

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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Entered at Omaha Postoffice as second-class matter. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily Bee (without Sunday), one year, \$4.00...

DELIVERED BY CARRIER: Daily Bee (without Sunday), per week, 10c. Evening Bee (without Sunday), per week, 10c.

Remit by draft, express or postal order payable to The Bee Publishing Company. Only 5-cent stamps received in payment of mail accounts.

Table with 2 columns: Circulation numbers and amounts. Includes 'Total' and 'Less unsold and returned copies'.

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

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

Who is that "magnificent lawyer" at Fremont, anyway? Ohio is 120 years old and acts like sixty most of the time.

A St. Paul man fasted thirty-one days and will never eat again. It is also about time to revise the summer clothing and the straw hats.

Parasol makers are not going into any ecstasies over the "Merry Widow" hats. In a pinch the president might send Congressman Hobson down to suppress Castro.

The April grade of showers might be improved to the great satisfaction of the farmers. For an example of "embezzlement of power" see the democratic usurpation in South Omaha.

The Knox presidential boom is taking no chances on being charged with pernicious activity in politics. A steamship is being fired at Shanghai with 400,000,000 firecrackers. Guess their destination?

The Erie railroad was named after Lake Erie and it is an open question whether the lake or the road holds the water. It is announced that Luther Burbank is going into politics. He has proved himself an expert grafter in other lines.

Congressmen who are opposing the president's naval enlargement program should remember that America is a two-ocean country. New York democrats are reminding Mr. Bryan that "east is east and west is west and never twain shall meet," or words to that effect.

Mr. Puck was among the men fined in Toledo for maintaining a lumber trust. It is hoped Puck can find something funny in the situation. It is not many years since the people of Arkansas rather prided themselves on sending none but "southern gentlemen" to the United States senate.

The house at Washington has about decided that there is neither a financial nor a political emergency to warrant the passage of the Aldrich currency bill. Senator La Follette still insists that the country is owned by ninety-seven men, thus refuting the old impression that Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Morgan own all of it.

An actress who was dismissed because she refused to wear tight leotards has been awarded \$5,000 damages. Evidently she had a proper understanding of her rights. The latest treasury report showed the per capita circulation at \$35.35. It need be less than that now since Prince de Sagan has been introduced to the Gould millions.

The debate is still on whether Lincoln did or did not wear a beard when inaugurated president. Poetic license would overlook such trifles, but apparently there is no such thing as artistic license.

MISREPRESENTING MR. TAFT.

In public speeches and editorials in the Commoner Mr. Bryan persists in the declaration that Mr. Taft has made no announcement of his attitude toward the trusts and no promise that, if elected president, he will inaugurate or continue any legal prosecution of them.

The unfortunate part of this contention, so far as Mr. Bryan is concerned, is that it is a complete misrepresentation of the secretary of war. In his speech at Columbus, before Mr. Bryan began asking questions, Mr. Taft said: I would refrain unjustly from all the efficiency of injunctive process and would punish with all the severity of criminal prosecution every attempt on the part of aggregated capital to suppress competition through illegal means.

This address was widely publicized and could not have escaped the attention of so omnivorous a reader of political news as Colonel Bryan. In his address at Louisville a few days ago Mr. Taft said: Mr. Bryan asks me what should be done with the great combinations of capital. He says he would extirpate trusts root and branch. I don't know how he would carry out this policy unless he means that he would destroy the plants that create our prosperity. I do not believe either in that or government ownership, but I believe in making corporations obey the law and being prevented from destroying the property of others or refusing to share with others the prosperity existing in their lines of business.

One of the greatest sources of Mr. Taft's popularity with the American people is the complete candor and frankness with which he states his position and discusses public questions. He has practiced no evasion on the trust question, the tariff issue, imperialism or anything else in which the people have shown interest or concern. Mr. Bryan alone appears to have failed to discover this trait in Mr. Taft's character and to be the only one to conclude that Mr. Taft lacks positiveness on public questions.

THE NEW YORK REPUBLICANS.

Even the most ardent champion of Governor Hughes will be forced to recognize the fact that the New York republican state convention has failed to strengthen his position as a formidable candidate for the presidential nomination at Chicago. The convention instructed the four delegates-at-large for Governor Hughes, but made it plain that the delegates to the state convention were by no means enthusiastic in support of his candidacy. A motion to request the district delegates to vote and work for his nomination was voted down and the entire spirit of the convention was that of perfunctory compliance with plans for promoting the presidential boom of the state's "favorite son" candidate.

The failure of the Hughes boom to arouse the New York republicans is not easily understood, except upon the theory that the party leaders realize that, able and qualified as he may be, he is comparatively unknown beyond the Alleghenies. The support expected for Hughes in New England has not materialized and the New York republicans apparently feel the hopelessness of rallying sufficient votes to secure first place for him at Chicago.

By the action of the New York convention the delegates from that state will be free, after discharging their pledges to their candidate, to vote for other candidates of their choice. Nothing in the action of the convention indicated any concert among the delegates for or against any other candidate. Apparently it will be an open field, so far as the New York delegation is concerned, with Taft occupying the vantage ground.

THE SOUTH OMAHA USURPATION.

The attempt of the democratic mayor of South Omaha and his associates to hold on to office after the people of South Omaha have voted him out comes strictly within Mr. Bryan's definition of "embezzlement of power." If the defeated candidates at the recent South Omaha city election had any good grounds to believe they were not fairly beaten they would have instituted a contest of the election. By setting up the claim that the election is void because of various irregularities for which they, themselves, are to blame, the very enumeration of these alleged irregularities show how flimsy they are.

It is alleged that the democratic mayor forgot to issue his election proclamation until after the time specified by law and, therefore, his neglect should keep him in office. It is alleged that the primaries at which the usurpers were nominated were kept open longer than they should have been. Were it not for this the chances are they would not even have had their renomination, but, having got a nomination by questionable methods, they think that ought to entitle them to perpetual tenure.

In the third place, it is alleged that the voters were not required to produce their tax certificates. Inasmuch as the outgoing democratic mayor and council, themselves, appointed the entire set of election officers and specifically instructed them not to require tax certificates, this claim is remarkable for its brazenness. The attempted usurpation in South Omaha is, of course, merely a cooked-up democratic job. Had the democratic candidates won out in the election they would have insisted that everything was fair and square and

that they were entitled to enter upon new terms for the full two years. It is a poor rule that does not work both ways and a poor politician that plays the baby act when beaten at his own game.

ADMIRAL EVANS' PROMISE.

In preparing for the reception to the battlehips now on their way north from Mexico San Francisco has been much worried over the condition of Admiral Evans, who is under treatment for rheumatism at a health resort in southern California. It has been feared that the admiral will be unable to take part in the festivities planned largely in his honor and his physicians have issued strict orders to him to remain at the springs for some weeks yet and to make no effort whatever to go to San Francisco.

But those landlubber doctors evidently do not know "Fighting Bob." He has notified that reception committee at San Francisco that he will be on hand when the fleet arrives. All reports are that the admiral is in very poor physical condition, but he comes of fighting stock and his promise to meet the reception committee at San Francisco simply means that he will be there if he has a leg to stand on. The country will back him against the doctors and will hope that he will be able to be present in person to get the cheers which he and his men deserve.

WHO IS THE "MAGNIFICENT" LAWYER?

As the democratic oracle who stands nearer to Colonel Bryan than anyone else outside the Commoner office, our old friend, Edgar Howard, has set up a new democratic platform plank "to drive out of existence all federal courts except the one United States supreme court, to which every citizen of the United States could appeal his case wherein a federal question shall be involved." In support of this proposal he prints in his Columbus Telegram a letter "from the pen of a magnificent Nebraska lawyer." Not having express permission to publish the letter, Judge Howard withholds the name of the writer, giving only the additional information that "his home is in Fremont." The letter is as follows:

FREMONT, April 4, 1908.

My Dear Howard: Permit me to congratulate you on your article concerning our judiciary, under the heading of "Superstition," in your last issue. You have stayed way within the lines of truth and could have gone much farther and not passed the boundary of honest criticism. While there are judges who merit criticism on personal grounds, the judiciary as a whole is deserving of the deepest censure for the wrongs it does by its fatuous adherence to foolish ultra-conservatism.

You have without doubt noticed the passing of the lawyer in our country. There is a time, not long ago, in these United States, that the lawyer was the man of influence who decided; he ruled. The civil war came, and in its train brought on the corrupting influences which the lawyer by his bogie of conservatism and his fetich of "precedent" became unable to meet. The Jacksons, Websters, Clays and Lincolns subsided, and in their stead have come the corporation grafters, and the lawyers of modern days who gain enormous incomes by partnership with public plunderers, by devising plans which will keep the perpetrators out of the penitentiary. These corrupting lawyers, by their large gains and the plausible language of the Jacksons, Websters, Clays and Lincolns, are held up as the ideal lawyers of the country, when in truth they ought to be behind the bars.

The mania of the American people for courts is unfortunate. Take history, and I make the assertion that you will find the courts have always been the last and strongest fortress of tyranny. They are taking their accustomed position in this country, and you will further find that they are the last redoubt of tyranny to fall. This comes not so much from the personal dishonesty of the individual judges as from the methods of doing business, the ritual, so to speak, which is used to decide questions and contentions, although dishonesty has played no small part in the judiciary.

This is a subject which has been close to my heart. Anything you can do to bring the people to their senses respecting the courts is good work, and the good Lord will not forget you. Very truly yours, We suggest that Judge Howard get permission to disclose the name of the author of this remarkable pronouncement. Let us know who "the magnificent Nebraska lawyer" who lives in Fremont is.

When Governor Sheldon and Lieutenant Governor Hopewell together take their trip to the Pacific coast to present the silver service to the battleship Nebraska Omaha will have the acting governor for a fortnight. It is possible that the state may yet be educated up to realize that a governor living in Omaha might perform the duties of the office satisfactorily for a full elective term.

Colonel Bryan's pact with Roger Sullivan does not seem to suit some of the Bryan followers in Illinois, who are disposed to repudiate their chief's agreement. If Roger Sullivan deserved all the names that Mr. Bryan called him a little over a year ago it is pretty hard to understand how he could be clasped to the Bryan bosom now.

The Commercial club is to give a series of personally conducted local trade excursions to enable members to familiarize themselves with what is being done in big business institutions right here at home. Familiarity with our own manufacturing and trade resources is essential to explaining Omaha's industrial advantages properly to outsiders.

On the same theory which the democratic usurpers in South Omaha are pursuing, no office holder could ever be dislodged except with his own consent. All he would have to do would be to try for re-election and, failing at the polls, assert that the election

was illegal and deny the right of his successful competitor to take the office.

The country will approve President Roosevelt's veto of a bill granting valuable water rights to a company without price. Congress has been too slow in saving the nation's natural resources for the benefit of the whole people.

The Germans of Omaha do not think that insulting cartoon of Emperor William is quite so funny as does the congressman-editor of the democratic World-Herald which perpetrated it. And they do not hesitate to say so.

Mayor "Jim" is to proclaim a cleaning day for a combined assault by all loyal citizens upon accumulated filth and refuse. This will be one great combination not in restraint of trade.

"Come and Find Me" is the title of a new novel written by a woman. Her photograph, reproduced in the publisher's announcement, does not furnish incentive for extensive search.

Another congressional district in Illinois has decided that so far as Speaker Cannon's presidential boom is concerned the first ballot may be considered as having been taken.

Substance Better Than Shadow.

Washington Post. Mr. John A. Johnson is being eagerly sought by lecture bureaus. Better take them up. You! A bird in the hand is worth a whole lot of imaginary fowls in the bush.

Dextrous Rope Walking.

The compromise between Senator Lodge and Senator Crane by which the Massachusetts convention omitted indorsement of Taft while recognizing that a majority of the delegates chosen desired his nomination is as dextrous a feat of fence walking and pole balancing as has been performed in American politics lately.

Imaginary Language of Thrift.

Baltimore American. German papers complain that thrift has become a vice virtue and that the only places where it is practiced are France and Scotland. Americans would like to try it, but when they find they have to spend on one thing what they save on another, they ask, "What's the use?" and lay the whole blame on hard times and high prices.

Free Trade with Philippines.

San Francisco Chronicle. The republican national convention will be called upon to declare in favor of admitting the products of the Philippines free of duty. Every consideration of national honor and obligation demands that the Philippines be given free entrance to our markets, but they will find it hard to break in while the tobacco and sugar trusts are in control.

Steel Trust Must Come Down.

Philadelphia Record. The policy of maintaining prices although trade falls off is not meeting with much success in the case of the steel trade, its principal exponent. The big companies were willing to split their men off and shut down their mills rather than reduce prices, but the smaller manufacturers have been getting business by recognizing the condition of trade, and now the big consumers of iron and steel are reported to have served notice on the Steel corporation that it must cut prices at least 10 per cent or they will not continue from it, and they are already enquiring about the magnates of the corporation are trying to decide what they will do about it.

Congressional Oratory.

Baltimore Sun. In a recent debate in the house of representatives an angry and disgusted statesman denounced the speech of a fellow statesman as "childish, idiotic, disgraceful, purple, asinine, foolish." Most congressional oratory has a depressing effect upon the public. It may be that upon statesmen of the caliber of the orator it is several hours a day it has an irritating effect. Nevertheless, it seems to us that congressmen, who desire publicity in an official organ ought not to speak with such savage candor about the quality of their speeches. They may arouse the dark suspicion in the public mind that it is a waste of the people's money to publish the Congressional record. It is bad enough that "childish, idiotic, disgraceful, purple, asinine, and foolish," orations should be delivered in the halls of congress. But to use the money of the taxpayers to publish such speeches might be considered indefensible extravagance and misappropriation of public funds.

THE DES MOINES PLAN.

Interest Manifested in the Commission Experiment. Philadelphia Ledger. The United States is to conduct a laboratory for political experimentation, and five states and cities are substations. One great advantage of freedom in local government is not only that the people have what is called home rule, but that the nation at large may study the results of peculiar and unknown steps in legislation without hazarding an adverse effect on the unknown. The Des Moines plan in Iowa is a most interesting law. The first city elections under the new law have been held, and the next few years will bring fruits for judgment.

The subject of the law is to get rid of the complexity and cumbersomeness of city governments. All ward lines and both chambers of city councils are abolished, and the city officials are elected on a general ticket. These officials constitute a governing board, consisting of a mayor, who is chosen, and two city councilmen. The city's business is conducted by five departments—public affairs, accounts and finances, streets and improvements, public safety, parks and public property. Each department is under the jurisdiction of one of the five members of the governing board, which selects or chooses all subordinate officials, such as clerks, surveyors, treasurer, auditor or comptroller, just a president and board of directors of a modern corporation select its operating officials.

Students of municipal government will note the Iowa method is almost identical with the commission plan of conducting a city government adopted and used with success by Galveston and other Texas cities. The aim is to concentrate responsibility sharply in the hands of a few men, to abate the spoils system and to hold the few men to a rigid accountability to the people for the conduct of a "business" enterprise. The power of those few men is limited in important matters. For instance, the general law provides that no franchise or other valuable right in the streets of the city shall be granted without submitting the question to the people, who shall give a majority vote for the privilege.

Possibilities of a Shindy.

Washington Post. Before the conventions meet some of the republicans who were smiling because everything seemed cut and dried about the democratic program may come to the conclusion that the Denver affair will be the liveliest circus of the two.

ON PRESIDENTIAL FIRING LINE.

Campaign of Supposed "Allies" Against Taft a Complete Fiasco.

New York Commercial Advertiser (ind.). There is adequate explanation of the seeming fiasco that has overtaken the attempt to prevent the nomination of Secretary Taft at Chicago. American political history is rich in the record of silly campaigns, but nothing touching in silliness the antics of the so-called "allies" during the last three months. There was plenty of material for a robust and intelligent editor to rely on in his campaign, which was practically ignored and endeavors concentrated on efforts to foist on the public ridiculous and childish things.

During the last three months the Taft opposition, when it was not merely making faces, has been floundering to and fro in behalf of the following propositions: 1. That President Roosevelt did not mean and would not stick to his declaration. 2. That Taft was a man of no character or personal independence—a contemptible "me-too."

3. That to secure the nomination of Taft the chief reliance was to be placed on the disorganized and in many cases rotten republican boroughs of the south. 4. That the movement for Taft, so far as there was one, was of, for and by the officeholders.

Not only are all of these things untrue, which is impossible, but they are demonstrably and manifestly untrue, which is more important. No sooner was there a fair amount of team work in the advocacy of one or the other of the foregoing propositions than the underpinning was knocked from underneath. The theory that the president is merely seeking to use Secretary Taft as a decoy in an insidiously directed campaign to the general intelligence. President Roosevelt has his faults, but it has been impossible to convince any considerable number of his fellow citizens that he was capable of deliberately playing as despicable a game. As to the "me-too" charge, it became a fact and showed not even mechanical life when it appeared that with respect to the Roosevelt policies Governor Hughes, Senator Knox, Speaker Cannon, Vice President Fairbanks and the others were quite as much for them as Secretary Taft. Not a few people in this country have personal acquaintance with the big secretary, and it has been difficult to persuade them that he is a mere echoing nobody.

But to the south, it early developed that the "allies" were corrupting and "rough housing" far more than the Taft faction. It has been from northern and republican states that Secretary Taft has received the 300 instructed delegates now on his list. As to the officeholder theory, it is so utterly refuted that it is no longer worth the dignity of notice. It is the republican rank and file that is instructing delegates, and as a series of online politicians, acting from instructions higher up. More of the federal officeholders are for Taft than for any other candidate, but so are there more nonofficeholders for him than for any other candidate. It is pointless to inquire whether the people caught the Taft sentiment from the officeholders or whether the officeholders caught it from the people. The main fact is that it exists and it never has there been a fair chance for candidates to get a fair hearing.

Taft Sentiment in Minnesota.

St. Paul Pioneer-Press (rep.). While there has been no doubt for many weeks that Taft would secure without a struggle the solid vote of the Minnesota delegation, there are few who expected that he would make so clear a sweep as, at this writing, he seems to have made. Of the sixty-five counties so far have voted, every one is for Taft and only five failed to give ironical instructions to him. In only a few counties was there any substantial contest for any other candidate except La Follette. It is not probable that every county in the state will be found, when the full returns are in, to have voted Taft delegates. But since there are already enough counties to elect from in every congressional district to insure a solid Taft delegation, the two or three counties that may have gone to La Follette will not affect the result and will probably not impair even the moral effect elsewhere on the sweeping Taft victory.

Maryland for Taft.

Baltimore American (rep.). Months ago the American voiced the sentiments of the republicans of Maryland when it said this state was for the endorsement of the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt and the nomination of William H. Taft. Two months ago the republican members of the Maryland legislature met and passed resolutions in favor of Roosevelt's administration and Taft's nomination.

It is not surprising that the republican editors of Maryland declared for the endorsement of Roosevelt and the nomination of Taft. This week county conventions are meeting in the Sixth district. The Allgeany convention led the way by giving unqualified endorsement of the policies advocated by President Roosevelt and his administration for public affairs and instructed the delegates for Taft.

So it goes.

There is not a single note of discord in all the chorus. A Republican Asset. St. Louis Globe-Democrat (rep.). Mr. Bryan has no right to find fault with fortune, and he is not finding any. His first nomination was an accident, and after he had split his party in that canvass, and had brought upon it the worst fiasco which it had received since 1872, he obtained the unanimous nomination in the next canvass. Then, after a still worse defeat than he received in his first canvass, he retained his hold on his party, and now he has a firmer grip on it than ever. The persons—Johnson of Minnesota, Judge Gray of Delaware, Harmon of Ohio and others—who are being suggested as possible opponents in the convention will probably not be heard of in Denver. Bryan will sweep the field, and though he has no chance for election, he will be fresh and strong for the canvass of 1912. Mr. Bryan is a valuable republican asset, and Mr. Taft and other republican chieftains know their business when they boom him by replying to him, and by conceding his supremacy in his party.

Democratic Apparitions.

New York Sun (rep.). The apparition of the Gray and Johnson candidates transforms the whole democratic perspective. It reminds the party that there are others in the field and opens the way for new prospects and outlooks. There is no longer any compelling reason for accepting Bryan. At last the party has an alternative, and the more one contemplates it the more he discerns a hope. Of course nobody knows what the democracy will do in an emergency. General Grant once said that in a critical moment it could be counted on to do the wrong thing. It does seem to us, however, that the present situation is so obvious to mislead even a dormouse.

Possibilities of a Shindy.

Washington Post. Before the conventions meet some of the republicans who were smiling because everything seemed cut and dried about the democratic program may come to the conclusion that the Denver affair will be the liveliest circus of the two.

Advertisement for ROYAL BAKING POWDER. From Grapes, the most healthful of fruits, comes the chief ingredient of ROYAL BAKING POWDER. The only baking powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar. Costs a little more than the injurious alum or phosphate of lime powder, but with Royal you are sure of pure, healthful food.

PERSONAL NOTES.

The Doukhobors up in the northwest have been parading again without their clothes. That's no sign of spring, however.

A New York court has sentenced a bigamist to support both families. "Premium on bigamy" somebody calls this, but evidently a person who never has supported two families.

Dr. Andrew J. Park of Chicago, a graduate of the University of Victoria college, Toronto, and of Harvard university, believes he has discovered the true origin of heat and intends to lay his discovery before the Association for the Advancement of Science in London next June.

Dr. John W. Mallet, the chemist of the University of Virginia, has been invited by the Carnegie foundation to become a beneficiary. Dr. Mallet has held professorships in Amherst, Jefferson Medical college and the universities of Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. He is a Fellow of the Royal society of London.

With a view to the completion of the memoirs of the late Carl Schurz all papers having unpublished letters written by him are respectfully requested to send them to his daughter, Miss Agathe Schurz, 24 East Ninety-first street, New York City. Copies will be made and the originals will be returned to the owners.

Mrs. Frances Van Alstyne, universally known as Fanny Crosby, famous hymn writer, has just finished a three day's visit of her 88th birthday at her home in Bridgeport, Conn. The cheerful, uncomplaining life of this woman, who has won blind from the age of six weeks, has won the hearts of all. Cheerfully she goes about her work just as ably as the high she were 60. Her health is wonderful. She is wearing the 9,000-mark in the number of her compositions.

A double distinction belongs to Henry Dorman of Liberal, Mo.—the oldest man in the state and the oldest survivor of the civil war. He has lived in three centuries, for lately he celebrated his 109th birthday. Since then congress has passed a special bill, increasing his pension to \$50 per month. Until a few years ago Mr. Dorman was hale, ambitious and active. Lately he has begun to show the effects of his extreme age. He is a native of New York state, but enlisted in the union army from Michigan in 1862, when he was 64 years old, an age at which most men are incapacitated for the duties of a soldier in the field.

PASSING PLEASANTIES.

He (pointing as he pushes her over the fence)—Well, darling, you made a good shot with the red hot iron. She (also pointing)—What do you mean? He (grimly)—It hit the bull's eye all right.—Baltimore American.

"Why did you shake your fist at the speaker?" "Well," replied the congressman, "I didn't want the whole session to slip by without my having made a motion of some kind."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Would you like me to trim a little off the ends of that hair, sir?" asked the barber. "Naw," snapped the grouchy customer. "Leave the ends alone and take some out of the middle."—Cleveland Leader.

A prohibition exhorter in Kansas says he would rather drink a bottle of red ink than a bottle of beer. In-ced-ible!—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Lawyer—"The defendant in this case is a lazy, worthless fellow, isn't he?" Witness—"Well, sir, I don't want to do

Advertisement for Browning, King & Co. CLOTHING, FURNISHINGS and HATS. The Spring Showing. UR Spring Suits for Men and Boys have attracted a lot of attention. The patterns are novel and exclusive. The lines of the garments are original and attractive. The tailoring is altogether satisfactory. The prices should attract the man who has been paying more for less desirable suits made to measure. \$15.00 to \$40.00. Don't wait until Saturday to pick out your Easter Suit. Do it now. 15th and Douglas Streets. R. S. WILCOX, Mgr.