

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily (Without Sunday) One Year \$4.00...

OFFICES: Omaha: The Bee Building, South Omaha: Singer Bldg., Cor. N. and 26th Sts.

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

THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: For the month of November, 1897.

Table with 3 columns: Date, Circulation, and Total. Rows show daily circulation from Nov 1 to Nov 30, with a total of 64,623.

Net total sales 62,629. Copies not reached either by the Morning World-Herald or the Evening Bee 1,994.

Sworn to before me and subscribed to in my presence this 1st day of December, 1897.

GEO. H. TSCHECH, Notary Public.

KEEP IT BEFORE THE PUBLIC.

The aggregate carrier delivery circulation of the Evening Bee is double the aggregate carrier delivery circulation of the Evening World-Herald and more than six times greater than the aggregate carrier delivery circulation of the Morning World-Herald in Omaha and South Omaha.

The carrier delivery circulation of The Evening Bee reaches 7,934 bona fide subscribers that are not reached by the Evening World-Herald and 7,616 subscribers that are not reached by the Morning World-Herald.

More than 9,000 carrier delivery subscribers to The Omaha Evening Bee and The Omaha Morning Bee are not reached either by the Morning World-Herald or the Evening World-Herald.

It goes without saying that the number of copies of The Evening Bee or The Morning Bee sold by dealers and newsboys exceeds by a very considerable number the World-Herald dailies, morning and evening, sold by dealers and newsboys.

Merry, merry Christmas bells are ringing.

China's reliance on Russia as a friend in the hour of need may be sadly misplaced.

The only war cloud visible in the western world as the year closes is in the Chicago wheat pit.

Merchants who have taken stock in the exposition are no longer in doubt as to the profitability of their investment.

Those who appreciate the value of a "mention" as a candidate for congress are getting in their work at this stage of the game.

Denver wants a fair in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Colorado statehood. In three years Denver ought to be able to get up a pretty good exhibition.

Omaha retail merchants have no ground for complaint about the unseasonable weather this year, and for that matter no ground for complaint about anything else.

Speaker Reed says he will allow no riders on bills. If he but partially succeeds the people will have some cause to thank him. Every measure should stand on its own merits.

The man must be indeed stupid who is not yet able to discern that the Transmississippi Exposition is to be a great deal more than an Omaha fair or a Nebraska enterprise. It is growing every day.

More good books are being sold this year in Omaha than for many holiday seasons; also more fine pictures, pretty trinkets and substantial goods. A genuine old-fashioned Christmas is a good thing to have.

Some of the congressmen are spending the holiday vacation by making a trip to Cuba. They cannot gain too much reliable information about that island and its inhabitants, black, white, yellow and mixed.

War may break out between China, Germany, France and other foreign countries, but Oriental avenue at the exposition grounds will witness the peaceful commingling of all the races under the Star Spangled banner.

"Thou shalt not muzzle the ox while he is treading the corn." This is the injunction of the bible. Thou shalt not muzzle the blackmaller while he is treading corn juice in the Fiske Mill. If you do you are assailing the liberty of the "press."

The Argentine statesmen refuse to go into a combine to injure the United States with discriminating duties and the retaliatory tariff measure before the Chamber of Deputies was defeated. The Argentine people understand very well that the United States is too good a neighbor to be treated like an enemy.

The Agricultural department has sent a special agent to Europe to plead for the American horse. So long as Europe is one great armed camp horses for cavalry and artillery purposes will be in steady demand, and it can easily be shown that the best horses for this purpose come from the western ranges of the United States. There is room for a great improvement in the market for American horses and the Agricultural department does well to make an effort to secure that improvement.

THE BARRETT SCOTT BOND DECISION

The supreme court decision in the Barrett Scott bond case cannot fail to have a very important bearing upon cases that are pending in the lower courts for the recovery of embezzled public funds. The decision will go far toward establishing the liability of sureties of state, city and county treasurers, as well as other officers charged with the custody of public moneys.

While many good and worthy citizens who have assumed the responsibility of guaranteeing the integrity of officials that have proved themselves faithless must suffer losses that may prove almost ruinous, the courts must protect the people against periodic losses that would shift upon the taxpayers burdens which have been voluntarily assumed by men of means either as a matter of personal friendship or from interested motives. The effect of the decision cannot but prove salutary for the state at large. It will bar men who are discredited from securing individual bonds and thus force upon the respective political parties the nomination of reputable men for positions of trust.

That alone is a boon much to be coveted. Nebraska has had a surfeit of public plunderers and embezzlers, and while it so happens that a majority of these rascals were elected because they were members of the party that had been in power for more than twenty years, a very considerable proportion of the treasury looters were elected either as democrats, populists or fusionists. No political party can truthfully claim a monopoly of honesty nor is dishonesty a trait peculiar to any one party. There are black sheep in parties, and even in churches, but no party and no church can be justly condemned as such because it counts among its membership Pharisees, or rogues who serve the devil while wearing the livery of heaven.

It may be a sad commentary upon the perverseness of humanity, but it is nevertheless true that the way to make men honest is to make dishonesty odious and grievous, and the only way to put a stop to official delinquency is to make every officer who handles public funds liable individually and through his sureties for the restitution of every penny that belongs to the public. With that principle engrafted in the code and enforced through impartial, fearless courts we shall have no occasion for levying extraordinary taxes to make good the losses sustained through embezzling custodians of public funds.

EXPOSITION POSTAGE STAMPS.

The decision of Postmaster General Gary to order a series of special issues of postage stamps commemorative of the holding of the Transmississippi and International Exposition is a matter of great importance. It is a mark of distinction and favor at the hands of the government which must prove of immense benefit to the enterprise. When it is borne in mind that within the 120 years of national life the government has made but two such issues of commemorative stamps, their true significance of General Gary's order can best be appreciated. The issue will be, not merely that of a postage stamp to be sold at the Omaha postoffice, but it can and doubtless will be placed on sale at every one of the 70,000 postoffices in the United States. What this widespread circulation would mean to the exposition will be readily perceived by those who recall the popularity of the Columbian stamp, which did so much to attract public attention to the World's fair. The issue will be not only valuable as a medium of advertising the exposition of 1898, but it gives to the project the prestige of government recognition and support. The stamps will be issued in denominations of 1-cent, 2-cent, 5-cent, 10-cent and \$1, making it possible for the people of this country to use these stamps on all outgoing foreign as well as domestic mail matter and packets of merchandise. With the possibilities suggested for the widespread issue of these stamps, certainly every postmaster in the transmississippi region will not fail to make an active demand for them. They will be in most requisition from the start, not only by stamp collectors, but by the hundreds of thousands of people of the west who will take advantage of this means of popularizing the Transmississippi Exposition throughout the west.

This issue of commemorative postage stamps will do more to raise the Transmississippi Exposition to the high plane of a national and international enterprise than any other act of the government. Postmaster General Gary has earned the lasting gratitude of every friend of the exposition.

BERING SEA SEIZURE CLAIMS.

The decision of the arbitrators in favor of the claims for damages made by the British government for the seizure by the United States of Canadian sealing vessels in Bering sea disposes of a matter which ought to have been settled long ago. The decision is a complete vindication of the finding of the late Secretary Gresham, who succeeded in inducing the British government to materially reduce the amount of damages originally claimed and to agree to accept substantially the sum which the arbitrators have now decided the United States ought to pay. The difference, or most of it, is in the accrued interest.

The first seizures of Canadian sealers by our government were made eleven years ago, when three schooners engaged in sealing more than thirty miles from our coasts were seized by revenue cutters of the United States. The next year Canadian sealers were captured, but were released upon a protest from the British government. The policy of seizure was renewed in 1883, eight or nine British sealing vessels in Bering sea having been taken in that year. This action brought a vigorous protest from the British government and seizures were stopped. Four years later the Paris court of arbitration, to which was submitted the question of the right of the United States to stop pelagic sealing, decided against the contention of this government, holding that it could exercise no control over sealing outside the three-mile limit. The court also decided that claims for damages for the seizure of British vessels were justifiable.

Subsequently negotiations were had between the secretary of state and the British ambassador for the settlement

THE WHEAT DEAL.

Baltimore American: The whole thing is really and simply gambling on a monumental scale, and the brilliant business men with their millions are merely cool gamblers with their stakes. It might be a good lesson for some people if the young ones of the country could see the whole thing as it is. The wheat deal is a game of chance, and the whole thing is a game of chance. The wheat deal is a game of chance, and the whole thing is a game of chance.

St. Louis Republic: The whole civilized world is watching with feverish interest the outcome of the struggle between "young" Joe Leiter and the veteran Phil Armour for the control of the wheat market. The interest is world-wide, because upon the result of the combat depends the price of a large part of the food supply for the next year. The wheat deal is a game of chance, and the whole thing is a game of chance.

THE ASSASSINATION OF RUIZ.

New York Tribune: The best news that could possibly come from the Cuban insurgents for their own good, would be an explanation of the death of Joaquin Ruiz that would satisfy the moral sense of the world. Information of this nature is now available upon the subject, his death was one of the foulest crimes that cruelly ever conceived or savagely executed. If the facts are as stated there is an indelible stain upon the flag of "Cuba Libre."

Baltimore American: If the officer went under a flag of truce he was safeguarded by the law of nations. If he went without a uniform, he was not a soldier, but a man of nations entitled to the same law of nations as a prisoner of war. In either event his life should have been safe.

Chicago Post: Nothing in the dark list of atrocious crimes that the world has ever known equals the report of the execution of Colonel Ruiz, who was the bearer of peace proposals to the insurgents under the brilliant leadership of General Avila. According to the first dispatches, Ruiz was executed by Aranguren's orders. It was next announced that the execution of Ruiz was in violation of civilized usages and of his pledge for the peace commissioner's safety.

New York Commercial Advertiser: Reports as to the execution of Lieutenant Ruiz and Colonel Aranguren by the Cuban insurgents are of such exacting nature that news must be awaited before any definite can be formed. If these reports prove to be true, however, they will not advance the cause of Cuba Libre. Lieutenant Ruiz did not enter the insurgent lines clandestinely or as a spy. He went to offer terms of peace and made no concealment of his purpose. It is an answer to the charge that he took his fate in his own hands. He doubtless refused to believe that the rebel leaders were totally dead to humane and civilized feelings. Aranguren's offense appears to have been willful blindness to what Lieutenant Ruiz had to say.

Washington Post: If it is true, as now seems probable, that Colonel Joaquin Ruiz, General Blanco's peace officer, has been put to death by the insurgents in the manner and for the reason reported in our dispatches, we think the incident will do far more to moderate the passions among national and humane persons, at least—than has been lavished so abundantly upon the rebel cause. It matters little whether Colonel Ruiz fell by the machete or was hanged or was shot to death. These are only degrees of brutal savagery. The mere fact that a human being engaged in a peaceful, not to say friendly, undertaking has been seized and put to death in any shape by those he sought to benefit or at least enlighten, constitutes an atrocity too hideous for words.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

What the Philanthropic Anthracite Barons Are Doing for Dear People. Chicago Post: If there has been ruinous competition and "demoralization" in the anthracite coal distributing industry, it is quite certain that consumers have not felt the effect of this condition to any perceptible degree. It is true that it has been impossible to secure and enforce an agreement among the leading coal producers to reduce the rate in the time of the disturbances of prices.

Now it is reported that the old method is to be abandoned and that the coal roads will be placed on a stable basis by a system of community of interests. A company is to be organized, of which the leading coal roads are to be members, and which will be controlled by the several producing corporations. The company will not merely handle the output, but buy it outright. The responsibility of the mining operations will end at the moment the coal leaves the mine and the railroads will maintain a great distributing concern dealing direct with the consumers.

The best sugar boom continues to increase. As a result of successful experiments to manufacture beet sugar in Virginia it is given out from Richmond that a stock company with \$1,000,000 capital has recently been organized in that city for the purpose of developing the beet sugar industry. Commenting upon this the Associated Press says: "This is a new departure not only for Virginia but also for the south. Up to this time capital has lacked the necessary courage to espouse the beet sugar industry, and the Richmond enterprise is the first venture of its kind which the south has undertaken; but since the soil and climate of this section are thoroughly adapted to the growth of sugar beets, there is no reason why other southern states should not emulate Virginia's example."

Gold in His Stock.

It looks as if Uncle Sam would find lots of gold in his stocking Christmas morning, at least \$100,000,000 in gold coin contributed by the treasury as a reserve, not to speak of bullion. Nor is this the only gold at Uncle Sam's command, for the old gentleman has counted upon about \$400,000,000 of the precious metal, and he has not yet begun to count the gold in the hands of the treasury and the banks. He never had so much before in all his life.

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A GREAT JUDGE GONE.

Brooklyn Life: "The Edgerton children have a good time Christmas." "What way?" "Well, their father is a doctor, and their mother lets them eat everything they want." Detroit Journal: "You always celebrate Christmas, don't you?" "Inquired Miss Mimi Brown." "Certainly," replied Mr. Erasmus Drakey. "I never miss it, I don't buy two 41-41 slips a ready day."

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "The Sweet Young Thing—Have you any idea what you will get in your Christmas stocking, Mr. Grouch?" "Grouch—Dunno, Rheumatism, I reckon." Pittsburgh Chronicle: "What shall I give you for a Christmas present?" "Mr. Snaggle asked his wife." "Oh, give me something expensive," she replied, carelessly.

Very well, I'll give you a bushel of wheat." Detroit Free Press: "Willie Wilfies—What do you think of Santa Claus?" "Tommy Tadpole—He's a good thing. Push him along."

Puck: "Do you like being under the mistletoe?" he asked tenderly, just after the thirty-ninth kiss. "She looked into his eyes and sighed. 'All I have to say,' she murmured, 'is that my staving wish will be to have some of it blasted on my grave.' Then they resumed." Washington Star: "Christmas comes but once a year," said Uncle Eben, "but dat good will 'n' limitations on de peace an' good will 'n' dat make den right here all de time."

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

By Clement C. Moore (1824). 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there; The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads; And mamma in her 'kerchief and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap; When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang out of bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the shades; The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, Gave lustre of midday to objects below; When, to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer, With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled and shouted and called them names; "Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen! On, on, on, Cupid! on, Dunder and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! Now, dash-away, dash-away, dash-away all!"

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

When one goes shopping nowadays he sees an awful lot of things that he doesn't need, but he keeps for himself that give to his friends.

Jonathan Ross, chief judge of the supreme court of Vermont, had served upon the supreme court bench twenty-seven years December 1.

Senator Devoe has been asked by one of his Kentucky constituents for copies of all documents ever issued by the United States government.

It is reported that Speaker Reed will attempt at this session to have his plan carried out of reducing the ball of the house to about one-third its present size and substituting benches for the desks.

A postboard box full of celluloid combs got "next" to the steamtraps in a New York elevated car, and the result was an explosion which wrecked the car, injured two men and caused three women to faint.

J. F. Willard, who has been living in Berlin and is now on his way to Bokhara and Asiatic Russia, to study the habits of criminals, is nephew of the prominent temperance advocate, Miss Frances E. Willard.

Now that cold weather is here again the typewriter girl is trying her old trick of freezing water by attaching a smelter rubber tube to the escape valve of the radiator, putting the free end of it into a pitcher of cold water and turning on the steam.

In his address before the Phi Delta Phi Law club of New York the other evening, Judge Pollitt of Philadelphia expressed the belief that there are only four great cross-examiners in New York now, and he designated Joseph H. Choate, F. C. James, John E. Parsons and Frederic R. Coudert as comprising the quartet.

Property valuations for taxation in New York state have been an unbroken increase the past year, and the consequence is that the legislature this winter will be able to keep up, or increase, state expenses and at the same time reduce the rate of the state tax rate, which is now 2.63 mills on each dollar of valuation. The state's total valuation last year was \$1,655,094; it will now reach nearly \$5,000,000,000.

The editor of an Ohio weekly makes the following confession: "The papers are making a great ado about Sandusky, O., man being drunk on the highway and killing his daughter good night at the gate after escorting her home from singing school, we shrink our out of sight in less than ten seconds."

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HARPER'S BAZAR FOR 1898 CLUB WOMEN AND CLUB WORK BY MARGARET HAMILTON WELCH is a weekly department telling about the club women who are banded together for better government, better morals, and better laws in the land. The House Healthful Town Improvement By Mrs. H. M. FLUNKETT By SALOME G. HOWELL A series telling how to render wholesome the city and the country house how to avoid water-borne diseases, how to get and keep pure air in living-rooms. \$4.00 a Year. In combination with HARPER'S MAGAZINE, \$7.00 a Year; \$3.00 Six Months. HARPER & BROTHERS, Publishers, New York and London