

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

K. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily (without Sunday), One Year, \$1.00...

DEFENSE OF THE CONSULAR SERVICE.

The statement of Mr. Samuel E. Morss, who has been for four years consul general of the United States at Paris, giving his impressions of the consular service of this country, will have the effect to modify the quite general opinion among those who have given some attention to the matter that this service is far less useful and efficient than it should be and in this respect is a good deal below the standard of other leading commercial nations.

THE HAWAIIAN TREATY.

The question as to what shall be done with the Hawaiian reciprocity treaty is causing some trouble to the republicans of the senate. The sugar schedule of the house tariff bill provided that nothing contained therein should be confirmed as abrogating, impairing or affecting the treaty, but the republicans of the senate finance committee took the view that Hawaiian sugar should be subjected to a duty, which would be in effect an abrogation of the treaty.

Mr. Morss confesses that there is room for improvement in the consular service, but he says that measured by the results accomplished it is at least the equal of any other consular service in the world. If this is so there is indeed little reason for complaint, unless the consular services of England, Germany and France have received credit for usefulness and efficiency beyond their merit.

It is possible that such is the case, at least as to England, whose service has recently been sharply criticized at home as having deteriorated in efficiency, but as to that of Germany and France, particularly the former, the standard has never been higher than now.

THE BEE ON TRAINS.

All railroad newsboys are supplied with enough Bees to accommodate every passenger who wants to read a newspaper. Insist upon having the Bee. If you cannot get a Bee on a train from the news agent, please report the fact, stating the train and railroad, to the Circulation Department of The Bee. The Bee is for sale on all trains.

INSIST ON HAVING THE BEE.

PARTIES LEAVING FOR THE SUMMER.

Parties leaving the city for the summer can have The Bee sent to them regularly by notifying The Bee business office in person or by mail. The address will be changed as often as desired.

ALARMISTS WHO ENDEAVORED TO CONJECT A WAR SCARE OUT OF A MERE HARMLESS EXCURSION OF THE CRUISER NEW YORK TO NEWPORT NEWS WILL LIVE TO WAIT FOR OTHER "SEALED ORDERS."

DR. TALMAGE SAYS MINISTERS SHOULD RIDE THE BICYCLE IF THEY WANT TO.

AS TO BANKRUPTCY LEGISLATION.

The Association of Credit Men in convention at Kansas City the past week adopted a resolution endorsing the Torrey bankruptcy bill in preference to the Nelson bill which passed the senate a short time ago, but the discussion of the subject of bankruptcy legislation disclosed a considerable sentiment in opposition to any such legislation. One member declared that the enactment of a bankruptcy law would result in more failures in the ensuing six months than there would be in four years without such a law, while another member submitted a resolution declaring that the states and not congress should enact all legislation governing commercial and financial transactions. It is somewhat surprising to find such sentiments in a convention of this kind, composed of men who are commonly supposed to be especially anxious for bankruptcy legislation and it suggests that there may be in the country at large, even among the creditor class, more of a sentiment against such legislation than is generally thought of. It is possible, however, that the leader of the opposition was a Philadelphia business man and not one from the south or west.

COMPLAINT IS MADE THAT THE EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONGRESS DOMINATE THAT ORGANIZATION.

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OPERATION OF WHICH BOTH DEBTORS AND CREDITORS WOULD BE JUSTLY DEBTED WITH.

There will be no bankruptcy legislation at the present session of congress, but present discussion of the subject by business men and organizations is timely. The question will certainly come up early in the regular session and it seems safe to predict that the house will not be found favorable to the Nelson bill, in which event, in view of the large majority by which that measure passed the senate, there will probably be a prolonged conflict between the two houses and possibly failure by this congress to pass a bankruptcy law. It must be said that the outlook for this legislation is not altogether hopeful.

A QUESTION OF POPULATION.

Quite a little disturbance seems to have been raised by the action of a national bank at Beatrice, Neb., in certifying to the comptroller of the currency that the population of that city is less than 6,000. The purpose of this statement is to secure permission to remain a national bank while reducing its capital from \$100,000 to \$50,000, the latter sum being limited to the capital of banks operating in places of less than 6,000 inhabitants. Inasmuch as the population of Beatrice was given as 13,856 by the federal census of 1890, the people of that city naturally protest against any assertion that they have lost over 60 per cent of their people since the census year.

THE CHANCES ARE THAT THE CENSUS FIGURES WERE CONSIDERABLY PADDED, AND THAT BEATRICE LIKE ALL WESTERN TOWNS HAS LOST POPULATION DURING THE ERA OF FINANCIAL OPPRESSION, BUT TO BEING IN THE RANKS OF 6,000 INHABITANTS IS THE RANKEST KIND OF INJUSTICE.

Even taking five as the ratio of population to voters, the figure would be \$3,25, and by no possible jugglery could it be made less than 6,000. The comptroller of the currency has very evidently been imposed upon and should take steps to rectify the mistake.

COMPLAINTS THAT OUTRAGING OCEAN STEAMSHIP TRAVEL IS UNUSUALLY LIGHT ARE DENIED AS EXAGGERATIONS IN THE MOUTH OF ADVERTISING DODGERS INTENDING TO ATTRACT TRAVEL.

It is stated on reliable authority that the accommodations in all the best steamers are booked weeks and months in advance and that first class passage on the record-breaking vessels is not to be obtained at present under any conditions. Of course there is as usual plenty of room in the ordinary transatlantic liners and no one who wants to go to Europe during the summer will be prevented for lack of transportation facilities. The fact, however, that the fine ocean carriers have been increased so greatly of late years that they require a much greater foreign travel than formerly to crowd their accommodations, the number of people who take European vacation excursions is larger by far than a few years back, although it may possibly have failed to keep up with the enlargement of the steamship facilities.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OF HIGH AND LOW DEGREE ARE ENDORSING THE LAWFUL DISTRIBUTION OF THOSE SYMBOLISTIC LETTERS I. L. D.

Such honors are presumed to reward some great achievement for the advancement of learning or contribution to the world's stock of literary or scientific knowledge, but as there is no uniform or even approximately uniform standard for the award of honorary degrees in this country, the newly created doctor of laws would, if gathered together, make a rather heterogeneous company. We are approaching the day, however, when a university degree will mean something, because it will be difficult to get, and when that time arrives it will be worth seeking without so much regard to the name of the institution conferring it.

A FORMER RESIDENT OF OMAHA NOW LIVING IN SALT LAKE CITY IS ENDEAVORING TO AFF THE PEOPLE THERE UP TO THE POINT OF ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC LIBRARY.

It certainly seems strange that Salt Lake City should be without such a desirable institution. Omaha's public library dates back to 1876, when the town had but little more than 20,000 people, and no one of our citizens would for a moment now think of doing without it. If Salt Lake City deserves a small sum to the establishment and maintenance of a public library the results will soon convince it that the money could not be better invested.

WE ARE TOLD THAT THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AT WASHINGTON PREDICTS THAT SUNFLOWER SEED OIL WILL BEFORE LONG BECOME A POPULAR SUBSTITUTE FOR OLIVE OIL.

If so, Nebraska ought to stand at the front of the sunflower seed oil-producing states. The sunflower is indigenous to Nebraska soil and grows here as weeds without care or cultivation of any kind. A sunflower oil industry ought to flourish from the beginning if the oil can be made in commercial quantities and at competitive prices. Millions have been made in the south out of cotton seed oil. There may be millions in sunflowers.

OUR CALAMITY HOWLING FRIENDS WILL DOUBTLESS SAY THAT THE STATISTICS OF THE IRON AND STEEL BUSINESS FOR 1896, WHICH SHOW UNDOUBTEDLY DECREASES COMPARED WITH 1895 BY ANOTHER LAMENT OVER THE DELAY OF PROSPERITY, THEY WILL OVERLOOK ENTIRELY THE UNHAPPY BUILDING OPERATIONS THAT CONSUME IRON AND STEEL AND THE SURPLUS LEFT OVER FROM PREVIOUS YEARS, WHEN THE OUTPUT EXCEEDED THE DEMAND.

AUSTRIA SEEMED TO BE CONTEMPLATING NEW EXPERIMENTS WITH STATE CONTROL OF CRUISES.

Several European countries have government monopolies of salt and tobacco, so that the proposal is not altogether a novelty. If it accomplishes the desired object in Austria, however, it may demand consideration at the hands of other countries in which the trusts threaten to become unbearable tyrants.

DANCING MASTERS IN NATIONAL CONVENTION COMPLAIN THAT THE POPULARITY OF THE BICYCLE HAS MADE SERIOUS INROADS UPON THE DANCING SCHOOL BUSINESS.

People who used to indulge in a fondness for tepid exercises now exercise their pedaled extremities propelling the two-wheeled vehicle and have no time for tripping the light fantastic. To win back the people enticed away by the bicycle is the work before the dancing master, and if this incentive does not lead to the production of something attractive in the ball room line, the old-time prosperity of the dancing class may become a thing of the past.

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New York Sun. Ensign Stone is a young man of talent and character, and of a distinguished record in the Naval academy. His misfortune appears to be falling in love with the daughter of a family whose older members have not rightly appreciated his intellectual and personal value.

Chicago Chronicle. The naval court of inquiry which has been examining the charges against Ensign Stone has decided that he is not guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and has therefore acquitted him. Now that he has been cleared of all charges, it is hoped that he will lose no time in attaining his heart's desire and wed his lady love. Papa Conde might as well give his consent now as later.

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COURT-MARTIALING A CUPID.

New York Sun. Ensign Stone is a young man of talent and character, and of a distinguished record in the Naval academy. His misfortune appears to be falling in love with the daughter of a family whose older members have not rightly appreciated his intellectual and personal value.

Chicago Chronicle. The naval court of inquiry which has been examining the charges against Ensign Stone has decided that he is not guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and has therefore acquitted him. Now that he has been cleared of all charges, it is hoped that he will lose no time in attaining his heart's desire and wed his lady love. Papa Conde might as well give his consent now as later.

New York Herald. Ensign Stone loved Miss Conde. The latter apparently loved the ensign, for, if she had not loved him she could have easily saved her parents a lot of trouble by sending for the young officer and telling him that she did not care for him. If Secretary Loeb should have any more Stone-like affairs he will do well to suppress them in the Navy department. The present appearance of the case looks more like persecution than justice.