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THE BEE BUILDING: SWORN STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION, State of Nebraska, County of Douglas.

Table showing circulation statistics for The Bee Publishing Company, including dates from Feb 7 to Feb 13, 1892, with figures for copies sold and other metrics.

Average Circulation for January 24,324.

TO STRENGTHEN the wooden viaduct on Sixteenth street is at best only a temporary makeshift. The council should without delay take the necessary steps to replace it with a stone and iron structure.

A SPURT of reform amounts to nothing. It is mere froth in the bottle of political champagne. It is the steady application of business methods and the enforcement of honest and faithful service in every department, and above all the uprooting of boodism and jobbery, that constitutes real reform.

THERE is altogether too much intimacy between plumbing contractor Free and Mr. Johnson, who has been designated chief plumbing inspector. The relations that are said to subsist between Mr. Johnson and Mr. Free would make it very difficult for Mr. Johnson to enforce the city hall plumbing contract.

MUNICIPAL reform should not stop with reducing salaries and doing away with taxcutters. Business methods should be enforced in every branch of the service. Every employe, high and low, should be required to disconnect himself from all franchised corporations, either as an agent, contractor, furnisher of materials or beneficiary. The charter is very specific on these points.

MAYOR BEANS and the police commission should put a stop to gift-taking or soliciting of donations in the police and fire department. It is a pernicious practice. No officer, high or low, should be permitted to contribute toward the purchase of gifts to any other officer, or be permitted to solicit gifts or subscriptions from citizens. Business men and respectable people generally do not like to refuse any favor to policemen or firemen and the lawless classes and keepers of questionable resorts dare not refuse.

ABOUT four years ago the principal performer of Hitchcock's famous peacock troupe of trained acrobats applied for a position on the editorial staff of THE BEE with a proviso that a place be reserved also for his wife. The offer was respectfully but firmly declined. This offense has never been forgotten or forgiven by either or both and their petty spite has made itself manifest at every turn. That accounts largely for many of the despicable personal thrusts that have periodically appeared in the double-end.

ORDINARILY low elections have little general significance, the results being largely dependent upon local influences and conditions. But considerable importance is being ascribed to the elections of this class in New York last week, in which the republicans made great gains. This is held to be an unmistakable rebuke of Hilliam, and undoubtedly it will bear that construction, though it is quite possible that this is not the only explanation. There is a good deal in the general conduct of the democratic party at this time calculated to drive intelligent voters away from it.

IS IT not about time to force a reduction of tolls on the Council Bluffs and Omaha bridges? Section 49 of the charter provides that the mayor and council shall have power to license and regulate the keeping of toll bridges within or terminating within the city for the passage of persons, teams, and property over any river passing wholly or in part within, or running by and adjoining the corporate limits of any such city, to fix and determine the rates of toll over any such bridge or over the part thereof within the city, and to authorize the owner or owners of any such bridge to charge and collect the rates of toll so fixed and determined from all persons passing over or using the same.

A LONDON newspaper kindly presents as an available candidate for the presidency the American minister to England. The American people have a generous appreciation of Mr. Robert T. Lincoln, who was a creditable secretary of war and is representing his country in a worthy manner at the court of St. James, but it would not improve his chances for the presidency to have it generally understood that he would be particularly acceptable to England as the chief executive of the United States. That is a matter regarding which English sentiment is held at a very heavy discount. Doubtless the suggestion ought to be regarded as complimentary to Mr. Lincoln, but if he has presidential aspirations he will be wise to discourage the endorsement of the English press.

MICHIGANIZING NEBRASKA.

The newly converted democratic organ declares that an extra session of the legislature "is needed for the purpose of dividing the state into presidential districts so the presidential electors of Nebraska may be elected by districts as they are in Michigan, and each party may have its proper proportion of representation in the electoral college."

George Francis Train would pronounce this very incoherent, but we will charitably ascribe the muddled sentence to a slip of the pen caused by the effects of the recent Boyd jamboree. In plain English, it is proposed that the legislature shall substitute for the present mode of choosing electors by the voters of the whole state, the choice of two electors-at-large by a plurality of the voters of the state and one elector by a plurality of the voters of each of the six congressional districts. In other words, it is proposed to Michiganize Nebraska.

From such a scheme republicans have very little to fear. Right-minded people of all parties will justly regard it as a high-handed attempt to capture the electoral vote of Nebraska for the democracy by a gerrymander. That is much more undemocratic than unrepresentative. It violates the Jeffersonian principle of state sovereignty and is in defiance of all democratic precedents that have relegated the appointment of electors to the states.

From the republican standpoint the Michigan idea of choosing electors would be correct in principle, because it brings the choice of presidents nearer to the people. But if we are to have election reform it must be of universal and uniform application. If all the states were required to choose their electors by congressional districts we would get a fair expression of the popular will.

This is not, however, the object of the democrats who introduced the electoral gerrymander in Michigan and want to introduce it in Nebraska. Why don't they Michiganize Kentucky, Georgia, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia or any state which they feel confident of carrying? If they honestly desire to represent the different political parties in the electoral college, why don't they Michiganize New York and give the people of the Empire state a chance for minority representation?

So far as Nebraska is concerned the republican will run less risk if the state is Michiganized and their eggs are not all in one basket. They would have the same chance to carry the two electors-at-large, and a fighting chance to carry five out of the six congressional districts. They would, moreover, be in better position to command the earnest support of every man who has ever been a republican on a popular appeal to rebuke the political chicanery and unscrupulous trickery by which the state is sought to be turned over to a party that mustered only 39 per cent of the popular vote of Nebraska for Grover Cleveland in 1888.

PREVENTION AND PROHIBITION. The defense of prohibition is largely made up of prevention. There has never been a contest for that cause of which this could not be truthfully said. Wherever prohibition has made its fight, from Maine to Nebraska, falsehood and misrepresentation have constituted the greater part of its ammunition. This uniform experience is being repeated in the discussion now in progress in the Iowa legislature, where the defenders of the policy which has been so calamitous to the material prosperity of that state maintain that it has been a success, in brazen disregard of the known facts that prove the contrary.

One of the most notable utterances in this line was the speech of Senator Mack, made yesterday in opposition to the license bill before the senate, which acquiesces peculiar significance and importance from the fact that he is the chairman of the republican state central committee. One of the statements of Mack was that in states where license laws are in force such laws are not effective and are not as well enforced as prohibition. Every man at all familiar with the facts knows this to be untrue, and particularly so as regards prohibition in Iowa, where thousands of government licenses to sell liquor were issued last year.

bringing about this result? Moreover, the fact that the republican party appears disposed to maintain this policy is causing Iowa to be regarded as a doubtful state in the national election of this year.

THE ANTHRACITE MONOPOLY. The New Jersey legislature proposes to investigate the arrangement by which the Central railroad of that state recently passed into the control of the Reading company of Pennsylvania. Reference has heretofore been made to the combination of anthracite coal roads, by which the Reading management secured the control of two important systems, with all their franchises and privileges, and made an arrangement satisfactory to itself with another system identified with the anthracite monopoly.

The resolutions in the legislature of New Jersey providing for an investigation recite that it is believed the object of this combination is to increase transportation rates and advance the price of coal and the legislature desires to know by what right a railroad, owing its existence to, and subject to the authority of, the state enters into such an arrangement. It is manifestly a very proper inquiry, although it is to be apprehended that the great monopoly will take care that it shall not amount to much.

After the big railroad deal was consummated the Reading management gave out that it would be more likely to prefer favorably to the consumers of coal than otherwise. The idea presented was that there would be a general inauguration of economies which would reduce the expenses of the roads in the combination several million dollars, and that in this saving the public would be permitted to share. It is hardly necessary to say that this idea was not received with universal enthusiasm. A great many people were not ready to believe that the Reading management had been scheming for years to effect this important deal to the interests of that company from a magnanimous desire to benefit the public, or more particularly the coal consumers, the transportation of coal and the manipulation of coal production being the principal business of the combination. Doubtless economies would be put in practice, but it by no means follows that the price of coal will be lowered, or indeed that it will not be advanced.

The destruction of competition will give a better opportunity for limiting production, and this will furnish a sufficient reason for advancing the price. It is a question whether this combination is not in conflict with the constitution and laws of Pennsylvania, there being very respectable opinion that it is. The language of the constitution of that state seems clearly to prohibit such a consolidation. The decisions of the courts regarding the hostility of combinations of this character to public policy would also appear to apply. It may be found to be in conflict with the interstate commerce act. At any rate the matter is not one of merely local interest. It concerns a very large body of the people in every part of the country.

Those who were on the inside of the deal have doubtless already reaped a rich harvest. The development of plans for the future, if the combination is allowed to stand, will be regarded with very general interest.

NOT OVERWORKED OR UNDERPAID. The talk about cutting down the salaries of the poor overworked clerks in the city offices is the veriest bosh. The salaries as revised by the council are still higher than those paid for similar work in any bank or business house. The hours are easy and nobody needs to be overworked if the men in charge will do their share of the work. If there is really any hardship in working for the city, why are the mayor and city officials besieged for the places? It is an open secret that clerical salaries have been advanced from year to year for the benefit of relatives of councilmen and their political favorites until the list had become burdensome.

Two years ago Councilman Bechel made a report on these excessive salaries and presented a revised list framed to correspond with the pay of the express company's clerks under his own charge. But the late watch dog of the treasury and the old combie tabled the recommendation because it interfered with the perquisites of taxpayers who have helped to foist upon the city.

Now that the reform council has made a very liberal revision the organ of the taxpayers seeks to create the impression that the poor clerks are overworked and underpaid. Members of the council are sneeringly asked in one breath why they don't reduce their own salaries and at the same time the acrobatic fraud admits that he would raise the salaries of councilmen if he had his own way in order to make them more honest. Up to the time he lost the official printing he had not heard of such a thing as a dishonest councilman. He had not heard of it even when they had voted to let him filch over \$2,500 out of the city treasury to which he was not entitled.

THE MAN IN THE GLASS HOUSE. Our half-baked democratic contemporary still keeps on harping about the rental the city pays for the treasurer's and comptroller's offices in THE BEE building. He also studiously refrains from calling attention to the rental the city pays to the foreign corporation that does nothing for Omaha except to collect rents. He knows nothing about the other buildings in which officials of the government are quartered, and caps the climax of impertinence and downright meanness by calling upon the assessor to raise the valuation of THE BEE building to correspond with its rental income. Suppose the rental was five times as much as it is, when would that justify a raise of assessment? The New York Life building and grounds are carried on the company's books at \$1,180,000, but it is assessed only \$20,000 more than THE BEE building. Why does not the malicious mountebank call the attention of the assessors to this glaring discrepancy? But this would not serve his purpose.

By the way, how will THE BEE building assessment compare with Hitchcock's addition, which is assessed at \$13,820 and has been put into the Hitchcock Investment company's assets at a valuation of \$180,000 after more than

\$30,000 worth of lots had been sliced and swapped off? Is the Hitchcock Investment company a Peter Funk concern?

How did it come that the block in the postoffice square for which the government paid one G. M. Hitchcock \$77,000, cash down, was assessed at only \$7,000 for the year in which it was sold? THE BEE has never attempted to meddle with Mr. Hitchcock's private affairs, but it may be necessary to cure him of the grip from which he is a chronic sufferer on account of the rentals of offices for public use in THE BEE building.

P. S.—When Mr. Hitchcock has mustered enterprise enough to build that great hotel toward which THE BEE Building company subscribed \$5,000 as a bonus, or when he duplicates THE BEE building, he will be in very much better position to command public respect and attention.

THE SIDE TRACK ORDINANCE. Whether the Union Pacific railway reduces its switching charges or whether it persists in exacting these extortionate rates, the ordinance repealing the grant of right-of-way for side tracks should be passed by the council. After this privilege has been withdrawn from the railroads the council will be in position to impose such conditions upon parties and railroads who desire switching privileges as may be deemed fair to all concerned and will afford ample protection against extortion. In any event the switching charges should be regulated by ordinance.

That the council has the right to withdraw the sidetrack privileges granted to railroad companies is beyond a doubt. The railroads have no vested rights in our streets. The mayor and council have the right to open, widen, extend or close any street. They have closed Ninth street and several other streets for the benefit of the Union Pacific road and they certainly ought to have the right to repeal the side track right-of-way in any street as may in their judgment be conducive to the public interest.

The establishment of a postal telegraph system being seriously considered by the Canadian government, and legislation for this purpose will probably be asked of the House of Commons at its coming session. The superintendent of government telegraphs estimates that at a greatly reduced cost, for service the system can be made to yield a generous revenue. If this can be assured of Canada—and the official who makes the estimates bases them on the knowledge acquired after 40 years' experience in practical telegraphy—there is still greater certainty that the postal telegraph would be profitable in the United States. It is not as a source of revenue, however, that the system is advocated in this country, but as a means of benefiting the public by extending and facilitating communication and improving the service.

THE committee appointed to investigate the expenditure of the appropriation made by congress for the World's fair ought to proceed with the work assigned it with the least possible delay. There is no time to be lost in connection with any matters relating to the fair, and if there is any disposition in congress to do anything more for the enterprise it should manifest it at an early day. But little more than a year remains in which to get this immense undertaking ready for the world's inspection, and it will take extraordinary hustling, even for Chicago, to accomplish it.

WE MUST have a first-class stone and iron viaduct on Sixteenth street, and the sooner the work is begun the better it will suit the vast number of people compelled to travel on that thoroughfare.

David Saws Wood, Globe Democrat.

Hill's enemies in New York are doing the talking and he is getting the delegates.

The Monkey and Parrot. New York Advertiser (dem.).

The snoring and snoring in the democratic household goes on vigorously. The snap convention will be held on the 23d inst. The snarl convention was held in Cooper union last evening.

Here is a Prophet. Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

We believe that Grover Cleveland will be the candidate of the democratic party for the presidency. All the signs go to show that the strong men of that party are not going to surrender the ship at the outset of the new voyage.

Collapsed Booms. St. Paul Globe.

Blaine says he will not permit his name to be used in Minneapolis. Thurston of Nebraska says he will not then take the second place. The only two republican statesmen in the land who have declined to go on the ticket.

THAT OIL CIRCULAR. SECRETARY ANDREWS DOES NOT GIVE IT UNQUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 15.—To the Editor of THE BEE: The enclosed circular letter has been sent to me, presumably as the person to whom it was originally sent. The inference is that the sender desires to know whether or not I endorse it. I had no previous knowledge of such a circular. Portions of it I endorse; the remainder I do not.

Here it is: CONSOLIDATED TANK LISK COMPANY, OMAHA, Feb. 8. To the Editor of THE BEE: The enclosed circular letter has been sent to me, presumably as the person to whom it was originally sent. The inference is that the sender desires to know whether or not I endorse it. I had no previous knowledge of such a circular. Portions of it I endorse; the remainder I do not.

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SHE IMITATED MISS M'GINN

Keeper of a Fashionable Chicago Boarding House Turns up Missing.

MOURNED BY MANY OF HER CREDITORS. Many interesting items of news about the World's Fair—Confession of the Thing Who Sanitized Attorney Walker—Odds and Ends.

CHICAGO BUREAU OF THE BEE, CHICAGO, ILL., Feb. 16. Omaha young men who were recently made victims of overconfidence, will doubtless find it an interesting section of this city where boarding houses most do congregate, and known to fame as the West Side. For the last few years Mrs. Cyrus A. Cook has conducted a haven of this description at 236, 238 and 240 LaSalle avenue, and as the place was well located, being within the shadow of Mr. Alsbury's church and in the same block with the residences of some very exceptional people, including a prominent judge and a titled evangelist, she had no difficulty in filling the large establishment with a good class of boarders. Last Saturday she left home, saying she was going to the south side to visit a cousin. As she has not yet returned the boarders have made the fact that Mrs. Cook has borrowed money from them in sums ranging from \$10 to \$20, which is still due and unpaid. The gentleman who supplied the establishment with milk, and the extent of the indebtedness, the butcher looked as heroic as a meat ax when he called with a bill for \$700 today, and the groceryman is so far from home that several Sunday school books before going into the boarding house business.

World's Fair Matters. Collector of the Port Clark has addressed a communication to the secretary of the treasury requesting an opinion as to how far he might go in considering what are exhibits for the fair. The question came up over an antiquated chair consigned to Walker Fern, chief of the foreign department, which was received at the custom house from Austria. It was intended for the Columbian exposition, but there was nothing in the invoice to indicate it was for the fair.

The director general has received a cable dispatch from the president of Bolivia, written by the emperor of Austria, which has just appointed a distinguished commission to represent and promote the interests and exhibit of Austria at the World's Fair.

The Belfast Rope Works company (limited) of Belfast, Ireland, has been incorporated in Ireland and Scotland, and is seeking to establish a branch of its enormous factory in or near Chicago. One hundred thousand pounds are ready for investment in a plant with the necessary machinery, awaiting the report of three experts who are now in America looking over the territory.

James Briscoe, the negro arrested in Detroit for sandbagging Attorney Walker, has confessed his guilt. He not only admits that he and Butler assaulted Mr. Walker, but says they have committed a series of burglaries and robberies during the last two or three months.

The local Grand Army posts will erect a statue to Admiral Farragut. It will probably be placed in Lincoln park. J. A. Galtzberg, treasurer of the Trade and Labor Assembly, is authority for the statement that "unless relief comes, and comes quickly, for the present conditions in the industrial world, there will be a reign of terror in Chicago before the winter is over."

MORE TYPHUS FEVER VICTIMS.

One of Them Tells the Story of How the Disease Spread.

NEWCASTLE, Pa., Feb. 16.—Nine of the passengers of the typhus fever infected steamer Messina have been traced in Lawrence county and great alarm is felt lest the infection spread. Two of the immigrants are known to be very sick, but so closely are they corralled by their countrymen that it is almost impossible to learn their condition, or with what disease they are suffering. The health officers have been notified and are scouring the country for the patients. One of the company, Mary Rosina, sister of Fred Kovana, a well known Italian importer of Lawrence county, was seen last night. Through an interpreter she said: "There were on board 200 Russian Jews, 400 Italians and 300 Swedes, Hung and Germans. They were only out a few days when a Russian or Pole male passenger was taken down with the disease. The immigrants were told that it was some harmless malady and all the passengers in our party passed by him many times a day. About the time the ship broke out the Russian was removed to another part of the ship, but the removal was not made until he had passed on several days. Still we did not think it dangerous until these people also were taken away. One after another the immigrants were seized with the affection until there must have been fifty cases. It was only after the disease became epidemic that we were told to stay away from the sick people. I do not know whether any of the patients died, but some of those who shipped with us were lost sight of. Seventeen Italians and Russians went to Pittsburgh, and many got off the train along the road between New York and Pittsburgh."

Health Officer Satcher said he was satisfied none of the immigrants had taken the infection, but a close watch is being kept, and if the disease breaks out every precaution will be taken to prevent its spreading.

One Case in Pittsburgh. PITTSBURGH, Pa., Feb. 16.—The health department was notified this morning of a case of typhus fever in a building occupied by Italian laborers. The victim was one of the Massilia immigrants. The house has been quarantined and immediate steps will be taken to stamp out the disease.

PARAGRAPHIC PROTECTIONS. S. Kings: In spite of their proverbial slowness, telegraphic messengers go about with a great deal of dispatch. Put a tick mark on a note's back and the man will throw him just as quickly as he would a bean.

Somerville Journal: The man who gets the largest monument in the country isn't always the man whose loss is most sincerely mourned.

Philadelphia Era: First Druggist—Well how are you this morning? Second Druggist—Broke. First Druggist—Why don't you use some of that liquid chloride, which you claim will mend everything?

Chicago Tribune: "Katie," he said mildly, "I have allowed myself to hope that you were not as something more than a friend. "George," she answered softly, "you are away off." "No," he said, "I am here. How the deuce could I keep my head above water to yell for help if I didn't?"

BROWNING, KING & CO. S. W. Corner 15th and Douglas Sts. The Long and Short of It--- We've got too many suits left yet, and as we've only got about ten days in which to dispose of them, before spring goods arrive, we place them before you at inducement prices, Monday. The styles and sizes are many and the colors are popular. They will go fast next week if prices are an inducement. The overcoats are not numerous, but the prices are such that if you can wear one you buy it. We can save you money. Brownings, King & Co. Open Saturdays till 10.30. Other evenings till 9.