

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

B. ROSEWATER, Editor.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$3.00...

OFFICES. Omaha, The Bee Building, South Omaha, corner N. and Twenty-fourth Sts.

ADVERTISING. All communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to the Editor.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. George H. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of February, 1914, was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Category, Number, and Total. Rows include Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee, and Total for the month.

George H. Tschuck, Notary Public.

Who wants to be United States district attorney? Don't all speak at once.

That rule against the appointment of editors to federal offices must have relaxed into a state of innocuous desuetude.

If there is to be any tree planting and similar embellishment of the streets this year the process cannot be begun any too soon.

Tobe Castor ought to have the expenses of his frequent Washington trips refunded by the appreciative constituency for which he has accomplished so much.

No sooner had the Brazilian revolution petered out than war was declared in Denver. In one case dynamite guns did it, while in the other it was the dynamite mouth.

If circumstantial evidence is at all conclusive Colonel Breckinridge must soon find himself in very close quarters. They appear to have been a great many circumstances in his case.

We have finally discovered what is the exact significance of Con Gallagher's front name. "Con" is the ineluctable germ of the appellation "congressman." Just give it time and watch its wings sprout.

The irrigation convention called for next week in this city promises to be largely attended. Its deliberations will well be worth the attention of every man who recognizes the vast importance of the subject to Nebraska.

Coining the vacuum seems to be more popular in the senate than in the house. The senate, at any rate, managed to muster a quorum in favor of the seigniorage bill without supplying its vacant chairs with a general warrant of arrest to bring in the absentees.

The Lincoln republicans are fighting their municipal campaign on a platform which protests against an extension of the street lighting contract held by the Lincoln Gas company. If the Lincoln councils are built on the Omaha model the platform promise will easily be forgotten.

The creditors of the Capital National bank will receive another 5 per cent dividend. The money belonging to the depositors which Mosher has squandered since he made his "confession" to the grand jury would be sufficient to pay several more dividends if the receiver could only get hold of it.

There is just the faintest suspicion of sarcasm in Secretary Morton's recommendation that the farmers have their wheat stored in fields threatened by the Canada thistle. If the Wilson bill becomes a law it is to be feared that free wool will kill off the sheep faster than the latter can kill off the thistle.

The Missouri river commission has been heard from in the halls of congress, although not in a way that its members are seeking. It is something, however, for the work of the commission to be attacked by a member of the house. No one outside of the house has heard of any work being done by them that might lay them open to accusations of any kind, except perhaps of regularly drawing on the treasury for their salaries.

We wonder if the memories of some of the most noisy opponents of the granting of any electric lighting franchise in order to relieve the city from paying a forced tribute to the fifty-extend gas franchise was under discussion. It may be painful for some of them to recollect how they stood upon that issue. To square their attitude toward the question of franchises then and their attitude now might be a rather difficult task.

All Americans may feel proud of the creditable manner in which the American fleet acquitted itself while stationed at Rio Janeiro to protect American interests during the hostilities in that harbor. With the exception of the Stanton episode, the navy has upheld its reputation for promptness and efficiency in performing the duties assigned to it by the authorities in Washington. The command, especially during the last few months, has never failed at the time when needed. The men who have been attached to the service at Rio have earned a transfer to stations where the work is for the present less arduous.

Seventy-five doctors of medicine are in convention in this city. The states members have completed the work that called them hither. The representatives of the Union Pacific employes are here in large numbers working for an amicable adjustment of differences. The irrigation convention is booked for next week, while 300 Hibernians will gather here within a short time. Omaha hotels will have no cause for complaint, while wholesale and retail merchants will derive some comfort from the unusual number of visitors. It is also to be hoped that the city's guests have been well entertained and that their sojourn here has been both pleasant and profitable.

IS THE TIDE TURNING?

That some improvement has taken place in business throughout the country during the last few weeks is the testimony of all quarters. First of all there has been an improvement in the export trade, which has given a more favorable aspect to the trade balance. Consequently there has been comparatively little gold going out of the country for some time past and the immediate outlook is for a continuance of this state of affairs.

In the domestic industries there is generally noted an increasing activity in the output of iron and steel has improved, there is more activity in the boot and shoe industry and the manufacturers of textile goods have enlarged their operations. In none of these industries, of course, has full resumption taken place. All of them are working on a very conservative basis, limiting production as closely as possible to the demand.

As yet they are in possession of the American market and can safely count upon being so for several months at least. Stocks throughout the country have been pretty well cleared up and there is room for a considerable supply. The sagacious manufacturer is figuring closely as to the possible demand during the period until he will have to meet an expected formidable competition from abroad, which will come as soon as the new tariff goes into effect.

While, therefore, there is a good deal more industrial activity than there was two months ago, and this appears likely to continue for a time and even increase, it is not entirely certain that it marks a permanent revival for the industries of the country have hardly yet been readjusted to the tariff question and will not be until the tariff question is settled and something near an accurate measure can be had of the competition which our manufacturers are to encounter in the home market from foreign rivals.

In every branch of industry wages have been reduced, but it is by no means assured that there will not be to be further reduction in order to enable American manufacturers to maintain themselves in the home market. But at any rate it is gratifying to know that the situation is not so bad as it was and that the probability is it will not again be so bad before it is still better.

The opening of spring has furnished employment to mechanics and laborers who were idle during the winter and the good effects of this will speedily be seen in the increased purchasing power of the people.

What the consequences of the passage of the silver seigniorage bill will be, in case the president allows it to become a law, cannot be clearly foreseen. There is some reason to apprehend that its effect abroad would be to revive the feeling of apprehension as to the stability of American currency and American securities and lead to a return of the latter in such amounts as to again make a serious drain upon our stocks of gold. Such a result would be most unfortunate, for it could not fail to again unsettle financial confidence, not yet fully restored, and without which a full revival of business cannot be attained.

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.

The general agricultural depression presents one of the most interesting problems of the time and the importance of the question as to the future of agriculture cannot be exaggerated. In the report recently submitted by the subcommittee of the senate committee on agriculture, the result of a careful and prolonged investigation, a number of causes were cited in explanation of the depression, but the report was particular to say that overproduction had nothing to do with it. It would seem from the latest statistics regarding wheat that in this respect the conclusion of the committee is questionable. It appears from the last estimate of the Department of Agriculture that previous estimates were much too small, and accordingly the estimate as more nearly correct than those preceding it, no difficulty will be found in accounting for the low price of wheat.

A writer in the New York Tribune gives instructive figures regarding the wheat supply. The quantity of wheat officially reported in farmers' hands March 1 was 114,000,000 bushels, only 22,000,000 bushels less than a year ago. The quantity in visible supply March 3 was 75,559,000 bushels, only 4,000,000 bushels less than a year ago. Thus the quantity in sight was 132,059,000 bushels against 215,564,000 bushels last year, a decrease of only 25,900,000 bushels. The stock in visible supply and farmers' hands a year ago, with the crop according to the government report, would make the year's supply only 611,695,725 bushels. But the quantity required for consumption, taking the average of treasury statements of population for the year ending March 1, was 313,344,000 bushels, and 54,000,000 bushels are required for seed, while 174,574,430 bushels have been exported in the twelve months to March 1. These figures show where 542,218,430 bushels have gone within the twelve months, provided the consumption has not decreased, leaving only 69,477,295 bushels for the visible supply and farmers' hands March 1. If the government report of yield was correct, but the quantity actually in visible supply and farmers' hands was 120,000,000 bushels greater. This writer further says that it is not a difficult matter to demonstrate that if the consumption has continued as large as it was for fifteen years prior to 1891 the department estimates of yield for the past three years have been in error by 151,000,000 bushels. According to treasury estimates of population the consumption at the rate for previous years was 301,000,000 bushels in 1891, 306,570,000 in 1892, and 313,544,000 in the year to March 1, 1894—in all, 921,414,000, to which 162,508,800 bushels must be added for three years' seed. To this must be added the quantity of wheat and flour officially returned as exported in excess of imports during three years ending March 1—namely, 576,405,818 bushels. The quantity in visible supply and farmers' hands March 1, 1891, was 125,250,093 bushels, and March 1, 1894, it was greater by 54,218,430 bushels, so that there is actually accounted for no less than 1,714,646,525 bushels of wheat in three years. But according to the government reports the yield for those years was only 1,528,860,725. Of course the difference of 191,900,000 cannot reasonably be accounted for as representing invisible stocks, the probability being, in view of the heavy fall in price and the increase in visible stocks, that the invisible stocks also were larger March 1 of this year than at the same date in 1891.

Taking as a guide the stocks of wheat in farmers' hands and visible supply each year, and assuming that wheat in other supplies was practically unchanged, it is estimated that the yield must have been at least 628,000,000 bushels in 1891, about 569,000,000 bushels in 1892, and 516,000,000 bushels in 1893. If it was as low as 456,000,000 bushels last year the consumption must have been reduced about 60,000,000 bushels. This decrease in the demand, together with the conviction that the department's report of yield was greatly in error, would naturally account for the unprecedented fall in price. It seems probable that the department re-

port of yield was at least 63,000,000 bushels too small, and that the consumption has also decreased about as much. In any case the quantity actually in sight will suffice for four months' consumption at the fall rate, 104,000,000 bushels, and for spring seed, 18,000,000 bushels, and leave about 67,000,000 for export. The last department estimate as to corn gives a somewhat larger percentage of last year's crop as still in farmers' hands, but the amount is smaller than at the corresponding date in any recent year, except 1891. With these facts before him the intelligent farmer will have little difficulty in determining why the price of grain has declined to unprecedentedly low figures and he ought to have no trouble in reaching a conclusion as to the remedy. The late Secretary Rusk said that American farmers, in order to obtain a profitable price for their wheat, must restrict its production.

SUPPRESSION OF TICKET SCALPING.

The bill recently introduced into the senate by Senator Wilson of Iowa to amend the interstate commerce law as to effectually provide against the practice of ticket scalping is, as might have been expected, meeting with considerable approval from leading railway officials throughout the country, as well as encountering the general opposition of those who are engaged in the business of selling cut rate railway tickets. The bill, of course, derives its inspiration from the railroads, or, at least, from a part of them, and is being urged in the interests of the railroads, which complain that they suffer from the abuses of ticket scalping. It is claimed that their patrons are only indirectly affected, because what they would lose in the way of opportunities to buy cut rate tickets would be gained by stable rates on a lower basis than is now possible. The railway officials maintain that the scalper stands between the public and lower rates, and that were his business suppressed, the public as well as the railroads would share in the common benefit.

The scalper's side of the argument is, of course, that he serves a useful and legitimate purpose. He makes money by dealing in unused railway tickets, but he also saves money to his patrons, or otherwise he would have no patrons at all. The railroads have themselves encouraged him and stimulated his business. They have used him whenever they have wished to secretly cut under the rates of rival companies and have made him a convenient scapegoat for their misbehavior when their actions have been uncovered.

The scalper cannot be led to believe that the railroads really want to suppress such a handy piece of machinery as his business affords. He furthermore announces that he does not intend to be suppressed without making a struggle for existence, and that he will fight Senator Wilson's bill to the bitter end. More potent against this bill than the opposition of the scalper should be the attitude of the railroads themselves to the law which they seek to amend. In the first place, they have the business of ticket scalping entirely at their mercy and can, if they so desire, check it off without the aid of additional legislation. All they need do is to offer to buy unused portions of tickets at the prices originally paid for them and the patron will prefer to sell to them rather than to the scalper. Some few roads have attempted to do this. The remaining roads could easily enter an agreement to pursue the same policy, but they know that even in that instance they could not rely upon one another to live up to their mutual obligations. They have lost among themselves all claim to open and upright dealing. Again, it may be asked, can we expect railroads which have defiantly disregarded every other provision of the interstate law to obey this provision were it incorporated into that statute? The railroads have obeyed the law and disobeyed the law just as their fancy has directed. They, for the present, think that it is in their interest to have a legislative enactment for the suppression of ticket scalping and might possibly live up to its provisions for a brief period of time. But no sooner should it appear that one road could secure a slight advantage over another by issuing cut rate tickets through unauthorized agents than they would without hesitation throw the legal prohibition to the winds and jump at the opportunity. So long as the railroads hold themselves above law, they are foolishly inconsistent in asking for legislation to assist them to hold their faithless competitors to their agreements. Let them first show a willingness to obey the laws already on our statute books. It will then be time for them to ask congress to legislate in their behalf.

ONE OF HASCALL'S FEARS.

The Hascall ordinance to sidetrack Parden & Co.'s bid contains among other extraneous things a provision that all poles erected for electric lighting wires shall be iron and not less than thirty feet high. Now, why didn't Hascall make it 100 feet and the metal pure gold? That would be no more impractical than a thirty-foot iron pole. Any competent electrician must admit that iron poles are totally unsuited for arc light wires. They are not in use in any city so far as we know and never will be. Iron poles are all right for incandescent lighting or motor wires. The voltage on those wires is moderate and seldom exceeds 500 volts. There is no more danger from a shock from a motor wire than there is from the incandescent lamp current. On the contrary, the current of an arc light wire is intense, generally up to 2,500 volts, which is sufficient to kill either a man or horse. If these wires when suspended from iron poles were to get loose from the insulator the current is liable to go down the pole into the earth, thus impairing its lightning power or grounding the circuit. Or if the pole stood in a bed of dry earth or stone there would be great danger to any person that might come in contact with it during a rain storm.

This freak of Mr. Hascall in, however, not intended for anything except to divert the current of public opinion. It would not have been even suggested as applying to Mr. Wiley's company if that concern had not been knocked out by the competing bid.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTY.

The executive committee of the people's party ought at once to apply for an injunction to restrain the latest national party from flying under the name of the people's progressive party, under which it has been chosen to be launched upon the world. This is plagiarism of the worst kind and cannot but tend to confuse voters as to the candidates of the several parties. It furthermore insinuates that the people's party is not progressive—something which the latter should be quick to resent. The new party should be forced either to join the original and only people's party, or at least to adopt a name that is less confusing and misleading.

The conference between the Union Pacific receivers and representatives of the employees of that road begins today. The final result is freighted with great importance to the road and to the men. Each

side will present strong arguments in support of its contention. There may be good reasons for the proposed reduction, and there may be good grounds for the claim of the men that their wages should not be reduced. The road is bankrupt through no fault of the men employed by it, who would suffer far more from a wholesale reduction of the force than from a graded reduction of the wage scale. Who is to determine whether or not maintenance of the present scale will compel the receivers to take off trains and lay off large numbers of the men? Who knows whether the volume of traffic is to be so great as to justify the expense? If the books of the company show that business is picking up, the fact may have some bearing on the decision of the arbiters. But no matter what showing the employees may be able to make, it is highly probable that a settlement of the issue can only be reached through compromise. They will doubtless be required to give and take.

DR. MILLER'S PLUM.

Saline County Democrat: Dr. Miller is one of the most able and universally respected dentists in the west and his appointment will give general satisfaction. Norfolk News: The nomination of Dr. George L. Miller for the post of surveyor of customs of Omaha gives universal satisfaction to the people of Nebraska. Of course there are a few disgruntled politicians in the democratic party who are disappointed, but who care for that?

Nebraska City News: The appointment of Dr. George L. Miller as surveyor of customs at Omaha was one of Cleveland's surprises. Dr. Miller was not an applicant for the position nor had his name ever been suggested in connection with it. The selection will give the best of satisfaction to the democrats of the west.

Lincoln News: "Dr. Miller Accepts" is the headline in an Omaha paper telling of the submission of the good doctor to the decree of the president that he must take an \$8,000 a year situation. Of course he accepts; no one supposed for a moment that a lifelong, consistent democrat like Dr. Miller would violate the traditions of his party by declining to take on a snap.

Blair Courier: The president has seen fit in his own motion to nominate Dr. George L. Miller for collector for the port of Omaha of the port of Omaha and in this selection we believe he has made a very happy and satisfactory choice. The doctor had made no application for the position and it therefore comes unthought. The selection will give general satisfaction to the party in the west.

Kearney Hub: The selection of Dr. George L. Miller for collector for the port of Omaha is another surprise party. It is a good, fat job, and for that reason the doctor's friends are glad that he got it. Just the same Dr. Miller should have given the Interstate Commerce commission, but Cleveland doubtless had a pet for the latter position, and not caring to slap Dr. Miller on the face, as he did eight years ago, shoved him into the collectorship.

Grand Island Independent: Dr. Miller did not receive the coveted appointment as member of the Interstate Commerce commission, but has been appointed surveyor of customs for the port of Omaha. This is said to be the president's own arrangement and not a favor done to him by Cleveland. Mr. Shane's appointment for the place and the simultaneous canvass for Miller's appointment to the Interstate Commerce commission, for surveyor of customs Dr. Miller may be better fitted than for the other place his friends were recommending him for. Everything is lovely except for McShane and his friends.

NEBRASKA AND NEBRASKANS.

Tom Majors is tripping through the state. Saline county farmers predict a very large crop of fall wheat.

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TOBE CASTOR COMING HOME

He Says He Has Everything Fixed to Run a Spell in Washington.

Nebraska Plums Are to Fall Soon

Within Ten Days They Will All Be Given Out—Two Little Ones Secured Yesterday—Some Gossip of Western Interest.

WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE BEE, 513 Fourteenth Street, WASHINGTON, March 15.

National Commitment Tobias Castor will leave for his home at Lincoln tomorrow. He believes that the balance of the Nebraska offices will be filled within ten days. Michael Davey was today appointed postmaster at Davey, Lancaster county, and Charles H. Bash at Berlin, Oto county.

Today W. E. Peobles of Pender and Tobias Castor called on Indian Commissioner Browning and urged the allotment of the Omaha tribal lands without delay. The commissioner stated that as soon as Assistant Commissioner Armstrong returns to Washington, by the first of next week, the question will be given attention. Mr. Peobles says the Indian land tax encounters no particular opposition, and will certainly become law at this session of congress.

The following democrats were promoted in the pension office on the 12th of last month: Edward C. Wigenhorn of Nebraska, from \$1,200 to \$1,300, as special examiner; Samuel O. Rogers of Iowa, from \$1,000 to \$1,100; Cyrus L. Hall of Idaho, \$1,200 to \$1,400; Isaac B. Thatcher, \$800 to \$1,000. The following republicans were reduced: Robert P. Minshall of Iowa, from \$1,000 to \$1,200; George Albertson, Iowa, \$1,300 to \$1,600; Elias D. Godfrey, Iowa, and Walter L. Hines, South Dakota, \$1,600 to \$1,400; William A. Harries, Idaho, \$1,400 to \$1,200; Orr W. Lee, Iowa, \$1,200 to \$1,000; Victor L. Dodge, Iowa, \$1,000 to \$900.

DR. MILLER CONFIRMED. The nomination of Dr. George L. Miller to be surveyor of customs at Omaha was confirmed by the senate this afternoon. There was no opposition. Dr. Miller's wife and children were forwarded to Omaha immediately, and as soon as it is filed out, returned and approved. His commission will be able to take charge of the office on the 1st of next month.

From a special census bulletin issued this morning by the census bureau, it is found that Nebraska reported in operation that year 2,004 factories, with an aggregate investment in land, buildings, machinery, tools and implements of \$7,569,568. The total average number of employees was 23,876 and their yearly wages \$12,984,572. The cost of material used annually was \$67,324,520 and the value of their products \$93,037,794.

SOUTH DAKOTA NOTES. Judge Thomas of Deadwood, S. D., is making for himself a reputation in Washington. He came here some time ago to get an appointment for himself and falling had his wife appointed postmaster at Deadwood. The judge still lingers in Washington, laboring with the postmaster general for an increase of clerk hire for the Deadwood postoffice and other allowances, which will make his position which Mrs. Thomas is to assume more profitable and comfortable.

Representative Lucas intends to have two young men from the Black Hills, Messrs. Baker and Kehoe, named as cadet and alternate cadet to the West Point Military academy, in place of Cadet Duncan, who was dismissed for misconduct in Chicago during the World's fair.

Major Anderson, formerly stationed at Crow Creek, has left Washington, D. C., Chamberlain, where he will remain several weeks.

Charles Greene, the newly appointed postmaster at Mitchell, S. D., has left Washington for his home to secure his bond. He expects to be in his office the first of next month.

Senator Pettigrew and Representative Pickler, in commenting today upon the agitation for holding the South Dakota republican state convention, expressed a preference for a late convention and a short campaign. They believe that the issues are well understood by the voters of South Dakota and that the expense of a long campaign will be unnecessary. Representative Lucas says he is indifferent whether the campaign is long or short, as the South Dakota republicans will sweep the state next November by an immense majority.

PERSONAL MATTERS. G. W. Holdrege of Omaha and W. E. and C. P. Duncombe of Fort Dodge, Ia., are at the Elbow Hotel in Washington, D. C.

Mr. William V. Lucas, wife of the congressman from South Dakota, gave a luncheon of twelve courses yesterday afternoon to a number of the Dakota ladies in this city at her residence, 34 B street Northeast. The rooms and table were handsomely ornamented with palms, flowers and blooming plants.

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