

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Table with subscription rates: Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$8.00; Daily Bee and Sunday, One Year, \$9.00; Six Months, \$5.00; Three Months, \$3.00; Sunday Bee, One Year, \$2.00; Saturday Bee, One Year, \$2.00; Weekly Bee, One Year, \$2.00.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: 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, 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 December, 1889, was as follows:

Table with circulation statistics: 1. 24,077; 2. 24,151; 3. 24,084; 4. 24,070; 5. 24,233; 6. 24,846; 7. 24,925; 8. 25,000; 9. 23,936; 10. 24,193; 11. 24,880; 12. 24,156; 13. 24,332; 14. 24,263; 15. 24,325; Total, 710,000; Less unsold and returned copies, 15,307; Net total sales, 700,693; Net daily average, 23,571.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 21st day of December, 1889. (Seal.) N. P. FEIL, Notary Public.

Speaker Wright of the California legislature has acted on the advice of Iago that the business of life is to "put money into thy purse."

From the fact that Mr. Thompson holds seven of a kind some people have been led to believe that he has a whole deck under the table.

Hereafter members of the legislature should not forget to put the proper address on letters. It saves time and frequently other things.

From the five hundred and forty-nine pensions turned out in one night by congress it is evident that the pension roll will not reach its maximum for the next ten years.

As a Knight of St. Olaf Senator Knute Nelson of Minnesota will be able soon to balance corners with Colonel Vifquan of Nebraska and his Order of the Double Dragon.

Omaha now has the beginning of a free municipal art gallery. It should not be necessary to recall the fact observed by the wise men of long ago that great oaks from little acorns grow.

The news that Esterhazy is penitent is certainly hopeful, for when so great a scoundrel as he has confessed himself to be is capable of penitence it is time to abolish the limitations to reformation.

From the way these grave and revered seignors of the Austrian Reichsrath fell to hair pulling and nose plugging one would imagine that they had served at least a term in congress.

While the senate is settling the differences between the United States and Spain it should not overlook the urgent necessity of negotiating a protocol between the Hon. Tom Johnson and Mr. Grosvenor.

As the sultan is fully believed to be beyond the power of harm while making the journey to kiss the mantle of the prophet, Abdul's ordering all combustibles sealed while on the trip resembles a vote of lack of confidence in Allah.

If General Greene wants to come to Washington to meet President McKinley there is nothing whatever to prevent him from carrying out his wishes. The visit might even be encouraged with propriety, as a friendly interchange of ideas with reference to the future of Cuba could not be injurious to either party.

In a consular report on the growing use of automobile vehicles abroad it is stated that a training school is in operation in Paris to instruct the drivers of automobile cabs how to manage and maneuver them. A training school for cab drivers would not be out of place anywhere. Why wait for the automobiles?

It is in the winter months that the Commercial club should lay plans for a spring campaign for the location of new factories and business houses that may be induced to come here. With the impetus and advertisement given Omaha by the Transmississippi Exposition it ought to be easier now than ever before to attract the favorable attention of capitalists ready to embark in promising enterprises. No better field than Omaha exists anywhere and no more propitious time could be at hand.

The Pacific railroads were subsidized by the government because to a certain extent their construction was a military necessity. Should congress finally decide to subsidize the Nicaraguan canal it will be done largely as a naval necessity. Both enterprises will, of course, prove of incalculable benefit to commerce between the Atlantic and Pacific. Just what advantage the canal will be to the producers of the mid-west will depend upon the ability of the transcontinental railroad lines to meet the competition of the isthmian steamship lines.

POPULAR ELECTION OF SENATORS.

For the last quarter of a century public sentiment has been steadily growing in favor of the election of senators by popular vote. The consensus of opinion among intelligent thinkers is that the present method of electing United States senators by the legislatures is responsible for a marked decadence in the upper branch of our national legislature.

It is to be deplored that bigoted partisanship caused the defeat of a joint resolution urging congress to propose an amendment to the constitution of the United States providing for the election of United States senators by the direct vote of the people in the state senate. Because and only because this resolution had been introduced by a member of the fusionist minority, a motion to table the proposition without discussion was carried by all but two votes of the republican majority.

And yet the first steps in this direction were taken by the republican legislature in 1875 in the following memorial and joint resolution:

Your memorialists, the legislature of the state of Nebraska, would respectfully represent that they express the will of the people of this state in asking for an amendment to the constitution of the United States, which shall provide for the election of United States senators by the whole people, and not by delegated authority.

Resolved, That the secretary of state be and he is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this memorial to our senators and representatives in congress, who are hereby requested to use all honorable means to secure the object above expressed.

This joint resolution was introduced in the house by Hon. Benjamin Barrows, a republican, and was voted for by every member of that body, including John M. Thurston, the present junior senator of Nebraska, then a member of the house.

In 1883 another memorial and joint resolution to the same purport was adopted, and although failing to receive the approval of Governor Crouse, was transmitted to the representatives of Nebraska in congress. This memorial also received the sanction of the members of all parties.

It goes without saying that a memorial asking congress to submit a constitutional amendment that would remit the election of United States senators to a vote of the people would receive the endorsement of ninety-nine out of every hundred electors of Nebraska. Whether such memorials to congress would be heeded by men who occupy seats in the United States senate through influences that were potential with legislatures, but could not have carried them through a popular election, is problematical.

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President McKinley is giving this very important matter the consideration it merits.

IMPROVED CONDITION OF WORKINGMEN.

The improved condition of workingmen in the United States and England—the increase of wages, the decrease in living expenses and the consequent higher standard of living—within the past twenty years, is attested by incontrovertible evidence. The improvement has not been so marked on the continent of Europe as in the countries named, but there also the condition of the working classes has been materially bettered. French official statistics recently published show that the cost of living show that in fifty years the rate of earnings has almost doubled, while money goes farther than it did in almost every direction except for rent. The French report shows that, comparing 1801-3 with 1846, there had been an increase in retail prices, but the increase was less than that of wages. Rents more than doubled, but rents and food together advanced but 25 per cent and clothing and other necessities having declined the aggregate increase in the cost of living was less than 25 per cent, while wages had almost doubled.

For our own country, says the New York Journal of Commerce, the evidence of increased wages or improved style of living are supplemented by the remarkable evidence afforded by the census of 1890 of the rapid increase in the number of persons employed and the decrease in the employment of child-labor, the last fact being shown by the labor statistics of the state of New York for a later period than the census year. The inquiries on the continent of Europe as to improved conditions of living show for France, Belgium and Germany a greater quantity and better quality of food, more meats consumed and more wheat and less rye and potatoes.

Referring to these facts the Journal of Commerce says that "Nothing could more completely refute the socialists in their attacks on capitalism, the labor agitators in their denunciation of labor-saving machinery and the avowed and the disguised cheap money men, than the improved condition of the working population in northern and western Europe and in the United States." It is especially to be noted that this improvement has taken place in countries where most of the monetary reforms have occurred. Thus money wages for most classes of workers in France have advanced one-quarter since 1874, about the date of the legislation in the direction of the single gold standard in Germany, the Latin Union and the United States, since which time all the opponents of the gold standard have been claiming that the condition of the working population had been constantly deteriorating and as already remarked, these increased earnings are coincident with a decrease in living expenses, so that the working classes generally have been enabled to live better and are living better than they did fifty or even twenty-five years ago.

There are persons who take a pessimistic view of the future of labor, who apprehend that the constant additions making to the supply of labor-saving machinery must in time prove injurious to the working classes, by depriving many of work and reducing the pay of labor. Perhaps this fear is not entirely ill-founded, though certainly past experience in all civilized countries does not give warrant for it. On the contrary this experience justifies expectation that the condition of the working classes will continue to improve.

CONSTITUTION HAIR-SPINNING.

The new questions precipitated by the unforeseen outcome of the war with Spain, bringing the American people face to face with problems undreamed of by the fathers of the republic, are occasioning more constitution hair-splitting than anything that has happened since the war of the rebellion. The question whether Andrew Jackson had any constitutional right to put down the nullifiers or President Lincoln to meet with force the armies of the seceding states raised up no more ingenious constitution twisters than the proposed annexation of the Philippines.

For a case directly in point an article by Prof. H. P. Judson of the University of Chicago could not be improved on, contributed to the last number of the Review of Reviews, in which he brushes away with one sweep of the pen all the constitutional obstacles to the unrestricted acquisition and government of distant territory by congress. The way this is done is by distinguishing two different uses of the terms United States of America in the constitution.

We are told that the United States refers not only to the people vested with the nation's sovereignty, but also to a territorial empire and that the limitations set up in our fundamental law have no relation to the territorial idea. "We, the people of the United States," ordain and enact the constitution for "the United States of America." What people? asks the learned professor, and answers, The people of the states forming the union.

In another place the doctrine is enunciated that all duties, excises and imposts shall be uniform throughout the United States. The ordinary mortal might think this meant that they should really be uniform throughout all the land, subject to the United States government, but the commentators have discovered that such a conclusion is based on a wrong conception of the use of the English language. The constitution frames did not intend that all duties, excises and imposts levied by congress should be uniform, but that they should be uniform merely within the states admitted to membership in the union, leaving the people of the territories, colonies and crown estates dependent wholly upon the favor and fair disposition of the men who happen to constitute the reigning congress.

When the constitution was amended to protect the freedmen in their civil and political rights, citizenship was extended to all persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to its jurisdiction. Up to this time everyone

has supposed that birth under the American flag conferred American citizenship.

But it turns out, apparently, that everyone has been radically wrong. The boy who has been told that because he was born in the United States he has a chance some day to become president of the greatest nation on earth is doomed to sad disappointment. The men who drafted this amendment may not have known it, but the fact is now proclaimed that when they wrote the words United States they referred not to the land of the free and the home of the brave pictured in song and poetry, but to the thirty odd states then forming the union and those which might be later admitted to equal privileges. The boy born in Nevada then may be eligible to the presidency, while the boy born in Arizona is barred from that high station, and it will make no difference to the fresh generation of little Philipinos whether they are born the day before or the day after the treaty of peace and cession is ratified and the ratifications exchanged.

With such facile constitutional contortions always at hand we ought never to feel under any necessity of revising or amending our written frame of government. All that is needed is to call in the juridical doctors and ask them to make a new reading.

THE SHIPPING PROBLEM.

The National Association of Manufacturers declared in favor of the bill which has been introduced in both branches of congress providing for the building up of the merchant marine. In reference to this measure the president of the association in his annual report said it is generally conceded to be the most carefully prepared and most thoroughly practical plan that has thus far been framed. It proposes to encourage the building and operation of ships under the American flag by the payment of subsidies based upon tonnage and distance traveled, this compensation being granted upon the condition that the owners of the subsidized vessels shall construct within a period of five years new American tonnage equal to at least 25 per cent of the tonnage of the vessels receiving such compensation. Provision is made for further increase in our shipping by granting American registry to foreign-built vessels upon the condition that the owners shall construct within a period of five years new American tonnage equal to at least 50 per cent of the tonnage of the foreign-built vessels thus admitted to American registry. These are the two essential principles embodied in the proposed legislation.

The recognition by so important a body as the National Association of Manufacturers of the necessity of building up the merchant marine ought to exert a great deal of influence. The association is composed of men who are largely engaged in the foreign trade and who therefore understand the advantage that would accrue to the vast interests they represent from being able to ship their merchandise in American ships sailing under the American flag. They speak with an authority on this subject that belongs to no other interest. But our agricultural producers are hardly less concerned in an American merchant marine, since the large amount of money now annually paid to foreign ship-owners would remain here and be spent for home products, while a further benefit to our producers would come from the development of the ship-building industry.

The proposed law will not, however, be enacted by the present congress. It is possible that the bill will pass the house, but it cannot pass the senate. In the next congress the chances for the success of such a measure will be very good.

The performance of Senator Butler before the senate in declaring the principles of secession to be right was as unfortunate as it was uncalculated for at this time. Whatever he or the south may think of the question of right or wrong involved in it the time has long since passed for its discussion. The questions raised by the unfortunate and suicidal issue have been forever settled by the stern arbitration of war and from that decision it is well that there is no appeal. No one, with the possible exception of Senator Butler, wants to thresh over that old straw. Events have demonstrated the unwisdom of state's rights that led to the most unfortunate and the bloodiest war of the world's history, and there is every reason to believe that the people of the south, equally with those of the north, are now satisfied with the results and are perfectly willing to let the dead past bury its dead. We are now in a new era that concerns itself not so much with the past as with the duties of the present and the promises of the future. As a reunited people the promises of the future are beyond the comprehension of man, and all sections and parties should present a solid and uncompromising front to any effort that has for its object conjuring up the ghost of an unfortunate past. The past is dead, but the present and the future with all of their glorious possibilities are ours, and let us make the most of them.

A Western Institution.

A feature of western life which always attracts and amazes easterners is the board sidewalks to be found in most of the smaller towns and occasionally in cities of considerable size. Where wood is cheap and mud is deep there is a double inducement to the use of this convenient but temporary foot-pavement, and sometimes these walkways stretch out over the crisp black prairie soil like an endless bridge, the tall, dusty rosinweed slipping the legs of the pedestrian who is not careful to keep in the center. But this souvenir of the old days is passing away, hastened in its departure by suits for damages, for the decaying board walk is treacherous to life and limb.

Uniformity in Divorce Laws.

The movement for uniformity of state laws is far from being general enough as yet to give promise of tangible results. At one time or another various states have appointed commissions to investigate the subject, but there has been no concert of action. In no one thing is the reform needed more than in divorce laws. The Constitution of the United States provides that "full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records and judicial proceedings of every other state." Yet eastern courts habitually ignore Dakota divorces. A marriage in New York following a divorce in Illinois on grounds not recognized in New York may lead to a charge of bigamy. The state courts are getting further and further away from the constitutional safeguard on this subject especially. If the several states will not take the initiative toward uniformity let congress appoint a commission to investigate, codify and formulate recommendations. It would not be binding upon any state, of course, but this is a possible way in which to secure concert of action.

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.

Chicago Tribune: The duty seems to be laid upon Chicago of furnishing missionaries to New York City.

Chicago Post: We are informed that an Indiana clergyman who has been using a revolver to maintain order in his church will have his license revoked, but we are left in doubt as to whether it will be his license to preach or his license to carry arms.

Boston Herald: It looks queer to see distinguished churchmen like Bishop Potter, Rev. Dr. Hainford and even Rev. Dr. Parkhurst defending the saloon as an institution that is capable of being made useful. They seem disposed to look facts squarely in the face and make the best of them.

Pioneer Press: It seems that a Pennsylvania preacher has been dismissed by his congregation because he ventured to say that the rainbow had existed before Noah's time. Yet, when we remember the little tempest that followed Dr. Leman Abbott's remarks concerning Jonah the Pennsylvania instance is not so amazing.

Kansas City Star: Captain Augustus P. Gardner, in a recent report on Porto Rico to the assistant secretary of war, Mr. McKelike, says that it does not appear that the Porto Ricans have ever taken their religion with any degree of seriousness. Captain Gardner is presumably a Protestant, but Father Thomas Sherman of the Catholic church says the same thing. Whatever our recently acquired citizens in Porto Rico may be, it is evident that they are not pious.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Indiana's new senator is said to be as full of figures of speech as a circulation affidavit. A Kansas City preacher avers that "the devil is abroad in the town." He got away from the advance billing of a theatrical star.

The influence of environment frequently manifests itself. A Chicago girl confessed to the police that she could not tell the truth.

Every returning soldier from Manila cheerfully admits that Admiral Dewey occupied the big tent out there. All others are side-shows.

A simple method of averting trouble with the Filipinos would be the suppression of poetic metaphors on expansion. There is a limit to Malay patience.

Down at Macon, Mo., a few days ago, "A Time in the Old Town" did duty at a funeral. The deceased must have been a genuine Missouri mossback.

"Rebel" Aguinaldo must be credited with foresight and business sense in keeping at the front. His war reminiscences will command a fortune in the near future.

The foolkiller misses many tempting opportunities these frosty days. A Massachusetts woman has just rejected a marriage proposal over the grave of her pet monkey.

Girls who packed Christmas boxes for soldier boys in Manila will be interested in the cable statement that many of the Yankee soldiers have become engaged to Filipino girls.

Up in the classic regions of Okechosh a barkeeper has been convicted of manslaughter, having pled a local character with enough liquor to kill him. Barkeepers should be careful about overloading tanks.

G. Clunies Ross, an American who owns and manages the Keeling-Cocos Islands, near Java, in the South Pacific, says his possessions, though thickly populated, have no prisons nor police and crime is almost unknown.

The town of Peoria intimates rather forcibly that a prophet is without honor in his own country by warning the solar plexus of a prophet who was rather fierce in his predictions. Other portions of his cuticle were fanned with shoe leather.

A bogus edition of Denver's "divine healer," Schlatter, bumped up against a wave of popular indignation in the Georgia town and was hauled outside the geographical limits by the police. Now the pious fakir will play the persecution dodge and wax wealthy.

Mayor John Daly of Limerick is the same John Daly who talked eloquently and patriotically to his countrymen in Omaha last March. His description of the horrors of solitary confinement in British jails, which he survived, has rarely been equalled by human lips.

THE CUBAN PROBLEM.

Indications of Trouble in the Liberated Island.

The burning of cane-fields in Cuba out of spite because civil offices and other employments have not been given to Cuban soldiers in sufficient abundance is an illogical proceeding which ought to be stopped. The Cuban soldiers, in the fact that the white Cubans get all the offices the Americans have to distribute and they come in nowhere. They have accordingly concluded, it seems, to prevent the working of the sugar estates by burning them, in order to show that the negro patriots must be "reconquered" in the Mayari district bands of robbers are said to be plundering and killing the residents. Now that the Spanish troops are withdrawn to the coast much of the interior of the island is doubtless terrorized by the Cuban soldiers. The latter have not been disbanded by their leaders. Their attitude is one of expectancy. General Gomez has not recognized our pretensions to govern Cuba. He does not come into our lines or put himself in our power. He and his countrymen entertain the idea, it appears, that they may yet some day have to fight us if we do not turn Cuba over to them.

CITIZEN OR SUBJECT.

Status of the Filipinos Under the Treaty if Ratified.

Senator Hoar raised a pertinent question in the senate Wednesday when he wanted to know whether the Filipinos were to be regarded, after the treaty is ratified, as citizens of the United States or subjects. If the Paris treaty is ratified without amendment nothing can be more certain than that the Massachusetts senator's question will thrust itself upon the country to create discussions and wranglings.

There are already two opposing opinions springing up and dividing the public mind. Certain newspapers and individuals are arguing that we can govern the Filipinos as subjects without giving them citizenship. Just as Great Britain governs the people of India. The New York Times, for instance, says, "we ought to take the islands as provided in the treaty," but "they must never become citizens of the United States." Senator Hoar thinks that if the treaty is adopted as it stands "every Filipino child born under the flag of this country, be he Mohammedan, Japanese or Malay, would be a citizen of the country."

It will readily be seen that the question is a vital one. To treat 8,000,000 or 10,000,000 of inferior Asiatics as citizens means that they must be admitted to the United States as freely as Americans born. Such able constitutional lawyers as Edmunds and Hoar think that any other treatment would be unconstitutional. Are the millions of American laborers ready to submit meekly to an invasion of Asiatic competitors? Cur-

tainly they will protest, and the constitution will have to be amended, in order to prevent disaster to our own citizens. When amendments of the fundamental law once begin there is no telling where they may end, nor what radical impairment to the American ideal of government may follow.

Senators who love constitutional liberty will surely hesitate before voting to ratify a treaty which is certain to bring such a disturbing issue upon the country. It will be vastly safer to amend the instrument so as to place the Philippines in the same relationship to the United States as Cuba is to occupy. Then there will be no danger of conferring American citizenship upon Oriental savages, thereby endangering our own most highly cherished rights and privileges.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

Chicago Tribune: Blushing Maid—Isn't the ring a trifle large?

Business: "What a dear, it will slip off easily when you want to mix dough."

Chicago Record: "What a placid face your married daughter has!"

"Yes, her three children have got her so she obeys a husband."

Boston Traveler: "I know one man at least who is a confirmed woman-hater."

"Because he couldn't get one to marry him?"

"No, because he did."

Atchison Globe: An Atchison girl who ten years ago used to dream of a Monte Carlo do Lancy knocking at her door is now very contentedly engaged in mending clothes for a man named Nick Whiteletter.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Burton—I have made it a rule ever since I have been married to turn over every cent of my earnings to my wife.

O'Batch—Is that the reason she dresses so much better than you?

Detroit Free Press: "Edgar Dabney gave a gratitude dinner last night."

"Gratitude dinner? Was that that?"

"Why, a dinner to all the girls who were sisters to him in 1888."

Town Topics: "I wish you wouldn't call me dear before people, Jack, said Kitty recently when she pulled on her gloves."

"Why not, asked Jack in surprise. "We are engaged, you know, and it makes me feel awfully cheap."

Chicago Post: "Well, here's a new departure, for sure," she exclaimed, looking up from her newspaper. "Here's an account of a couple that chose to get married at a christening."

"Well," he replied thoughtfully, "I suppose there's nothing like getting used to both exercises at once."

Yonkers Statesman: He—Do you remember the night I proposed to you?

She—Yes, dear.

He—We sat for one hour and you never opened your mouth."

"No," she remembered dear.

"Believe me, that was the happiest hour of my life."

Detroit Journal: "Can we afford," he faltered, sadly, "to have a skeleton in our closet?"

As for the woman, she wept, for they were indeed wretchedly poor; but she was not, therefore, altogether without resource. "We might keep it in the hall and use it for a hat rack," she exclaimed, for her mind was giving away under the constant effort to practice economy.

DON'T GET GAY.