

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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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,

Table showing circulation statistics for various newspapers in Douglas County, Nebraska, including The Omaha Daily Bee, The Daily Morning, and The Daily Evening.

Net daily sales 730,693. Net daily average 23,571.

Sworn to before me and subscribed by my presence this 31st day of December, 1898.

THE TREASURY BALANCES. The treasury balances, as figured out by the city controller, are a fine exhibition of "now you see it and now you don't."

General Wood's endorsement of army beef may be expected soon to appear on every can, with the warning to the public that none genuine is without the testimonial in face-simile.

Organized labor is not asking much at the hands of the present legislature. Its reasonable demands ought to be heeded and promptly granted without protracted controversy.

The Jacksonian brand of democratic harmony appears to have merely strengthened its flavor by its capture of the office of county attorney and the control of the county board.

The Nebraska legislature has been in session almost two weeks and no appropriation has been passed to pay the salary of the members.

The Nebraska thief captured up in South Dakota, who took everything from a marriage certificate to a team of mules, is certainly a versatile artist.

What is to become of the professional war healer and leg-puller if the Olmstead bill becomes law limiting the amount of money that candidates can lawfully pay out before and after their nominations.

The new park board will shortly be open for business, but the change in the personnel of the members does not mean that there is to be any radical change in the policy of the board to develop a creditable park system.

Republicans in the legislature should unsent nobody who was plainly elected as the choice of the people expressed at the polls.

Translated the message of the War Investigating commission to Commissioner General Eagan is an invitation to revise his remarks before printing by substituting language that expresses the same ideas in terms more current in polite society.

The council must soon wrestle with that annual tax levy, but before the public performance will have to have a few preliminary bouts with boards, department heads and employees who are sure they cannot possibly get along without a big increase in the appropriations for their respective offices.

It is real mean of the republican legislators, supposed to believe in the protection of home industry, to introduce bills to cut off the privileges and perquisites of the campaign leg-puller.

The council has issued an order to buy \$1,000 worth of street cleaning. This is at best buying street cleaning on the installment plan, but people with low pocketbooks often find the installment plan the only one available.

Wherever the flag is assailed Nebraska comes in for its share of glory. The latest advice from Samoa bring into prominence Nebraska's consul, Judge L. W. Osborn, as the hero of the hour and defender of free institutions.

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In this instance, however, the irrepressible conflict was precipitated by belligerent natives who claim to have inherited the kingdom. What would have happened if Church Howe had been there is not related.

A VERY GOOD BEGINNING.

The legislature has made a very good beginning in the preliminary steps of lawmaking. If the limitation placed upon the number of employees and policy of strict economy is adhered to the taxpayers will have reason to be satisfied.

In other respects the course so far pursued in both houses indicates a determination to make the interests of the state paramount to partisan schemes. In both houses members have shown a disposition to vote according to their honest convictions even if they have to break over party lines.

Although the republicans control both branches of the legislature they do not propose to override the rights of the minority or to retaliate for the wrongs perpetrated by the last legislature, which unseated members who had been legally elected in order to carry into effect a partisan program.

The legislature is also to be commended for refraining from flooding the state house with unbecoming bills and imposing a needless burden upon the taxpayers in the cost of printing.

On the all-absorbing question, the election of a United States senator, the legislators are beginning to realize their grave responsibility. They realize that their duty will not be discharged by simply complimenting personal friends, but that they are expected to give the people of Nebraska a representative in the United States senate who will not only be a credit to the state, but will exert a potential influence in the councils of the nation.

On the heels of the reassuring report from General Otis in regard to conditions at Manila came advice from press correspondents which indicate a most threatening state of affairs. Not only are the Filipinos at Iloilo said to be fully prepared and determined to resist the American forces there if they attempt to take the city, but those near Manila are reported to be eager to attack the American forces there. Hatred of the Americans is said to be very strong among the native troops, who seem to be thoroughly imbued with the spirit of independence and firmly determined to fight for it if necessary.

It is impossible to doubt that the correspondents correctly represent the situation and the inevitable inference is that hostilities between the Filipino and American forces are imminent. Great care is undoubtedly being taken by General Otis not to aggravate matters and probably Aguirre is not disposed to precipitate a conflict, but it is a serious question as to how long the Filipino leader can hold his followers in restraint and prevent an aggressive movement on their part.

The assignment of Brigadier General Sumner to the command of the military Department of the Missouri with headquarters at Omaha is a welcome move on the part of the War department. General Sumner has been in control of this department since the departure of General Coppinger at the commencement of the war with Spain, but his duties have been divided between two departments, while personal headquarters were maintained in Denver as the head also of the Department of Colorado. As the Department of the Missouri is important enough to demand the entire attention of the commanding officer, it cannot fall to benefit by the change. Omaha furthermore has always entertained the most cordial relations with the army command stationed in this city and is sure to continue them with General Sumner, whose favor has already been enjoyed on more than one occasion.

Almost every one can find something in the news from the Philippines which will accord with his preconceived opinions. It is quiet there; the situation is improving; an insurgent attack on Manila is momentarily expected; the people desire annexation; the Filipinos will accept nothing but absolute independence, etc. Unlike the news which formerly came from Cuba it does not come on alternate days, like the shakes of the old-fashioned ague, but each day brings the same gist. At a distance of 8,000 miles it is pretty hard to arrive at any conclusion as to the actual state of affairs.

From the ease with which almost every man who takes a tax case into court succeeds in gaining his point it would almost seem that the man who promptly pays his taxes is entitled to rank as a public benefactor. Taxpayers are certainly entitled to reasonable protection, but the average mortal is impressed that there is something radically wrong with the system of judicial interpretation which puts a premium on tax shirking and all kindred efforts to evade the responsibilities which the great majority cheerfully accept.

It is a serious question whether the proposed \$500 state tax on foreign insurance companies will hold water if the local fire insurance companies are exempted. The constitution expressly provides that taxation shall be uniform and that clause can only be interpreted that taxes must be imposed uniformly upon each class of property. For example, if a license tax were imposed upon express companies the tax would have to be uniform whether they are owned by Nebraska corporations or foreign corporations.

Chicago has always been noted for its original methods, but the latest proposal that the municipality go into the pawnbrokerage business, loaning money at 1 per cent a month, is rather radical even for the Windy City. What an admirable fence such an institution would be through which municipal crooks could dispose of their plunder. People might expect to pick up everything from a street railway franchise to a peddler's license at the annual sale of unredeemed soakables.

Escape of the Real Caliphs. New York Times. President McKinley has deemed it judicious to pardon Leech late in the year took part in a miniature rebellion last summer and there is no reason whatever to doubt that their case was one calling for the exercise of executive clemency.

President McKinley has deemed it judicious to pardon Leech late in the year took part in a miniature rebellion last summer and there is no reason whatever to doubt that their case was one calling for the exercise of executive clemency. But what has become of the white officials and their business partners in the lumber and other businesses who forced the Indians, as the only

United States should withdraw from the islands it would "create another Cuba off the coast of Asia, for which naval nations would scramble." British solicitude in this matter being prompted wholly by a lively appreciation of British interests, Americans will do well to keep this fact in mind when considering British views as to the American policy regarding the Philippines.

San Francisco proposes holding an international fair in 1901. St. Louis has been interested in the Louisiana purchase exposition. Detroit, Toledo, Omaha and one or two other American cities have similar plans. So those Americans who are unable to go to Paris next year will be able to find consolation nearer at home.

The number of commercial failures in the United States in 1898 was 15 per cent less than in 1897 and 42 per cent less than in 1896, and the average liabilities per failure were the lowest on record. Such facts speak volumes for the soundness of present business conditions and the ease of the money market which paralyze the voluble tongue of the professional calamity shrieker.

These Filipinos are sick people. The national flag, through the fortune of war, has taken their case in hand. It is the physician. It knows best what is good for them in their debilitated state. Its intentions toward them are all kindly. Its slightest word will help them. Its duty, therefore, is to control them at this time if need may, even against their own will. There is no tyranny about the matter, but only good. When the Filipinos get their health and strength they will appreciate beyond all others what is now being undertaken for them.

The men who were not to rely upon gold fields with no reserve fund to rely upon are stranded there, with no hope of getting out and with every prospect of starving to death if they stay in. The prizes in the golden lottery are few and far between. Those who have drawn blanks are in the great majority and private charity cannot possibly afford relief to the destitute. Probably there will have to be relief from the government. It is true that the men who are starving in the gold fields are not getting help. They are in a deal with immediate distress rather than with the causes which produced it. It may be added that the United States government would probably be expending its money quite as worthily in relieving the starving in the gold fields as in expending it on them and then spending more money in shipping them into abomination.

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OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

England continues to prepare for war. The army is being rapidly equipped and improved and the navy is being enlarged with the greatest possible speed.

Among the defeated candidates for office in Nevada last fall was Goth Hat, a North Carolina man who wedded to his silver idol. The legislature squelched a proposition to adopt the "golden rod" as a state flower.

The suggestion coming from Helena that \$1,000 bills were flashed there, and no takers, is a reflection on the townspeople. Montana are not built that way. Of rich, red sporting blood they have an abundance.

The comparatively new nationality of Belgium appears to be too weak to insure the peace against racial rivalries and irreconcilable differences which threaten once more to divide the country into two parts.

The official reports of the German labor market in 1897, which have just been published, tell a story of steady commercial and industrial prosperity. In almost all branches of industry there was an increase in the number of those employed.

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POLITICAL DRIFT.

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TRITE TAKE-OFFS.

Chicago Tribune: "There! That's what they call a true lover's knot. If you can pull it apart, why you've done it all right! What's the trick?"

Washington Star: "Never mind," said the Spanish courier, comfortingly to the boy king. "You needn't let it happen again."

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