two terms regards the substance and not the form, and under no circumstances will I be a candidate for or accept another nomination."

This statement was issued to the public to set at rest all talk about the president being a receptive or possible candidate for another term. It was accepted generally by the friends of Mr. Roosevelt as settling finally his position, and as voting not only his true sentiments, but also his determination not to allow his name to be considered at any stage in connection with the contest for presidential preferment before the republican national convention or before the people. Since then the president has repeatedly asserted to visitors that he favors Mr. Taft, and that no real friend of his would refuse to respect his wishes as expressed in this public statement.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. The important legal question whether the state legislature may delegate to a commission the legislative power of fixing rates was decided in the affirmative by the New York state court of appeals. Under the legislative act of 1906 creating a commission to regulate prices of gas and electric light and power, the commission ordered reductions in several cities. The public service companies of Saratoga resisted the order and appealed to the courts. In the decision just rendered the court of appeals held the act constitutional in its underlying principle, namely, that the legislature may delegate to a commission its power to fix rates, but the act in question, in this particular case, was held unconstitutional on the specific ground that in establishing an arbitrary period of three years in which the rates fixed by the commission should stand no provision was made for an appeal for readjustment of rates. As the right of readjustment, according to the court, is a part of the rate-making power, the Interstate Commerce commission has been raised by opponents of the Hepburn law and is likely to be presented to the court of last resort, the ruling of New York's court of appeals is considered an important judicial precedent.

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Childlike Confidence. Philadelphia Record. Ex-Governor Pennypacker still displays that touching confidence in everybody which he has shown in the past. In answer to the look of inquiry he said: "It belongs to a man who never takes a drink, but who smokes a lot of cigarettes, which he rolls himself. Every little while he gets a box full of some particular kind of tobacco and comes here and orders a cocktail of his own invention. He orders the drink into the box, watches the tobacco absorb it, then hands me the box, which I keep till he returns in the evening and takes it home. No cherry goes with this cocktail, and, although I've never known the tobacco to curl up and find fault because the drink was too dry or too sweet, I mix it as carefully as I do those for our crank customers."

Nearly 600,000 of New York City's population of 4,500,000 are crowded into the abnormally small area of 864 acres. As the total acreage of the city is 208,218, it can be seen at once how extraordinarily teeming the congestion in some parts of the city is. Unless something is done and done before many years, this increasing congestion will reach a point defying human efforts to remedy it, short of the most radical changes in the system itself. It is computed that within ten years the city will have a population of fully 7,000,000.

The most recent census taken was that of 1905. The congestion revealed by that census was shockingly bad enough, but in the last two years it has grown much worse. The immense number of immigrants which every year augments the city's resident population, and the results of industrial depression all have the effect of still further massing more and more humanity into the already swarming sections. Although the figures of 1906 are the most recent authentic ones, they do not, however, tell the full tale. Present conditions are far worse than was the situation three years ago.

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Wonderful Changes in the Last Twenty-Five Years.

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"I don't think so—his life isn't in it."—Cleveland Leader.

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"A 'Nemesis,' my son," replied the senator, "is a female officer who punishes a man for his crime."—Philadelphia Press.

"Get whizz! Look at Growella," exclaimed Newitt, at lunch. "He seems to have a very hearty appetite. I thought he was a 'He is,'" replied Wise; "he's the worst kind. He's cursed with an optimistic appetite and a pessimistic digestion."—Philadelphia Press.

"Pa," asked one of the little girls, who had been looking at the advertising columns of the paper, "why don't you take us one of these continuous performances sometimes?"

"Because, my dear," sighed papa, "I am running a continuous performance of my own. I have to buy shoes and schoolbooks for thirteen children."—Chicago Tribune.

"Your permanent chances are experiencing quite a boom," said the reporter.

"There you go," exclaimed the candidate, impatiently, "calling my prospect a boom."

"What's the matter with that?"

"It rhymes with gloom, doom and tomb," replied the candidate, "my dear old boy, campaign poetry, anyhow."—Philadelphia Ledger.

PUT UP THE SWORD.

James Jeffrey Roche in the Century.

I have sung of the soldier's glory. As never shall sing again; I have gazed on the shambles gory. I have smelt of the slaughter pen.

There is blood in the ink well dotted. There are stains on the laurel leaf. And the gong of fame has sounded. With the tears of a needless grief.

The bird is slaughtered for fashion. And the beast is killed for sport; And the man who never did any wrong is whispered at Molech's court.

For the parent seed in the water is slain, and her child must die. That some sister or wife or daughter Her beauty may beautify.

And the merciful thought we smother— For such is the way of man— As we murder the useless mother For the "unborn straggler."

But a season of rest comes never For the "straggler" sport of all. Will His patience endure forever, Who noleth the sparrow's fall?

When the valleys of hell are sweeping The sea and the battle plain, Do you think that God is sleeping, And never to wake again?

When hunger and ravenous fever Are slaying the wasted frame, Shall we worship real deceivers, The devil the men call Famine?

We may swing the censor to cover The odor of blood in vain; God asks us, over and over, "Where is thy brother Cain?"

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