

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas county, ss. I, George B. Trenchard, secretary of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, say that the total number of copies printed during the month of February, 1898, was as follows: Total number of copies printed, 25,000; Total number of copies distributed, 23,000; Total number of copies on hand, 2,000.

Why should the zeal of the chief of police to eradicate gambling stop any of the automatic gambling machines? After a trial of one year no American who voted for McKinley regrets that he helped to give the republican party control of affairs at Washington.

The "view with alarm" clauses in the populist and poperic platforms this year will have to be almost as short and meaningless as the "point with pride" features of the same documents.

The Transmississippi Exposition should have railroad rates equal to the best ever offered any similar gathering of people. It should have these rates, moreover, from the day the gates open.

Perhaps the mail carrier who was held up almost within hearing distance of the city hall will head a subscription list of his fellow mail carriers to present the chief of police with another diamond-studded golden star.

Seeing is believing. Comparison of The Bee with world-beating competitors published in these parts will convince every fair-minded person that The Bee gives full value for every cent paid it for subscription or advertising.

If the outlay police commissioners want evidence of police inefficiency they might not inquire in vain of the clerk of their own board, who has just reported a house despoiled of its plumbing by uninvited marauders.

The increase of city tax receipts for the month of February just closed, as compared with February of 1897, is nearly \$13,000. People able to pay their taxes promptly cannot be suffering much from any alleged dearth of money.

Down in Salvador a revolution is talked of on account of the low price of silver. It is hard to see how silver is going to benefit by a revolution, but the plan is not more unreasonable than some of the others conjured up by the silverites.

A Kansas wine company last week shipped a quantity of wine to Lepsic, Germany, an incident entitled to rank with that recent shipment of golf sticks to an English city. After while the Florida cigar makers will begin shipping real Havanas to Cuba.

It will be noticed that the Loud postal bill dropped with a thud in the national house of representatives. We have no reason to believe, however, that the endorsement of the measure by the executive committee of the Commercial club is responsible for its untimely demise.

The charter applying to the city of Lincoln still retains the antiquated system of impeachment of municipal officers by vote of the city council. Such a scheme is scarcely better than no power of impeachment, as the recent impeachment proceedings in the capital city effectually prove.

During the last ten years more than \$40,000,000 worth of public land has been sold for cash, but there are immense tracts of public land that will not be utilized properly for many years unless some provision is made for irrigating it for the benefit of actual farmers willing to cultivate it.

The Union Pacific and Kansas Pacific have been divorced from the government. The Central Pacific remains as the link between the bond aided railroads and the national treasury. The sooner the Central Pacific follows in the wake of the others through the process of foreclosure the better will be the chastening effect of the divorce.

The validity of the Douglas county funding bonds has been endorsed by the supreme court and the successful bidders will have no further excuse for not forking over the money. Judging by the bids, received for the new funding bonds of the city of Omaha the county will have no difficulty in disposing of its bond issue on equally good terms, even if the accepted bidders should decline to come to time—a most improbable contingency, however.

SPAIN'S PREPARATION.

The statement from London that the Spanish government has bought two Spanish cruisers that are being built by a firm of British shipbuilders for Brazil and is negotiating for two more that are under construction in France for the southern republic is probably well founded. At all events it is not incredible, for it has been the understanding for some time that Spain was seeking to purchase war ships, the difficulty in the way of her doing so being the want of money. It appears from the London dispatch that the Spanish government has been able to secure the money for buying war ships, the presumption being that it has been furnished by French capitalists. It is also stated that Spain is endeavoring to secure guns and ammunition in Europe.

There is nothing improbable or incredible in these statements. It is not to be doubted that the Spanish government is making preparation for possible war. It may not seriously expect war, nor is there reason to think that it has any intention of going to war with the United States, but it realizes the expediency of being prepared for what may happen and is actively though not demonstratively engaged in putting the naval power of the nation in readiness.

The United States must not be defeated in this regard. This country, too, should prepare for the possible exigency. However peaceful the intentions of this government, the fact must be realized that there will be danger of war until the Cuban question is settled. We cannot know at any time, with absolute certainty, the purpose of Spain. It is not possible to foresee and guard against every circumstance that might provoke hostilities. Hence preparation is dictated by every consideration of sound policy and national security.

We are a nation of more than 70,000,000 people and our resources are practically unlimited. Spain has hardly more than one-fourth our population and is nearly bankrupt and with little credit. But great as this disparity is, if we are not prepared to fight in the event of war we may suffer severely. Spain's preparation should make some impression upon congress.

AN AUXILIARY FLEET.

It is a fact not generally known that the United States government could if necessary equip from the merchant marine, in a very short time, an auxiliary fleet of considerable proportions. The four steamships of the American line—the St. Louis, St. Paul, Paris and New York—were constructed with reference to their conversion into war ships and it is said that not more than two weeks would be required to prepare them for war. There is also a number of steamships in the Atlantic coast trade which can be readily converted into cruisers.

A retired navy officer is quoted by a New York paper as saying that a fair allowance of time being given and the mechanical resources of the various ports not being overestimated, at least thirty-five ships could be made ready in six weeks from the time they were turned over to the various repair yards. These vessels would not be as effective, of course, as regular war ships, but they would be capable of doing good service where without them the regular war ships would have to be employed. This auxiliary fleet could be utilized in protecting our coast commerce and also in transporting troops. This is a force in addition to the navy which is not usually considered, but it is a quite important factor and one that undoubtedly would be found exceedingly valuable in case of war.

Such steamships as those of the American line, properly equipped, ought to make as effective war ships as any of the unarmored cruisers of the navy.

PREPARING A CURRENCY BILL.

A sub-committee of the house committee on banking and currency has been engaged for two or three weeks in the preparation of a currency bill, which it is understood is nearly if not quite completed and may be shortly reported if there are no new developments in our foreign relations of a threatening nature. It is said that the measure proposed by the sub-committee will mark a long step toward a scientific currency system. One feature of it, according to report, will be to throw the current redemption of the greenbacks upon the national banks, as the safest practical plan of dealing with the legal tender paper. It is also said that in respect to the provisions for a banking currency and for branch banking the plan of the monetary commission will probably be reported with some modifications.

It thus appears that the sub-committee has ignored the plans of the secretary of the treasury and of the monetary commission so far as relates to the retirement of the greenbacks and propose that these shall remain a part of the currency, but that the government shall be relieved of the obligation to redeem them, this being transferred to the national banks, which would thereby be required to keep a reserve of gold at least equal to that which the government must now maintain and perhaps larger. Possibly such an arrangement would work satisfactorily if the banks were willing to assume the responsibility, but would they? And assuming that they would, could they always be depended upon to have on hand a sufficient gold reserve for the current redemption of greenbacks? Would there not be danger that in a time of panic the banks would fail to respond to a demand for greenback redemption that should threaten to wipe out their gold reserve? Of course we are not aware of the safeguards which it may be proposed to erect against such a possible condition, but there are conceivable conditions under which the plan of greenback redemption by the banks might prove not to be wholly satisfactory. In regard to the monetary commission's plan for a banking currency and for branch banking, it is in the main sound and its adoption would undoubtedly result in extending the national banking system to sections of the country where there is a demand for better banking facilities. It is designed to accomplish this and there is every reason to believe it will

have the desired result. It should therefore have the support of those sections of the country which are asking for legislation that will give them more currency.

The report of a currency bill, if one shall be made, will be regarded with interest, although there is barely a possibility of any currency legislation at the present session of congress. We can see no reason to expect that a currency bill can even pass the house, because of the diversity of views among the majority in that body. While the chances of carrying a bill through the senate have in nowise improved. It is a question, therefore, whether the house leaders will be disposed to give any time to currency consideration. They appear anxious to bring the session to an end as early as possible and a discussion of the currency question would necessarily be prolonged. The house banking and currency committee may be doing its duty in endeavoring to frame a currency bill, but there is no promise that its labor will have any practical result.

Small Fight in Showers.

It was should really come it is greatly to be feared that the men who have not had a bit of rain for a long time would have had all the work of fighting.

Evil Deeds Live After Him.

The evil that Weyler did lives after him in Cuba. To his malefic energies may be justly ascribed nine-tenths of all Spain's embarrassments in that island and an equal proportion of all the tenacity of relations between Spain and the United States.

Why the Country is Safe.

Another evidence of the absolute safety of this government is the fact that in case of a revolution Spain is President McKinley's one of a dozen Washington newspaper correspondents would take his place without the slightest hesitation. As it is, the president is convinced that as a very important figure compared with the average correspondent.

Cheap Money in the West.

Cheap money has struck the southwest and the Clinton, Mo., Republican invites the calamity howler to make a note of the fact that the state of Missouri has recently refunded their 5 and 6 per cent bonds at 3 1/2 and 4 per cent. But the calamity howler will not make a note of any such thing, for they do not harmonize with his howl.

Restricting Congressional Talk.

Speaker Reed has ruled that thereafter congressmen must speak to the subject under discussion when given the floor. That measure, which was passed at Carson, Retimo, where the peasants are allowed to enter under escort twice weekly, the situation would be improved, and Christians and Mohammedans alike would be benefited.

No Concert in Ours.

There is something fantastic in the suggestion of a concert of European nations to mediate between the United States and Spain for the purpose of averting war. Even if this government were to agree to such a concert, Spain is probably not likely to have already announced that she will submit to no foreign interference in her own affairs. But the European concert business is moved out, and the nations over there have trouble enough to get their own hands to engage their undivided attention.

Punishment of Assassins.

It is the intention of the Postoffice department to hunt down and punish to the full the extent of the law the white fiends in Williamsburg county, South Carolina, who murdered the negro postmaster, Baker, and his infant child, and burned down the postoffice building. Instructions have been given to the federal officers in that section to spare no time, labor or expense in pursuing the culprits, and those who escape will be confronted with long terms of imprisonment. Public sentiment will warmly applaud the Postoffice department in pushing a merciless prosecution.

NEBRASKA MORTGAGES.

Last Year's Gratifying Record of Diminished Indebtedness. During 1897 farm mortgages to the amount of \$12,933,590 were filed in Nebraska, and similar mortgages to the amount of \$11,398,000 were released. Evidently the Nebraska farmers are getting on their feet and mortgage indebtedness much in that year.

But in 1897 the releases amounted to \$14,767,000, while the new mortgages amounted to \$12,933,590. The landed interest, when the crops were better in 1897 than in 1896 and there was a greatly improved demand for those crops. The farmers got better prices for their crops, and when they had borrowed, they were able to clear off incumbrances and pay floating debts.

The public sentiment has been so good a record of debt-paying as that which was made last year. For there would have been a general panic which would have affected the farmers and the city people. The ability of the latter to consume the products of the former would have been greatly reduced that they would have been unable to pay their mortgages, while, owing to Bryan's defeat, full value dollars were abundant.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Decision of an Inferior Court Will Not Affect the Work. The secretary of agriculture announces that the inspection of meats will be continued just as though no adverse decision had been rendered by Judge Rogers. The secretary of agriculture is of the opinion that the bureau of animal industry and the general appear to be positive that Judge Rogers' decision is not sound, and that the nature of the inspection is a burning question, whose gravity is bound to increase. The intervention in the debate of the Catholic People's party, the Hungarian representatives and the industry is being regarded as very significant. This group, following the same tactics by which the Austrian market was closed against the Hungarian meat, is endeavoring to place the entire responsibility on the capitalists and the Liberal system of government.

Although the flotation of the Chinese loan is nominally a private enterprise undertaken jointly by an English and a German bank, the conditions make it practically much more than that. China, in addition to throwing open all her rivers and canals to navigation by foreigners, is conceding of more value than would have been the opening of a dozen new ports, has consented to submit the collection of her internal revenues, or I think taxes, to the supervision of the agents of the foreign banks. A candidate for superintendent of these agents will be as much representative of the nationalities of the contracting banks as Lord Cromer, the financial adviser of the British, is the representative of Great Britain. The Mandarins have practically placed themselves under an Anglo-German condominium. The display of "Hyine Squadron" by Great Britain and the threat of blows with a "mailed fist" by Germany seem to have resulted in an entente cordiale between those recently antagonistic powers.

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The legislative deadlock in Austria over the decree which made the Czech instead of the German language the official language of Bohemia will long be remembered for the riotous demonstrations which it evoked in Vienna and other cities, and for the turbulence scene which were enacted in the lower house of the Reichsrath. The prorogation of that body was deemed to be the only means by which to quiet the excitement that had been aroused, and engage in efforts at some compromise. Since the Reichsrath was prorogued there have been many conferences between the Austrian and Hungarian ministers, while the new Austrian premier and the leaders of the various parliamentary divisions have discussed terms of settlement, but the Reichsrath cannot be indefinitely prorogued and the only question is as to the degree of opposition which the government will present to the Germans when that body reassembles. Besides the question of language, too, there is that of the compact which binds Austria and Hungary together at its present juncture. As a continued provi lona for another year, and six months of that period will soon have elapsed, the Hungarians hold fast to the position on which they first took, that the Reichsrath must finally settle the matter, and there is no telling what wild and insane acts that body will again be guilty of when it re-convenes.

OTHER LAND THAN OURS.

The same monotonous and melancholy tale of increasing suffering and a more desperate outlook comes day by day from Crete. The distress in the eastern provinces is most serious in the wine-growing districts. Last year half the crop was destroyed, and it is feared that this year's crop will share the same fate, through the peasants' inability to purchase the vines. Formerly the peasants obtained supplies of sulphur from Candia, but now they are unable to do so, and the peasants, wholly deprived of means, are unable to import sulphur at all. This implies the loss of more than a year's earnings, unless the sulphur is applied in time, the vine dies down and does not bear again for three or four years. This is the chief reason for the exodus from the eastern districts, and the abandonment of the land will seriously affect the future revenue of the island. The admirals might mitigate the evil by opening communication with Candia, but the alleged reason for not doing this is the large number—say, 3,000—of troops that would be required, and the expense entailed. Were the measure adopted, the situation would be improved, and Christians and Mohammedans alike would be benefited.

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The agrarian discontent in Hungary was the subject of animated and bitter discussion during the recent debate on the budget in the Hungarian Reichstag. There seems to be no doubt that the chief cause of the agitation among the small farmers is the agricultural laborers is the rapid and steady growth of large estates, with the consequent reduction of a proud and independent peasantry, filled with the landowner's desire to a condition of pauperism and dependence which has been further aggravated by the agricultural distress of recent years. Indeed, one of the representatives of the peasantry has raised the spectre of a general revolt of the peasantry as a pretext for a still more energetic action on the part of the authorities, including restrictions on the liberty of the press in the disaffected districts, frankly acknowledged the root of the evil to be in the condition of the lower classes of the agricultural population. He recommended palliative measures in those parts where the poverty of the smaller holders was driving them into the Socialist ranks, and in those where the condition of the peasantry was such as to require a purely agricultural state to one with a considerable and growing industry is a burning question, whose gravity is bound to increase. The intervention in the debate of the Catholic People's party, the Hungarian representatives and the industry is being regarded as very significant. This group, following the same tactics by which the Austrian market was closed against the Hungarian meat, is endeavoring to place the entire responsibility on the capitalists and the Liberal system of government.

FINANCES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Dingler Law Proves a Growing Revenue Producer. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. For the first time in several years the month of February shows an excess of governmental receipts over expenditures. In February, 1894, the expenditures were, in round figures, \$4,500,000 over the receipts. The excess on the same side of the account for the same month was \$3,000,000 in 1895, \$700,000 in 1896 and \$4,400,000 in 1897. In February, 1898, the government's income exceeded its outgo to the extent of nearly \$2,000,000. Nobody will need to be told that this is a highly encouraging exhibit. Expenditures are large, but receipts are going beyond them. Both customs and internal taxes are on the increase. The Dingler act is meeting the expectations of its framers. The revenue estimates of tariff bills are usually uncertain. So many factors which cannot be accurately gauged in advance enter into the calculation that predictions for receipts are widely margin for error. In the case of the present act, however, the forecasts were reasonably correct.

A remarkable feature of the operation of the Dingler law is that it has been steadily growing in revenue productiveness from the beginning. The average daily receipts, taking the month of February as a basis, in September than in August, in October than in September, and in every other month than in its predecessor. They were \$629,744 in 1897, \$675,000 in 1898, \$700,000 in 1899, \$750,000 in 1900, \$800,000 in 1901, \$850,000 in 1902, \$900,000 in 1903, \$950,000 in 1904, \$1,000,000 in 1905, \$1,050,000 in 1906, \$1,100,000 in 1907, \$1,150,000 in 1908, \$1,200,000 in 1909, \$1,250,000 in 1910, \$1,300,000 in 1911, \$1,350,000 in 1912, \$1,400,000 in 1913, \$1,450,000 in 1914, \$1,500,000 in 1915, \$1,550,000 in 1916, \$1,600,000 in 1917, \$1,650,000 in 1918, \$1,700,000 in 1919, \$1,750,000 in 1920, \$1,800,000 in 1921, \$1,850,000 in 1922, \$1,900,000 in 1923, \$1,950,000 in 1924, \$2,000,000 in 1925, \$2,050,000 in 1926, \$2,100,000 in 1927, \$2,150,000 in 1928, \$2,200,000 in 1929, \$2,250,000 in 1930, \$2,300,000 in 1931, \$2,350,000 in 1932, \$2,400,000 in 1933, \$2,450,000 in 1934, \$2,500,000 in 1935, \$2,550,000 in 1936, \$2,600,000 in 1937, \$2,650,000 in 1938, \$2,700,000 in 1939, \$2,750,000 in 1940, \$2,800,000 in 1941, \$2,850,000 in 1942, \$2,900,000 in 1943, \$2,950,000 in 1944, \$3,000,000 in 1945, \$3,050,000 in 1946, \$3,100,000 in 1947, \$3,150,000 in 1948, \$3,200,000 in 1949, \$3,250,000 in 1950, \$3,300,000 in 1951, \$3,350,000 in 1952, \$3,400,000 in 1953, \$3,450,000 in 1954, \$3,500,000 in 1955, \$3,550,000 in 1956, \$3,600,000 in 1957, \$3,650,000 in 1958, \$3,700,000 in 1959, \$3,750,000 in 1960, \$3,800,000 in 1961, \$3,850,000 in 1962, \$3,900,000 in 1963, \$3,950,000 in 1964, \$4,000,000 in 1965, \$4,050,000 in 1966, \$4,100,000 in 1967, \$4,150,000 in 1968, \$4,200,000 in 1969, \$4,250,000 in 1970, \$4,300,000 in 1971, \$4,350,000 in 1972, \$4,400,000 in 1973, \$4,450,000 in 1974, \$4,500,000 in 1975, \$4,550,000 in 1976, \$4,600,000 in 1977, \$4,650,000 in 1978, \$4,700,000 in 1979