

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION...

Omaha: The Bee Building, South Omaha City Hall building, Twenty-fifth and N streets...

CORRESPONDENCE. Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed: To the Editor.

BUSINESS LETTERS. Business letters and remittances should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha...

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: George B. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company...

Table with 3 columns: Date, Circulation, and Total. Rows include dates from 1897 to 1898.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 1st day of December, 1898. (Seal) N. P. FEILL, Notary Public.

Investing in kindergarten pianos is expensive child's play.

The most conspicuous article on the front page of a Manila paper is an advertisement of a Milwaukee brewery.

The three boys who tried to wreck a pay car at Boise, Idaho, had probably just finished "The Heroic Adventures of Jesse James" and a few choice selections of Old Sleuth's retelling literature.

The list of people who have bilked the gas company out of 25,000,000 cubic feet of gas the past year would make interesting reading for the consumers who paid their gas bills and the public generally.

With a sufficient army, a bountiful supply of sour mash and a few concert halls of the Dawson City type, we should find no difficulty in engraffing our civilization into the green stock of the Filipino.

During these days of doubtful issues Hon. David B. Hill is keeping his mouth as diplomatically shut as though he were not dead but slumbered, and expected a stroke of political lightning some day to wake him up.

The estimated cost of street repairing for the coming year is \$30,000. It is safe to say that at least one-half of that amount is the penalty paid for the crime of paving the public thoroughfares with wretched wooden blocks and other cheap and perishable material.

Five per cent royalty, which the gas company is required to pay into the city treasury annually, amounted to \$11,400 for the past year, affording striking proof of the wisdom and benefit in exacting a franchise royalty in the contract made four years ago.

The Hon. Dove Muskrat proposes to show the full weight of his trouserless personality against all enervating reforms, and consequently he is now on the way to Washington to protest against the ratification of the treaty dissolving the tribal relations of the Cherokee Indians.

General Sangully in going to Washington to make complaint against General Brooke for failing to accord to him the courtesies due to his rank has performed for himself the same services requested by old Dogberry, when that worthy exclaimed, "Oh, for some one to write me down an ass!"

The Democrats of the West Virginia house of delegates having duly unseated enough republican members to give it a safe working majority, has notified the governor that it is ready for business. However, the senate is to be heard from later on, and when it reports ready for business, the chances are that there will be enough democratic senators without a job to even up matters.

Surveyors are at work in the suburbs of Omaha, running lines from the north-eastern quarter of the city southward, presumably to South Omaha. What company is doing this work has not been disclosed, but the survey is causing a great deal of interesting speculation as to what it portends. We know there are several railways heading for Omaha, but it was not supposed they proposed to invade the interior of the state.

The Bee cheerfully accords space to the statement of President Penfold of the Board of Education "contradicting the charges made by Mr. Van Gilder in relation to the purchase of text books. These charges had been made in the open session of the board and it was perfectly natural for the Bee to take it for granted that the figures cited and assertions made by Mr. Van Gilder were substantially correct. The explanation made by Mr. Penfold places the matter in a different light and will go far toward dispelling the unfavorable impression created against the members who voted for the appropriation to the American school book concern.

CURRENCY BILL RECOMMENDED.

The currency bill reported to the house of representatives at the banking and currency committee at the first regular session of congress was on Tuesday recommitted, at the instance of the republican members of the committee. This undoubtedly means that the measure will not again be heard of at this session and that no further effort for currency revision is to be made in the present congress. If such is the decision it is wisely taken, since it is not possible to accomplish anything and currency discussion in the house could have no good result. The McCleary bill—as the recommitted measure is called—is perhaps satisfactory to the currency reformers generally, but it has not received that measure of popular approval which its authors expected and besides existing conditions are not favorable to such legislation. There is nothing in the financial situation that calls for or would justify such radical changes in the currency system as this bill provides for. We are steadily accumulating gold, the legal tender notes are causing the treasury no trouble and are not likely to in the near future, and public sentiment is perhaps stronger than ever before in opposition to a policy which would give the national banks the monopoly of the paper currency of the country. The business interests of the nation are as a whole very well satisfied with the currency system as it is, it having been most conclusively shown that the assumption that the system is an obstacle to prosperity is entirely fallacious. The country has had during the past year the greatest foreign and domestic commerce in its history; there has been an enormous augmentation of capital and a large increase in the circulation. This demonstrates that our currency system is not as bad as the reformers urge and that no such radical changes in it as they propose are necessary to business prosperity, as they have persistently contended.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce, who gives close attention to the trend of financial opinion in congress, observes that the remarkable economical tendencies of the last two years, which have made the United States one of the great storehouses of gold of the world and promise to continue the process by means of the great trade balance in its favor, are inspiring the belief among some members that the retirement of the greenbacks is no longer an absolute necessity. "The great influx of gold into the country," he says, "has modified the views of some of the currency reformers also in regard to the details of providing a banking currency. They are now convinced that the country will never be subjected to such a severe pressure for the yellow metal as in 1883 and that a broader basis of metallic reserves might be properly required as the basis of the bank note circulation." Such views, it may confidently be anticipated, will grow and become more general, until those who see evils and dangers in our currency system will constitute an insignificant minority and the demand for the elimination of the legal tender notes from the currency will become so feeble as not to command any attention.

With the United States possessing a larger stock of gold than any other nation and steadily adding to it, the gold standard is secure. There can be no danger from the government notes which we have this vast supply of gold. Thus the chief reason advanced by the currency reformers in support of their policy is swept away and there is little else for it to rest upon.

General Ludlow has begun the moral sanitation of Havana. The outcasts who sleep in the parks are being picked up each night and where they are able to work they are put to sweeping the streets at 90 cents per day. Children and those physically disabled are cared for in an improvised hospital. This task is likely to prove more difficult than the work of physical sanitation, but it is equally, if not more, important, and General Ludlow deserves credit for the promptness with which he has grappled with the problem.

The "Paul Jones flag" that was saved from the "Bon Homme Richard" in her engagement with the "Serapis" has just been presented to the National museum. It is claimed that this was the first American flag ever hoisted over a man-of-war and the first ever saluted by a foreign power, but it may be remarked in passing that not less than nine other flags now in existence claim a similar honor.

The gas company has paid \$11,400 into the city treasury under the provisions of its contract that exacts the payment of 5 per cent royalty on the aggregate amount of gas sold in the city exclusive of gas consumed in street lighting. Gauged by the amount of royalty paid in for 1898, and estimating the capital invested at 4 per cent, the value of the gas franchise would approximate \$300,000.

If the projectors of the Yankton road intend to accomplish anything more than building a paper railroad they must enlist the active co-operation of men able and willing to invest money in railroads. If resolutions and wind trails would have been running between Omaha and Yankton ten years ago.

It is proposed to alter the American flag "to fit the new colonies." Wouldn't it be better to make the colonies fit the flag?

Devey and Imperialism. Chicago Times-Herald. The Times-Herald is in a position to state that Admiral Devey is opposed to the United States annexing the Philippines.

Must Have Our Food. Cleveland Leader. No one can study the food supply of the British Isles without feeling certain that English statesmen will always go to extreme lengths to prevent war or serious trouble of any kind with the United States. They must avoid at all hazards the loss of American food for the swarming millions of British cities.

Money, Not Resolutions, Needed. Chicago Inter Ocean. The St. Louis Republic tells us that Philadelphia, Chicago and Omaha gave very creditable imitations of the possibilities of a world's fair in this country. In 1903 St. Louis will reveal the full possibilities by their concrete materialization into the grandest exposition known to history. St. Louis may rest assured that she will have the best wishes of this city from the beginning to the end of her great undertaking, but if she gets up an exposition that will come within gunshot of the Centennial, the World's Fair or the Transmississippi Exposition it will be because she has abandoned her usual procedure in all such cases. The adoption of resolutions on the mer-

Panama route has very decided advantages as a thoroughfare for commerce, which is of course the most important consideration.

But so strong is the sentiment in congress in favor of the Nicaragua project, as a distinctively American enterprise, that it is to be apprehended the facts showing the advantages of the Panama route, together with the fact that no government aid is asked for it, will not exert much influence. It appears to be virtually assured that the Nicaragua bill will pass the senate and currency discussion in the house could have no good result. The McCleary bill—as the recommitted measure is called—is perhaps satisfactory to the currency reformers generally, but it has not received that measure of popular approval which its authors expected and besides existing conditions are not favorable to such legislation. There is nothing in the financial situation that calls for or would justify such radical changes in the currency system as this bill provides for. We are steadily accumulating gold, the legal tender notes are causing the treasury no trouble and are not likely to in the near future, and public sentiment is perhaps stronger than ever before in opposition to a policy which would give the national banks the monopoly of the paper currency of the country. The business interests of the nation are as a whole very well satisfied with the currency system as it is, it having been most conclusively shown that the assumption that the system is an obstacle to prosperity is entirely fallacious. The country has had during the past year the greatest foreign and domestic commerce in its history; there has been an enormous augmentation of capital and a large increase in the circulation. This demonstrates that our currency system is not as bad as the reformers urge and that no such radical changes in it as they propose are necessary to business prosperity, as they have persistently contended.

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chaunt's exchange never did accomplish very much for St. Louis, and perhaps it might just as well make up her mind to the fact that it takes an awful lot of money to get a big show.

The Philippine Commission. Chicago Times-Herald. If this commission, after an exhaustive study of the situation and of the obligations of the United States, should recommend the extension of sovereignty permanently over the Philippines, the way is clear out of the dilemma, it would go far to reconcile us to that uncongenial relation. If, on the other hand, the commission should find reasons for the complete and early abandonment of the islands, the American people of the United States would accept the conclusion with mingled feelings of regret and relief.

Seeing is Believing. St. Paul Pioneer Press. It has been telegraphed from Washington that the sultan of Turkey, after a private audience with Minister Strauss, has "practically directed" that the demands of the part of the "Jingoes" who are clamoring for the destruction of American property during the Armenian massacres, shall be paid. It by no means follows as a certainty, however, that the end of the trouble has been reached. The sultan has not yet given a categorical answer to the demands of the "Jingoes," and it will be some time before the money is counted out to our representatives at Constantinople before putting ourselves too vigorously on the back over "another triumph of American diplomacy."

Life-Saving Railroad Appliances. Springfield Republican. Far more lives are now saved yearly among railway employes from the adoption of safety couplings than from any other appliance than was lost on the American side in the recent war. This is one of the interesting facts brought out in the annual report of the interstate commerce commission. It might therefore be urged on the part of the "Jingoes" that it is all the same, whether the lives are saved by frequent indulgence in war and colonial conquest, and when all the freight cars and trains are so equipped we could afford to "export" the surplus to the "Jingoes" in the form of a loan, by the way that the application of self-coupling devices is at last being considered in Great Britain. There the ratio of lives lost in coupling and uncoupling cars to number of men employed is 1 to 250, while in the United States it has been reduced to 1 in 600.

CIVILIZATION AT HOME. Senator McLaughlin's Plea for Imperialism. Chicago Herald. There is a good deal of logic in Senator McLaughlin's unique plea that imperialism, like charity, ought to begin at home. The "stronger, more intelligent, better civilized race has the right to impose its will upon the people of the Philippine islands, why shouldn't the same race, in virtue of the same intelligence, impose its will upon the people of the United States? The question in the south by frankly defuncting the negroes and ruling them in the same benevolent but tyrannical spirit in which it proposes to rule the Filipinos. It is beside the question to answer that the "stronger, more intelligent, better civilized race has the right to impose its will upon the people of the Philippine islands, why shouldn't the same race, in virtue of the same intelligence, impose its will upon the people of the United States? 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