

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George B. 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 November 1898, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation category and number. Includes Total, Less unsold and returned copies, and Net total sales.

Frank Ransom's partner will not be city attorney for a while yet.

The Omaha Evening Bee is the newspaper of largest circulation in Douglas county.

Under modern medical science even smallpox has become a comparatively harmless contagion.

The Bee does not have to give its advertising away. Advertising worth having is worth paying a fair price for.

Charter revision committees are already in active operation in Lincoln, South Omaha and other Nebraska cities.

A business legislature conducted on business methods, giving the people legislation in the interest of economy, is the demand of the people irrespective of political party.

With a new trial ordered in the Oerter gambling case the efforts of the gamblers' gang to have the attorney who defended Oerter appointed to prosecute him will be redoubled.

The ice harvest has commenced, but the harvest of the ice companies is deferred until next summer, when people will probably be compelled as usual to pay prices prevailing in the tropics.

The decision of the supreme court in the Bartley bond case is hardly calculated to give encouragement to State Treasurer Meserve in his quest of sureties on his new official bond.

If congress does not expedite the army reorganization bill it will not be for lack of pressure from the friends of volunteers whose mustering out must await the enlargement of the regular army.

Hostilities will now be resumed between the state of Nebraska and the Bartley bondsmen. There is still room for hope that a portion of the vacuum in the state treasury may be refilled.

The Bartley bond case will go to a trial shortly and the sheriff will be given another chance to impress a few more intelligent jurymen into the service who never even heard of such a man as Bartley.

The local popocratic organ finds it hard to determine over which it shall shed the most tears—the extinction of the Branch claim to the mayoralty of the snuffing out of the Herdman gang of outlaw police commissioners.

Applicants for liquor licenses or druggists' permits will take notice that by the decision of the supreme court of Nebraska The Omaha Evening Bee is the newspaper of largest circulation by law entitled to the publication of all license notices.

The War Investigating commission is attempting to find out why the Spanish prisoners of war were sent home at the expense of this government. That is an easy one. It was cheaper to send them home than to feed them, especially in view of the appetites cultivated by long-continued short rations.

The announcement from Lincoln that the populist state committee had settled up the financial affairs of the late campaign will be a relief to the hungry popocrats who see no chance of securing a dividend until another campaign. A campaign surplus is a sure sign of campaign mismanagement.

The report comes from Chicago that all hard and fast agreements regarding freight and passenger traffic having been declared illegal, the railroad managers will adopt another plan to stop the mutual throat-cutting. Each line is to make its own tariff sheet, so the fact that the rates from all competitive points are the same on all roads will be only a coincidence. In the railway verbiage this will be no pool, no traffic association, but simply "an agreement," and when it is all done the public pays the freight.

A RIGHTIOUS ORDER.

Nebraska taxpayers will hail with satisfaction the rightious order of the supreme court for a new trial in the Bartley bond case. At the time the verdict was rendered in last February, winding out all liability of the sureties on the bond, The Bee denounced it as an unmitigated outrage in the following emphatic language:

The verdict rendered by the jury in the suit brought by the state to recover on the bond of Joseph S. Bartley the amount embezzled by him during his second term as state treasurer is an unmitigated outrage upon the people of Nebraska as well as a travesty upon law and justice. The making of this jury made it practically certain from the start that the state could not secure a verdict at its hands whatever the proofs might be. But nobody, not even the attorneys of the defendant, believed that these twelve men could be persuaded to bring in a finding relieving Bartley and his sureties from all responsibility.

The evidence presented in the bond suit was the same as that upon which Bartley had been convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to a twenty-year term in the penitentiary. The charge of the judge positively instructed the jury that the bond was valid and that the bondsmen must be held responsible for whatever shortage was proved to have originated during the two years for which it was given. While there might have been an honest difference of opinion as to the amount embezzled by Bartley during his second term, no honest man who heard and read the testimony could have believed that the jury would nullify the bond and release the sureties from every dollar of obligation.

The plea that a verdict in favor of the state was demanded as a vindication of Governor Holcomb's action in approving the bond is very ingenious, but is not for a jury to rob the taxpayers in order to censure the governor. The governor's reckoning must be with the people at the ballot box or with the legislature when it comes to review his acts. A censure that costs the taxpayer public of Nebraska from \$400,000 to \$600,000 is rather an expensive way of expressing displeasure.

In bringing in such an outrageous verdict in defiance of the instructions of the court the jury throws upon Douglas county the burden of another costly re-trial which the supreme court will undoubtedly order. It is bad enough that this county has been obliged to stand the enormous expense of a re-trial with prosecution with a verdict the identical one of having him for an indefinite time. To impose upon the county the further burden of a third trial of the bond suit is utterly without justification.

The case against the Bartley bondsmen will have to be tried again and it is hoped with better success for the state. The legislature, however, should reimburse Douglas county for the tremendous expense it has been put to in the prosecution of Bartley and his bondsmen because this expense properly belongs to the people of the whole state.

OBJECT LESSON FOR FREE TRADERS. An English paper remarks that the American export figures are so prodigious as to confound free traders and the time has arrived for England to consider her whole economic position. While the exports of the United States have been rapidly increasing, at no time more so than since the present tariff act went into effect, the export trade of England has declined. A short time ago the president of the British Board of Trade said he regretted to have to confess that the exports for the year which ended with October had decreased \$13,000,000, "chiefly through the alteration of the United States tariff," observing further that "although we ought not to be surprised that we are being so rapidly overhauled in exports by other nations, especially by the United States and Germany, it is a regrettable fact that while since 1891 the exports of the United States have increased 18 per cent, Great Britain's exports have decreased 5 per cent." But such facts have no weight with the American free traders, who go on insisting that our tariff policy is a hindrance to our export trade.

It should be understood that British reference to our exports relates entirely to manufactured products. It is the increase in this direction that is significant. This is that completely upsets the free trade contention that our protective policy kept us out of the world's markets and that we could never expect industrial supremacy until we abandoned that policy and adopted the British economic system. The facts are most conclusive against free trade doctrine, yet it continues to have adherents and advocates, though evidence is not lacking that their number is decreasing.

AN OBSTRUCTIVE TREATY.

A resolution has been introduced in the United States senate declaring it to be the sense of that body that the president enter into negotiations with the government of Great Britain for the purpose of abrogating or modifying the Clayton-Bulwer treaty "so far and to the extent that the same may be deemed to prevent the United States from owning, constructing, controlling or operating an interoceanic canal across the isthmus of Darien."

This treaty, negotiated forty-eight years ago, is held by some to interpose an absolute barrier to the acquisition of military control of the Nicaragua canal by the United States. It provides that neither Great Britain nor the United States shall in peace or in war ever acquire "any exclusive control over the said ship canal," that "neither will erect or maintain any fortifications commanding the same" and that the two governments will guarantee the neutrality of the canal and invite other nations to enter into similar agreements with them. It has been urged by some of our statesmen that the treaty has in effect been abrogated by reason of the isolation of some of its terms by the British government, but others hold that it is still in force and it is needless to say that this is the British view. Referring to what President McKinley said in his message favoring the construction of a transisthmian canal the London Times said: "If the freedom of the waterway is secured to the ships of all nations, as in the Suez canal, we shall not need to stand strictly on claims which originated when circumstances were altogether different." Other British papers have clearly indicated that they regard the Clayton-Bulwer treaty as being in full force and also that the United States will be expected to comply with all the conditions and requirements, should the government construct and control the Nicaragua canal. But as suggested in the remarks of the London Times, Great Britain might not insist upon claims made under altogether different circumstances if the canal should be neutralized, that is, if it should remain open to the ships of all nations, whether in time of war or in peace. Otherwise it is not doubted that Great Britain would protest and very likely with the support of the other maritime powers.

The advocates of government control of the Nicaragua canal do not want it neutralized. In peace it would of course be open to the ships of all nations, but they desire that it shall be in the power of the government to declare it closed to the ships of any other nation in time of war. In other words, they want the United States to have the exclusive military advantage of the canal. The treaty stands in the way of this. Assuming that the senate resolution will be adopted, the question is will the British government agree to abrogate the treaty or to make such modification of it as will permit the United States to have exclusive control of the Nicaragua canal without any guarantee in regard to its neutralization in peace and war? It is very doubtful, for obviously such a concession might place Great Britain in a very awkward position, since it would certainly encounter the vigorous protest of other maritime powers. There could not be a more auspicious time, however, for entering upon negotiations with a view to the abrogation or modification of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. That compact has for years been a source of more or less irritating controversy between the two governments and it is clearly in the interest of friendly relations that this cause of difference and dispute, growing out of conflicting interpretations, be removed. The proposed negotiation should be authorized and entered into as soon as possible.

THE PAPER OF LARGEST CIRCULATION. The decision just rendered by the supreme court interpreting the law relating to the publication of liquor license notices in the newspaper of largest circulation in the country in which the application is made is a complete victory for The Bee on the points at issue. It establishes, as far as the court could do so, the right of The Omaha Evening Bee to all advertising by law required to be published in the paper of largest circulation in this country. This decision should furthermore effectually put at rest the absurd pretense made by the publishers of the Morning World-Herald that for purposes of legal advertising those two papers constitute one paper under the fictitious name of the Daily World-Herald, whose circulation can be combined for comparison with the circulation of The Omaha Evening Bee. The supreme court substantially declares that there is no such newspaper as the so-called Daily World-Herald and the decision has the unanimous concurrence of all the judges. So many misleading statements have been made with reference to the contents for liquor license publication that it is not impertinent to inform the public correctly upon several points. From the enactment of the present license law in 1881 The Omaha Evening Bee has been continuously the paper of largest circulation in Douglas county and thereby entitled to this advertising. No applicant who advertised his notice in The Omaha Evening Bee has ever been refused a license on the ground of defective publication. In all pretended comparisons of circulation before public boards the publishers of the Morning and Evening World-Heralds have combined the circulation of these two papers against that of The Omaha Evening Bee, yet in every instance The Omaha Evening Bee has shown a circulation to bona fide paid subscribers in this county in excess of the combined circulations of those two papers—in most instances in excess by several thousand.

These facts should be of interest not only to the general newspaper reader, but also to the newspaper advertiser, who here has tangible proof of the superior circulation of The Bee over all competitors.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. Chicago News (Ind.): On the whole, the message is a calm, conservative, business-like review of the condition and needs of the country, entirely free from boastfulness and indicating the "safety" qualities the president has conspicuously displayed. It is the measured statement of one who has made history as well as of one who can intelligently review it.

Philadelphia Ledger (rep.): The reticence of the president's message as to the future status in the possessions coming to us under the Paris treaty will be generally accepted by the American public as prudent and sagacious. This reserve of the executive respecting the disposition of our prospective acquisitions and the relation in which they should stand to the union is entirely proper at this time, and in taking this course the president has observed the limitations of executive functions.

Indianapolis Journal (rep.): The whole message bears upon its face the purpose of the president to lay before congress and the country the general acts of the administration, the condition of public affairs and our relations with other nations. What recommendations he has made will not arouse partisan hostility or create dissensions in his country. If the country does not find new policies set forth, it will find that President McKinley is the head of an administration and is familiar with all affairs of the government.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

Dr. von Miquel's expulsion policy—for it is attributed to him—seems to be causing a good deal of trouble between Prussia and her neighbors. It began with the expulsion of a hundred or more Danes from Schleswig. That was particularly exasperating to the Danes, because Schleswig was formerly a Danish province and was forcibly wrested from Denmark by Prussia in 1864, wherefore expelling the Danes from it seems to them like expulsion from their own right-ful home. But the Prussian government did not stop there. It went on to expel a number of Dutch folk from Westphalia. Then it drove from Breslau some Polish Jews who had ventured across the border. And finally it expelled, also from Breslau, a number of Austrian Slavs, from Bohemia, Denmark and Holland had not ventured off to reemigrate, though their newspaper press raged against King William's government—not against him personally, since he was then on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land. But Austria has not been so complacent. Her prime minister is the great Bohemian Slav nobleman, Count von Thun, and he spoke and acted with decision. He prevailed upon the imperial foreign minister, Count Goluchowski, to insist, in order to make strong protest and be assured the Reichsrath that Austrians in Prussia would be protected or, if necessary, retaliatory measures would be adopted. That, of course, made trouble. Down to that moment many important Prussian journals had disapproved or questioned the wisdom of Dr. von Miquel's policy. But these utterances at Vienna turned them instantly to hot support of the government. So at present they are showing their teeth and growling all manner of threats at Prussia—Germany's ally in the triple alliance and even suggested that Prussia is entirely ready to see that alliance dissolved.

A letter from St. Petersburg to the Hamburg Correspondent gives some interesting details of the activity and energy displayed by the Russians at Port Arthur. The writer says that the work of deepening and enlarging the harbor goes on day and night and before long there will be water for the largest ironclad. In the town masons, carpenters and all sorts of artisans are busy. Storehouses, arsenals, government buildings spring up in a night and the place is rapidly assuming a civilized appearance. Private enterprises keep pace with official activity. The number of commercial houses which establish branch offices there is daily increasing. Contrary to its custom, the Russian government is doing everything to promote the development of the place. Postal affairs are zealously regulated, private telegrams and telegraph lines are kept up, regular intercourse with Chefoo and Nagasaki. From the Russian postoffice at Chefoo daily communication by land with Irkutsk, via Tientsin, has been organized, so that from the largest ironclad, which our government Russia can be reached in about four weeks, while only a short time ago months were necessary. Telegraphic communication, which is still by way of Vladivostok, leaves much to be desired, but the government is devoting its attention to that point. It is positively stated that the government intends soon to begin building extensive docks, etc.

Rahetta, a strip of land on the Red Sea under the nominal protection of Italy, is now said to be coveted by France and Russia, while in Rome it is asserted that English influence is being brought to bear upon the Italian government to part with it to the British empire. The other day, as was told by small ships, a party of French marines landed there and only withdrew after several sharp messages had passed between Rome and Paris. Rahetta is said in official circles in London to be of as much importance to England as to Italy. This is recognized as a fact. Rahetta is a territory lying half way between the French settlement of Tadjura and Obok, and the Italian colony of Assab, forming the western coast of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb. It is believed that the hostile hands in the case of war it might neutralize the importance of the Island of Perim, which, as a possession of Great Britain, represents the key to the Red Sea from the Indian ocean. With the exception of this possible strategic importance, Rahetta is recognized in Paris as well as in Rome, but perhaps not in London, to be next to worthless. The coast is almost completely deserted. Ten miles to the north of the point opposite Perim there is a small and inconvenient bay. Thence a path, about five miles long, leads to the village known as Rahetta, capital of the region, and the only settlement of any importance. Prof. Giuseppe Sapeto, the representative of the Rubattino Steamship Company, as he purchased for Italy the territory of Assab and was entrusted later on with the task of enlarging it. December 18, 1880, acting on behalf of the Italian emperor, King of Rome, he signed with the Sultan of Rahetta, the treaty by which the latter accepted the Italian protectorate, receiving in exchange a yearly money compensation. Not long ago the question of Rahetta was brought up in the British House of Commons, when the rumor got abroad that Meneke, whose vessel, the "Sultan" of Rahetta, had had the territory to Russia. Since the defeat of the Italians by the Negus, three years ago, their traders have practically abandoned that part of the coast.

Some significant figures have just been published by M. Noel, a Frenchman, showing the rates of mortality in the French army, especially in the colonies. It appears that while the mortality of French officers in France in 1895 was 5.67 per 1,000, in the colonies it was 39.8, nearly eight times as great. It was greatest among lieutenants, especially the unacclimatized, in detached posts, least among seniors less exposed. Among the troops the mortality per 1,000 was as follows: France, 6.08; Algeria, 12.77; Tunisia, 11.4; the marine, 11; colonial army, 42.8. Here the men in the "colonies" suffered just as they times as much as at home. It seems that the less men are removed from their accustomed work, the smaller their mortality; the more exacting the military service required, the greater the mortality; the more men are "selected," the less the mortality in the army. The inference is that many of the recruits in the French army undergo a very superficial medical examination on conscription and are really unfit for active service, tropical or otherwise. The highest death rate in France among soldiers is under twenty-three years of age; after this mortality declines. In the various garrisons in France the lowest mortality, 3.18 per 1,000, is at Lille, and the highest, 8.01, at Clermont; chiefly due, in 1895, to influenza, pulmonary diseases, and typhoid fever. In Algeria the death rate is influenced essentially by typhoid fever. Both these death rates are low compared with 103.1 in Madagascar and 107.1 in the Sudan (West Africa). In the home army the heaviest mortality is during the period of instruction—that is, numbers of French conscripts succumb in training; in the colonies it is the prolonged exposure which kills.

General Lord Kitchener's appeal for funds to found a Gordon Memorial college at Khartoum was responded to with truly remarkable alacrity, the \$500,000 required having been subscribed within a week. No memorial of the hero of Khartoum could have been devised that would have been more fitting than the establishment of a seat of learning at the place where he was overtake by the deluge of barbarism. According to Lord Kitchener the institution will carefully abstain from all efforts in proselyting, it being considered preferable to make good Mohammedans than bad Christians of the natives. It is interesting to take as in others, the Sirdar bids fair to prove his sagacious foresight. There are 20,000,000 Moslems in Kordofan and in the Bah-el-Ghazal region, and their reconciliation to British rule is quite as important as was the defeat of the Dervishes.

LAUGHING GAS. Somerville Journal: Only a bold man will wear a tall silk hat in snowfall time.

Puck: The Medium—The spirit of your deceased wife is now here. Do you wish to ask her any questions? A Newly-Made Widow: Yes; tell her I want to know where she put my winter flannels.

Truth: Miss De Stuyve-Oh, major! did you ever go to a military ball? Oh, veteran! No, my dear young lady; in those days I had a military ball come to me. It nearly took my leg off!

Chicago Post: "You seemed to have every confidence in your candidate," they said to the political manager. "How did he go in the race?" "He went lame," was the disconsolate reply.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Speaking of 'riffs,'" said the Cheerful Idiot. "What 'riffs'?" "The sarcasmic humor," said the other. "How did he go in the race?" "It often takes a round sum to square things."

Detroit Free Press: "How can you endure that man?" asked one member of the club another. "There is nothing in it," said the other. "You never made a greater mistake in your life," he came the quick reply. "He's full of himself."

NEW ROUTES FOR DRUMMERS.

Hai Morris in Commercial Traveller's "Emt. When the commercial travelers return from present trips, and walk into the office, to obtain their new route-slips. Perhaps they will encounter some surprising changes in the schedule (some sections I append).

"From Chicago unto Denver, and work Seattle, then take a run up the Yukon and Dawson City, do. Come back to San Francisco, next Hawaiian Islands take. From there, perhaps, to Adronde Isles you had better investigate."

"Now work our new possessions round Manila, best you can; And I reckon we'll branch out and cry China and Japan. There is bound to be some business 'long to the new Siberia,' but before he's been whipped than he is after."

"Work in Asia Minor, before the Germans take the Kaiser's trip most surely will install. Then tackle the Nile valley, and Fashoda and Khartoum. Wake up with our advertising and make those sections boom."

"Run around by Madagascar—next Paul Kruger interview. Then see if Cecil Rhodes don't want a cart of our goods. Take the steamer then for Sydney, but don't linger long time there. For we was you quite as possible to get to Buenos Ayres."

"Through Mexico and Yucatan, a flying trip will do. For we will the Isle of Cuba worked through and through. And after a short canvass in Porto Rico's little isle. Perhaps you may run in a week—just to see your wife while."

Great Scott! if the "Expansionists" continue to annoy. I wonder where the firm will think of sending a man. For in the wake of conquest you will find progressive firms. Sending out the "bustling drummer" soon as powder's ceased to burn.

WEDNESDAY WE TOLD YOU ABOUT REEFER SUITS—THE KIND ALWAYS SOLD AT 6.50, 7.50 AND 8.00—WE WERE CLOSING OUT AT.....\$5.00

Yesterday we also told you about Russian Blouse Suits—the 6.00, 6.50 and 7.50 qualities—that we were closing out at...\$5.00

Today we are going to tell you about our high novelty Sailor and Vestee Suits—Here is a great opportunity—All of these dainty novelties that we carry, and there are many different styles of material and oddities of make and trimming—hardly two alike—suits that have sold at 6.50, 7.50 and 8.50, we offer you your choice of any suit mentioned at.....\$5.00

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