

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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

Those New York to Paris autolists must be paid this time by enthusiastic good roads advocates.

March is said to be Mr. Taft's lucky month. The next president will also be inaugurated in March.

Whatever his faults, give Mr. Harrison credit for not buying a foreign duke as a husband for his daughter.

Mr. Hearst declares that he is dissatisfied with both the old parties and both the old parties appear to be glad of it.

A New York university proposes to establish a course in advertising. Looks like patterning after the University of Chicago.

A critic has arisen who declares that the marksmanship of the American navy is very poor. He may tell his troubles to Spain.

Editor Waterston says it is impossible to unlock a night latch with a corkscrew. Louisville is not in the dry district of Kentucky.

It might be a good plan to compel anarchists to go into the business of raising tobacco in the Kentucky districts infested by night riders.

Briefly stated, Senator La Follette's managers admit that the senator does not expect to get as many votes at Chicago as he had expected he would.

The call for a mass convention of the populists of Furnas county failed to draw a single member. And Furnas county might on the Kansas line.

Mr. Bryan insists that the trusts are against him. That ought to please him, as no presidential candidate whom the trusts are not against will get very far this year.

Robbers looted a bank at Chihuahua, Mex., of \$225,000. The amount is unusually large, in view of the fact that the robbery was committed by outsiders.

Russia is unable to raise money for a navy. The impression prevails that Russia does not need a navy, remembering to what poor purpose it used the last one it had.

Some improvement may already be noted in Omaha's street cleaning department. An able-bodied man or two seem by mistake to have broken into one of the brush-wielding gangs.

The Russian Duma quite naturally hesitates to comply with the czar's demand for \$1,000,000 for the army without some assurance that the army will not be turned loose on the Duma.

"Ohioans who want office" is the title of an article in the Cincinnati Enquirer. As space forbids the publication of a directory of Ohio politicians the Enquirer does not give the names.

A prominent Russian official has been sentenced to fifteen years in prison for killing ten women. He would have been sent to Siberia for life if he had committed a political offense.

In justice to the social clubs that have taken out liquor licenses the authorities are in duty bound to insist that all such clubs be treated alike. No beating about the bush to evade the law on technicalities should be countenanced.

"PREPAREDNESS" OF THE ARMY.

The debate in the house at Washington on the army and appropriation bill has developed a lot of facts and assertions about the condition of the American army that furnish cause for real amusement, inasmuch as we are at peace with the world and in no need of having an army ready for the field in response to a hurry call.

Chairman Hull of the committee on military affairs pleaded eloquently for increased pay for the enlisted men and for other amendments which promised to bring the standing army "up to the maximum of 62,000 enlisted men, which would place the country in a state of preparedness in case of war."

He deplored the fact that there are now 32,000 vacant soldiers' jobs, and admitted that the army was really a "skeleton" and a very attenuated skeleton at that. Aside from the desirability of recruiting the standing army up to the legal maximum, the talk of being "prepared" for war with an aggregate force of 62,000 enlisted men must raise the liabilities of the military authorities of other nations, as well as of Americans who stop to consider the case.

An army of that size would be necessary to suppress an Indian uprising, if any two tribes still in a semi-civilized state should unite and go on the war-path. With a full force of 62,000 enlisted men, the nation's army would be less than twice the size of the police force of London and smaller than the thoroughly organized, drilled and equipped standing army of a half-dozen of the lesser powers.

France and Germany each has more than 500,000 men under arms and each could treble its force, all fully armed and drilled, on sixty days' notice. In spite, however, of these larger armies, the military budget of the United States is larger than that of either France or Germany.

Perhaps there is no need of a great standing army in the United States. It may be argued that we do not need any army, except a skeleton formation, as an adequate navy is sufficient guarantee against war with any foreign power. But it is folly to talk about being in state of "preparedness" for war with an army of 62,000 enlisted men. Before enjoying any such state of preparedness, the militia should be organized and equipped to the number of 1,000,000 men, ready for the field, as an efficient army to repel an invader. If congress feels the necessity of placing the nation in a state of "preparedness for war," it should encourage strengthening of the militia. Its efforts in that direction have been too spasmodic, unsystematic and fruitless in disappointing results.

DEATH-LADEN FREIGHT.

The explosion of two cars of powder, causing the wrecking of an entire freight train and the fatal injury of two men, near Litchfield, Ill., serves again to direct attention to the necessity of legislation for larger precautionary methods in the transportation of explosives. In the case at hand, although the explosion took place two miles east of a town, the concussion wrecked houses and shattered windows for miles around. Had the accident occurred nearer Litchfield the loss of life would have been appalling.

The powder was carried in two cars of a long freight train "running at full speed." Accidents of this kind are altogether too frequent. One in Pennsylvania some months ago resulted in the loss of twenty lives and another in Michigan caused the death of eight persons.

In both cases the powder was contained in freight cars and no more care was exercised in handling them than would have been given to cars loaded with nails. Every railroad company that permits such carelessness in shipping explosives invites disaster. Powder in car load lots, or in sufficient quantities to cause great damage to property or life in case of explosion, should be transported by special train, with every precaution for a clear right-of-way and intelligent handling.

AGAINST DEPARTMENTAL WASTE.

Action just taken by the house of representatives foreshadows a rattling of dry bones among the departments at Washington and the injection of life into some of the congressional committees heretofore looked upon as ornamental rather than useful. The house, by a unanimous vote, has decided to give some of its committees authority to go ahead and perform the duties for which they were originally appointed.

As far back as 1876 the house appointed a committee "On Expenditures in the War Department." Since that time a similar committee has been appointed on expenditures of each of the nine departments of the government. The record does not show that any of these committees has ever done anything except to endorse formally the reports of the auditors of the different departments. For many years congress has looked upon these committees simply as excuses for giving chairmanships and committee rooms to members. They furnished dumping grounds for the speaker's disposition of new members, and gave them a place to hang up their hats and receive visitors.

Many of these committees have not held formal meetings in years and have become dormant and innocuous. It is now proposed to galvanize these committees and make them a living, working force instead of ornamental fixtures. They are to be organized and

authorized to institute economies and reforms in the different departments with the object of abolishing useless places, enforcing respect for the law, bringing about proper application of money, insuring the government against unjust and extravagant demands, securing a stricter accountability and rearranging salaries on just and equitable principles.

There is practically no limit to what may be accomplished if the work outlined for these committees is taken up vigorously and prosecuted honestly and intelligently. Abuses, perhaps unavoidable, have grown up in nearly all of the departments. Many of them are handicapped by cumbersome methods that would not be tolerated in any private enterprise and others are suffering from the dry rot that comes from years of following precedents made for maximum appropriations and minimum work.

THE MODERN HOME-SEEKERS.

Transmissouri railroads are just now engaged in carrying hundreds of home-seekers from eastern states to those sections of the west and northwest where available and desirable lands for agricultural use may be found at prices which make them particularly attractive in comparison with the prevailing rental and purchase rates demanded in the more thickly settled states.

The advance guard of these home-seeking tourists furnishes a striking contrast to the original home-seekers, the pioneers who opened the west and made the present development of the richest part of the nation possible. The home-seekers of today are riding in Pullman cars, are well dressed and supplied with ample resources to buy property that may suit their needs or fancy.

Iowa and Nebraska have been engulfed by the Taft wave. The Taft wave is apparently big enough to engulf just anything. Two members of the Italian Parliament engaged the other day in a hair pulling match. As an omen of future methods in parliamentary dispute, this should greatly encourage the suffragettes.

Nobody Loves It.

A senator who was speaking his piece on the financial question in the senate expressed an opinion of the future of the money bill always keen, but interest in currency bills seems to have few throbs or thrills.

Rise of the Reporter.

The man who married the richest woman that Philadelphia ever produced, was once a reporter on the Hartford Courant. Late in life he has been furnishing the New York newspapers with some decidedly interesting news items.

What is Powder?

It was testified before the senate committee that powder is a strange conglomeration. A boy once hearing that chickens ate gravel defined gravel to mean "hair and things." The naval witnesses may apply the same definition to powder.

Governor Guild's Good Phrase.

Governor Curtis Guild, Jr., of Massachusetts has refused to be moved by another of the periodic appeals for a pardon for Jesse Pomeroy, and has replied to his petitioners that "Massachusetts cares neither for lynch executions nor for lynch pardons."

A good phrase and it is Governor Guild's credit that during his term in office he has refused consistently to interfere with the execution of the laws out of deference to the sickly sentimentalism that sees in every prisoner guilty of an unusual or picturesque crime a martyr and object of tender sympathy.

Forest Destruction in United States Goes Steadily Ahead.

The government forest service has written a report of the trees which were cut in the United States last year than in any year in its history. The figures which follow tell where the trees have gone. The "cut" amounted to 37,267,000 board feet, a figure really too big for the mind to grasp. The mills produced in addition 11,656,300 shingles and 3,812,000 lath, the total yield approximating 40,000,000 feet, having a value of not less than \$70,000,000. The figures tell the tragedy of the white pine and oak. They are almost gone from the country as these trees. In the last eight years the cut of white pine has fallen more than forty and the oak more than 85 per cent. And the fact of the vanishing forests is emphasized by the advance of lumber prices—49 per cent since 1899.

What is the country going to do about it? If the forests are not to become extinct, the plans ruined by droughts and the valleys scoured by ever-increasing floods, something must be done, and done quickly. And yet one of the most important forest preserve measures, the Appalachian mountain bill is tied up while the congressional committee on judiciary quibbles over technicalities. Occasionally there comes some exhibition of popular government as this to reveal to us why some enlightened people still believe in monarchies.

The South Omaha charter requirement of a tax receipt as prerequisite to voting at a city election is said to have been entirely disregarded in the municipal primaries. It may be assumed that the election officers took the hint that the voter could qualify as a taxpayer by the introduction of his tax receipt "or otherwise."

St. Louis girls are urging a boycott against a minister who is preaching a series of sermons against the kissing habit. The boycott is premature. The culprit may not practice what he preaches. City Electrician Michaelson calls attention again to the hideous sign boards affixed to electric light, tele-

graph and street railway poles in violation of city ordinances. These signs are only second to the billboards in disgusting our streets. The city electrician says they injure the poles, but they ought to be removed for artistic reasons, if for nothing else.

Colonel Bryan is to take a two weeks' rest at his home at Fairview. He reserves the right, however, to issue daily bulletins upon the progress of the great Wall street conspiracy to buy up enough delegates to the Denver convention to prevent his nomination.

The president has decided to appoint W. S. Rossiter to be public printer, to succeed Charles S. Stillings. Little is known of Mr. Rossiter's particular qualifications for the position, but he will have a great chance to score improvement.

The opticians practicing in Nebraska are to be forbidden to style themselves "doctors" in order to avoid confusion with practicing physicians. Wonder which of them think they have been insulted?

A dispatch from Columbus says that "the Foraker influence has disappeared from the Ohio republican state committee." It has probably gone in search of the disappeared Foraker presidential boom.

The democratic state convention is about to meet in Omaha, and inasmuch as it must meet somewhere, we are glad to have the meeting here, notwithstanding our divergence on the point of politics.

Timely Thought. Baltimore American. This week a year hence we shall be inaugurating a new president, and his name will be William H. Taft.

What the Waves Are Saying. Baltimore American. Iowa and Nebraska have been engulfed by the Taft wave. The Taft wave is apparently big enough to engulf just anything.

When They Get Their "Rights." New York Tribune. Two members of the Italian Parliament engaged the other day in a hair pulling match. As an omen of future methods in parliamentary dispute, this should greatly encourage the suffragettes.

Nobody Loves It. Baltimore American. A senator who was speaking his piece on the financial question in the senate expressed an opinion of the future of the money bill always keen, but interest in currency bills seems to have few throbs or thrills.

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ON PRESIDENTIAL FIRING LINE.

Valuable Compilation of Facts Relative to Conventions and Votes. Chicago Tribune. Since its organization the republican party's thirteen national conventions have held as follows:

1860, Philadelphia, June 17 1868, Chicago, May 16 1872, Philadelphia, June 3 1876, Cincinnati, June 14 1880, Chicago, June 3 1884, Chicago, June 3 1888, St. Louis, June 19 1892, Minneapolis, June 7 1896, St. Louis, June 16 1900, Philadelphia, June 19 1904, Chicago, June 21

The places and dates of the corresponding conventions of the democratic party are herewith shown:

1856, Cincinnati, June 2 1860, Charleston, S. C., April 23 1864, Baltimore, June 23 1868, Chicago, June 23 1872, Philadelphia, June 3 1876, St. Louis, June 7 1880, Cincinnati, June 23 1884, Chicago, June 3 1888, St. Louis, June 19 1892, Chicago, June 21 1896, Kansas City, July 7 1900, Philadelphia, June 19 1904, St. Louis, July 4

In 1892 the southern wing of the democratic party met with the northern democrats at Charleston on April 23, but broke away and held another convention at Richmond, Va., on June 11-22, and adjourned to Baltimore on June 23, when the nominations were made.

Chicago has been favored by both parties as the convention city, the republicans having met there six times and the democrats four times. The second favorite with the republicans has been Philadelphia, three times, while St. Louis has been the democrats' second choice, three conventions having been held there.

The number of electoral votes received by the two parties and the pluralities are shown here:

1856 Rep. 24 Plurality 69 D. 13 1860 Rep. 23 Plurality 66 D. 15 1864 Rep. 23 Plurality 67 D. 15 1868 Rep. 24 Plurality 67 D. 15 1872 Rep. 23 Plurality 66 D. 15 1876 Rep. 24 Plurality 68 D. 15 1880 Rep. 24 Plurality 69 D. 15 1884 Rep. 23 Plurality 67 D. 15 1888 Rep. 23 Plurality 66 D. 15 1892 Rep. 24 Plurality 68 D. 15 1896 Rep. 23 Plurality 67 D. 15 1900 Rep. 24 Plurality 69 D. 15 1904 Rep. 24 Plurality 69 D. 15

The popular vote cast at the several contests was as follows:

1856 Rep. 1,231,241 Dem. 1,175,127 1860 Rep. 1,898,262 Dem. 1,847,514 1864 Rep. 2,216,097 Dem. 2,070,613 1868 Rep. 2,284,078 Dem. 2,584,779 1872 Rep. 2,085,950 Dem. 4,584,729 1876 Rep. 4,244,416 Dem. 4,571,880 1880 Rep. 5,230,583 Dem. 5,540,203 1884 Rep. 5,175,287 Dem. 5,584,437 1888 Rep. 6,773,072 Dem. 6,857,054 1892 Rep. 7,239,191 Dem. 6,857,054 1900 Rep. 7,624,459 Dem. 6,857,054

Up to date the clearly outlined indications accord Mr. Taft with a ratio of more than two votes to every one that can be counted against him; and "against him" embraces the field—the entire "favorite son" aggregation. The indications of Taft strength are of much more sweeping and impressive proportions, however, than may be gathered from a mere summary of the details that have been instructed or declared for him, as compared with the number that has been chosen for other candidates.

Six Months Behind. Wall Street Journal. Wall street has suddenly awakened to the belief that Secretary Taft is to be the next republican candidate for president and is discovering that in spite of the fact that he is Roosevelt's own candidate, picked out by the president a year ago, and that he endorses the president's policies in every public address, he nevertheless possesses many attractive qualities as a statesman.

Wall street has simply discovered a fact which was clearly announced on August 1, 1907, by the Wall Street Journal. On that date the Wall Street Journal said that Secretary Taft was far in advance for the next republican nomination. It named among Mr. Taft's conspicuous qualifications as a candidate his high personal character, his capacity for public work, his independence of any corrupt commercial affiliations and political rings and his judicial and diplomatic talents. It stated that Secretary Taft was in entire sympathy with the general scope and purpose of the Roosevelt policy and that the president made no concealment of the favor with which he regarded Mr. Taft's candidacy.

It further said that if elected president, it was safe to assume that Secretary Taft would continue the Roosevelt policy as regards government supervision of the corporations but that he himself would be the president of the United States in fact as well as in name, and that he would display in that office the same judicial and diplomatic qualities as have distinguished his public life heretofore.

It seems to have taken the speculative portion of Wall street about six months to learn for itself the truth of all this. It still remains true that no candidate aside from Taft has had delegates instructed for him outside his home state. The significance of this is, of course, that the secretary of war is the only really national figure among the republican candidates. Others, indeed, are known more or less favorably beyond their own states, but even those known most favorably are not

well acquainted with the country at large and the country is not well acquainted with them.

An illuminating illustration of this fact occurs in Miss Tarbell's article "How about Hughes?" in the American Magazine for March. The illustrations are from photographs of Hughes canoeing in Maine, fishing in the Adirondacks, bicycling in the Tyrol, motoring in Wales, in the English lake district and on the Mortschatz glacier, Engadine. Not one of them shows Hughes west of Buffalo, N. Y.

Show Not a Candidate. Interview of Leslie M. Shaw. I have no interest in politics except as it relates to business. I have been quoted in opposition to President Roosevelt. On the contrary, I think the mission of President Roosevelt is as important as that of any of his predecessors, except Washington and Lincoln.

Will He Be a Candidate? Interview of Leslie M. Shaw. I have no interest in politics except as it relates to business. I have been quoted in opposition to President Roosevelt. On the contrary, I think the mission of President Roosevelt is as important as that of any of his predecessors, except Washington and Lincoln.

Advertisement for Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder. Includes text: "Makes the Biscuit and Cake lighter, finer flavored, more nutritious—wholesome." and "DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER".

SAID IN FUN. "Miss Pechie," said Mr. Timmid, at the other end of the sofa, "if I were to throw you a kiss I wonder what you'd say."

"Well, I'd say you were the latest man I ever saw," rejoined Sunday Herald.

"Reindeer Bute brags so much about her conquests," began Goldie Hoomley. "Of course, she's more attractive to the men than I, but—" "Not at all!" interrupted Vera Cutting. "So sweet of you to say that, but I know she is."

"Nonsense! Why, she hasn't nearly so much money as you have,"—Catharine Standard and Times.

Father—Why, when I was your age I didn't have as much money in a month as you spend in a day.

Daughter—Well, did, don't scold me about it. Why didn't you talk to grandfather?—Illustrated Era.

Jessie—When the judge asked you how old you were, what did you say? Margery—I told him if he were a good judge he wouldn't ask.—Judge.

Dolly—Pardon me, dear, but you cut a ridiculous figure on the street yesterday.

Polly—Oh, forgive me, dear! If I had seen you I should have spoken.—Cleveland Leader.

"She certainly is the most ignorant servant we ever had."

"For heaven's sake, I got her at an intelligence office, too!"—Brownings Magazine.

"Hillegus thinks he knows more than anybody else on earth," answered Miss Cayenne. "Since the assertion that Mars is inhabited, the gods further than that."

"Why is she getting slimmer?"— "On the grounds of misrepresentation. She says that before they were married he claimed he was a saint."—Pittsburgh Post.

"And what does he say?" "He says he was, but didn't know it."—Lippincott.

"Talk about foresight!" "Well?" "Old Gotrox left a thousand tons of coal in trust for his fourth son when the youngest child of his age..."—Lippincott.

"My hero has a strong face," remarked the author.

"He needs it," replied the critic. "I notice his face falls every time he meets the heroine."—Kansas City Journal.

"They say it's hard to live with a genius." "Ho! Were not all women geniuses, how would most families exist?"—Washington Herald.

Large advertisement for Alcohol and Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Includes text: "Alcohol Ask your doctor if a family medicine, like Ayer's Sarsaparilla, is not vastly better without alcohol than with it." and "Ayer's Sarsaparilla NON-ALCOHOLIC".

Advertisement for Scott's Emulsion. Includes text: "Livers Exchanged If the active liver of the cod-fish could be put into the place of the torpid liver of the consumptive it would probably do him a world of good. Next best thing is Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil. Almost as good as a new liver. The great power of SCOTT'S EMULSION as a flesh-producer proves that much of the activity of the cod's liver is contained in every spoonful. All Druggists, 50c. and \$1.00."