

THE DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

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SWORN STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, County of Douglas.

George B. Tschuck, secretary of THE BEE Publishing Company, does solemnly swear that the actual circulation of THE DAILY BEE for the week ending December 3, 1892, was as follows:

Beginning with next Monday a very marked change will take place in the make-up and contents of THE OMAHA EVENING BEE.

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FUTURE OF THE TREASURY.

If the estimates of the secretary of the treasury would have no difficulty in meeting its obligations for the fiscal years of 1893 and 1894.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, it is estimated that the revenues will amount to \$490,000,000, while the estimated appropriations, exclusive of sinking fund, are placed at a little over \$457,000,000.

The cash balance above good reserve at the close of the current fiscal year is expected to be about \$20,000,000, which, added to the above surplus, gives an estimated available balance of \$53,000,000 on June 30, 1894.

Against this are accrued and accruing obligations amounting to \$50,000,000, while no account is taken of the requirements of the sinking fund for 1894.

It is not necessary, however, to consider that fund, as the next congress will probably not care to make any provision for it.

The estimates of revenue are of course based upon existing conditions, and as these will be radically altered by the next congress through a change of policy regarding the tariff, little reliance can be placed upon the estimates for the next fiscal year.

As the secretary of the treasury says, it is impossible under the present circumstances to estimate the annual income with any marked degree of accuracy.

It is reasonably to be expected that in view of tariff reductions there will be a falling off in importations and a corresponding decrease in the revenues, the extent of which cannot be measured until business can adjust itself to the new conditions.

This may not take effect so soon as to make any important difference with the revenue of the current fiscal year, but it will inevitably be shown in the importations from which the customs revenue for the fiscal year 1894 will be derived, and it is altogether probable that the estimated receipts from customs for that year of \$210,000,000 will be found considerably too large.

Indeed it is very likely that they will not exceed, if they do not fall below, the customs receipts for the last fiscal year, which were a little over \$177,000,000.

In that event the secretary of the treasury's estimated surplus on June 30, 1894, would be wiped out. But this is not all.

It is also estimated that there will be a considerable increase in the receipts from internal revenue. This will depend upon the general prosperity, and if it does not improve, as there is no good reason to believe it will, the result will inevitably fall short of the estimate.

The internal revenue receipts for the last fiscal year amounted to a little less than \$154,000,000, and the secretary of the treasury estimates that for the fiscal year 1894 they will amount to \$175,000,000, an increase in two years of \$21,000,000.

It will not be surprising if these figures are found to be too high by at least \$10,000,000.

"A careful review of all the facts," says the secretary of the treasury, "fully justifies the opinion that the large increase of receipts ascribed to the marvelous prosperity of the country under the present revenue system would, if continued, enable the department during the coming fiscal year to meet all obligations without the slightest impairment of its cash and thereafter continue to show a material improvement in its condition."

Under the demand of the country for a change of policy the immediate future of the national treasury does not appear altogether encouraging. The democratic party will find, when it takes control of the government, that it is, indeed, a condition and not a theory that confronts it.

PROPOSING A DUTY ON SUGAR. The democratic purpose to remove sugar from the free list has taken form. Congressman Harter of Ohio has introduced in the house of representatives a bill to levy a uniform duty of half a cent a pound on all grades of sugar imported and to abolish the bounty on sugar of domestic production, to take effect February 1, 1893.

The total importation of sugar for the last fiscal year was upward of 3,500,000,000 pounds, and it is estimated that for the current fiscal year the importation will be not less than 4,000,000,000 pounds. A duty of half a cent a pound on this amount would yield a revenue of \$20,000,000. The bounty paid upon sugar produced in the United States for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1892, was \$7,342,077.79, which will be somewhat increased for the current year if the bounty is not abolished.

It may be estimated that the revenue and the saving to the treasury from the proposed legislation would amount to \$28,000,000 to \$30,000,000.

This proposition is in accord with the revenue tariff policy of the democratic party. What would be its effect? In the first place it would stop the development of the sugar industry in this country unless the states in which sugar can be successfully produced should pay a bounty. In the second place it would cause an advance in the price of sugar to two or three times the amount of the bounty, for it must not be supposed that the sugar trust would fall to improve to the fullest extent the opportunity this legislation would give it to augment its income. Thus the duty of half a cent a pound, while yielding \$20,000,000 to the treasury would take at least \$40,000,000 out of the pockets of the consumers of sugar. In the third place it would have a damaging effect upon our reciprocity agreements with sugar-producing countries and might result in their abandonment, whereby we should lose a present and prospective trade far more valuable than the amount of the revenue derived from the duty. It would be welcome legislation to the European countries that are doing all they can to overturn our reciprocity agreements and defeat our policy for enlarging our commerce.

Notwithstanding these considerations, it is undoubtedly the purpose of the democratic party to take sugar from the free list, and it may not stop at this. Some of its organs are suggesting that a duty should be levied upon coffee and tea.

THE UNITED STATES WILL IMPORT 800,000,000 POUNDS OF COFFEE THIS YEAR AND PROBABLY 900,000,000 POUNDS OF TEA.

A democratic paper suggests that a duty of 2 cents a pound on the former would yield \$16,000,000 and 5 cents a pound on the latter \$4,500,000, and it urges duties on sugar, coffee and tea for one reason "that they would be purely fiscal, and could be easily and cheaply collected." It is true that these would be distinctively revenue duties, because we do not produce coffee or tea, and the domestic production of sugar supplies only the merest fraction of the demand, but it is absurd to pretend that there would be no oppression in such a direct tax upon the people. It would be an infinitely greater hardship than the tax on tin plate which the democratic party has so persistently denounced.

There is no chance for such legislation as Mr. Harter proposes by this congress. His bill may pass the house, but it would certainly fail in the senate. It is interesting only as showing the intentions and policy of the democratic party, which means to tax the American people in order that the foreign manufacturers may enjoy a larger share of the American market.

NEEDS OF THE RETAIL TRADE.

Omaha's wholesale dealers are more than satisfied with the heavy demands upon them from every section tributary to this city. The retail trade is much better than it was a year ago but not all that it should be in a city of our population.

What is needed most now is, first, better country roads that will enable the farmers of Douglas, Sarpy, Washington and Dodge counties to do their selling and buying in Omaha. Second, a subdivision of the farming lands and their actual cultivation by truck gardeners and farmers. Hundreds of thousands of acres of land within a radius of forty miles owned by speculators still remain unbroken. Third, free wagon bridges across the Missouri and Platte rivers. Farmers in Pottawattamie county, Iowa, and in Cass and Saunders counties are kept from trading in Omaha by reason of heavy bridge tolls and poor bridge facilities. If the Douglas street bridge were made a free wagon bridge by a payment to the company of a bonus to cover these tolls travel and traffic between Council Bluffs and Omaha would be doubled and tripled. Lastly, Omaha needs more factories and mills that will give constant employment to working people at fair wages.

The bulk of the retail trade comes from the wage-earners. The rich are very poor patrons of home industry. Most of them buy in Chicago and New York, even when they can buy the same articles for less money in Omaha. In fact, they prefer to pay two prices so they can boast that their furniture, their bric-a-brac or their dresses and clothing were purchased in the fashion centers of the country.

THE ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY.

At the last election a new lot of tax assessors was put up. Among them are some good men, but others are men who will be slow to appreciate the responsibilities of the office. The law which provides compensation for the services of assessors does not show that degree of liberality which attracts a high grade of ability. Yet, in point of fact, the office is one of the most important within the gift of the people.

The constitution of Nebraska contains special instructions to assessors. It tells them that every person and corporation shall pay a tax in proportion to the value of his, her or its property and franchises. This provision, as THE BEE has often shown, has been openly disregarded by the assessors of this county. The most glaring instance of this kind has been in the assessment upon the property of the Belt Line railroad, which is sold by its owners to be worth \$8,000,000, while it has been returned by the assessors at less than \$95,000. This is a rank injustice to the great body of freeholders who must pay increased taxes to make up the necessary fund for maintaining the state and county government. The men who most suffer by this inequality are those who elected the assessors to office.

It is important for assessors to bear in mind that very little property is legally exempt from taxation. Only the property of the state, counties and municipal corporations and property used exclusively for agricultural and horticultural societies, for school, religious, cemetery and charitable purposes can escape the assessor. There are instances in this county where the above provisions have been evaded. The intent of the law is that property exempted shall be used exclusively for the purposes set forth. Where property that is bringing in a rental to the owners has been exempted under these provisions it is in violation of the law, and such property should be made to share its equal burden with all other property.

THE most practical way to remedy the defects of the city hall elevator is to take it down, cages, cables, frames and cross-bars, and rebuild the entire structure from the foundation up. The sooner this is done the sooner the city hall will be supplied with a safe elevator service. The cost of reconstruction should of course be borne by the parties responsible for it. When the council ascertains who they are it will be easy enough to bring them to time. If it is the architect, let him pay for it; if it is Mr. Coos, he should pay for it; if the Crane Elevator Company is responsible it should pay for it—if they have all bungled they should all share the expense in proportion to their contribution to the bungle.

OUT of a total of 575 inmates of the state industrial school at Kearney who have been dismissed since the institution was opened, 80 per cent, according to the report of the superintendent, are conducting themselves in such a manner as to reflect credit upon the school. The reforms of recent years in the methods of industrial schools have everywhere produced good results, and the percentage of discharged inmates who do not return to evil ways is larger now than it was under the prison system that was practiced for many years in the older states. En-

JARGON PRIVILEGES, HALLER TREATMENT AND THE INTRODUCTION OF AN INDUSTRIAL SYSTEM HAVE DONE MUCH TO BRING ABOUT THIS RESULT.

Instruction in various trades and the opportunities for its practical application have enabled many a boy to get out of the industrial school with a good start in the direction best suited to his tastes and abilities, and the gradual abandonment of the prison idea has removed much of the stigma that formerly attached to the industrial school boy when he emerged from his confinement. The recommendation of the superintendent of the institution at Kearney that improved facilities be provided for the industrial department is in line with the progress of the time and is supported by the lessons of experience.

SUPERINTENDING THE Omaha horse railway system in 1882 is not exactly like superintending the Omaha motor and cable system in 1892. That fact is certainly patent to the officers of the street railway company. Half a dozen snow plows and skids are insufficient for clearing the tracks within, reasonable time after any sort of a snow storm. The company should not only take immediate steps to increase its equipment for battling with snow drifts, but it should also make provision for the massing of a large force of snow shovelers on all its lines on a few hours notice. A recurrence of Wednesday's and Thursday's blockade would almost precipitate a riot.

Now is a good time to do something to help along the work of the Associated Charities of Omaha. Several appeals have been made to the public by this worthy organization and they have not been without effect, but the membership is only about half as large as is desired and the funds available for work among the needy is therefore inadequate. The severe storm that has heralded the winter should remind charitable people of the poor. Much suffering may be prevented by liberal aid of this society, the managers of which will cheerfully perform the labor required if they are only provided with the means.

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AGENTS OF THE CZAR OBJECT

They Declare Jacob Gerber's Story of Russian Cruelty a Fake. DO NOT THINK HE WAS IN SIBERIA

Why They are Satisfied That the Omaha Citizen Could Not Have Experienced the Alleged Hardships—Their View of the Case.

WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE BEE, 613 FORT STREET, C. C. Dec. 9.

Friends and enemies of the Russian government who are located in Washington have commented a good deal upon THE BEE's account of the recent escape of Jacob Gerber from Siberia, and some of the former are inclined to be both incredulous and indignant.

The subject has been discussed at the Russian legation, but members of it refuse to talk for publication. THE BEE correspondent today met Charles Deamard, a native Russian who has for many years held intimate relations with the Russian legation, and who, it has frequently been said, was an agent of the czar's government. He is an author of several books upon Russia, and although an American citizen now, is a legal Russian, and has the confidence of the Russian government's representative in this country.

Colonel Deamard said: "Yes I read the story narrated by Mr. Jacob Gerber of his sufferings and escape from Siberia. The Russian government needs no defense from a humble individual like myself, but in any case I believe his story of the Russian government banishing a man to Siberia for fifteen years without a cause or trial! There is something inexplicable in the story. Gerber says he was arrested in Germany while at the home of John W. Evans, an American, reported to Siberia. Strange the German authorities permitted him to be arrested on German soil by Russian officers. Such proceedings are unheard of. It is the Russian government established to the satisfaction of the German government at Berlin before his arrest that Gerber is a criminal and not a political transgressor. I cannot understand Mr. Gerber's case."

Gerber's story of his sufferings and escape from Siberia is so full of contradictions and inconsistencies that it is difficult to believe that he is either deficient in the geographical knowledge of Siberia or that he is a liar. It is not surprising in his case, after his successful flight from Russia he lost no time to get far away as he could. He says he knew his fellow prisoners, and that he is not a political prisoner because he knew there is no extradition treaty between Russia and the United States.

It is a singular circumstance that a political prisoner from Russia he was safe in Austria, Germany, Holland and in England, for those countries do not deliver up to Russia or any other country political prisoners. But the story of Mr. Gerber becomes more unlikely to any one who is thoroughly conversant with Russia, its laws, habits and customs, who once reads his narration of being in a nobleman's dress and an official portmanteau. The distinction in Russia in dress, which is considered a nobleman's dress, is the military uniform worn by military officers and civil officials, and none others. If Gerber ever was transported to Siberia, he would have been in a military uniform, and he would have been in a nobleman's dress and an official portmanteau. The distinction in Russia in dress, which is considered a nobleman's dress, is the military uniform worn by military officers and civil officials, and none others. If Gerber ever was transported to Siberia, he would have been in a military uniform, and he would have been in a nobleman's dress and an official portmanteau.

THE CHANCE OF PRIVATE BILLS. There is much dissatisfaction among those members of the house who have their pockets public building bills and other local private measures. At the last session Mr. Holman, the chairman of the appropriations committee, succeeded in thwarting all efforts for such legislation. He was obeyed, because the members believed it was necessary to keep down the appropriations, and there was a general understanding that whether the democrats were successful in election or not, the short session was to be exceedingly liberal in grants for public buildings and private bills; but this morning Mr. Holman showed that he will endeavor to keep down the appropriations, and he defeated. His action this morning is interpreted to mean that there shall be no public