

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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

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Not daily sales, 696,246. Net daily average, 21,876. GEORGE H. TSCHUCK.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of March, 1899. GEO. M. REED, Notary Public in and for Douglas County, Neb.

Two more days of legislature unless the lobby decides to extend the time for adjournment.

The amputation of the railroad taxation clause of the charter amendment bill shows the fine Italian hand of the railroad surgeon.

The wolf trapping industry will begin to flourish in Wyoming as soon as the Nebraska bonus of \$45,000 for wolf scalps becomes available.

About the only thing Omaha will get out of the present legislature is an appropriation for an additional building at the Deaf and Dumb Institute.

By the time the charter amendments reach the governor the charter committee will have trouble to recognize them. It's a wise child that knows its own father.

The Pennsylvania legislature is still balloting for United States senator just to remind Nebraska legislators that they might have company had they, too, been voting yet.

The destruction by fire of the Chicago felt factory operated as part of the Armour plant suggests the practicability of another industry at South Omaha at no distant day.

If Judge Norval could be bulldozed into reversing some of the decisions of his office to the Herdman gang the demand for his impeachment would be promptly withdrawn.

The dollar dinner to be given in New York on Jefferson's anniversary is announced as a strictly Chicago platform affair. A cheap money platform and a cheap banquet go together.

The question is suggestive. Why should the governor have waited until the last week in the session to request of the legislature the authority to compromise all the state's claims for embezzled funds and suspended bank accounts?

The successful X-ray experiment locating an Indiana man's heart on the wrong side of his anatomy presages the day when every eligible man may have to present with his card a photograph of his interior, showing that his heart is in the right place.

It comes with rather good grace for the men who were borrowing state funds from Bartley on third mortgages without ever expecting to pay back a dollar to go into spasms over the cashing of a salary warrant in advance of its regular redemption.

While the only thing directly at issue in the pending Chicago municipal campaign is the control of the city government, the various opposing candidates have firmly convinced themselves that the life or death of the whole nation depends upon their achievement of success or defeat.

When Joe Bartley reads the blood-curdling denunciations of Judge Norval for cashing his salary vouchers he will laugh in his sleeve over the sublime impudence of the Hilsenhof organ, which he tied over several times with funds that were not all drawn out of his private deposits.

The obnoxious practice of charging collection fees on all checks on outside banks just put in force by the New York bankers, against which a loud protest is being raised by New York merchants, has been in vogue in Omaha for several years past. Omaha merchants, however, have borne the imposition with submissive meekness.

Reports from southern states indicate that all is not harmony there in the fustian household. Where the democrats are strong enough to get along without populist assistance they object to dividing up the emoluments of office. In almost every section of the south the populists have tired of being hewers of wood and drawers of water and then submitting to the scant fare of the second table when the election is won.

THE TARIFF AND THE TRUSTS.

A means of fighting the trusts which has many advocates and which seems likely to grow in favor is to remove tariff duties from all articles and products controlled by combinations. The Philadelphia Ledger is an earnest advocate of this policy. In a recent issue that paper said that "in the clash of opinions as to the jurisdiction of nation and state in the matter of trusts, it is conceded that congress has a weapon within reach to give the death stroke to nearly all of the rapacious trusts now existing. Most of these combinations deal in American products of which they have obtained a monopoly. The duty on the foreign product is so high as to be prohibitory or nearly so. It is a gross perversion of the taxing power to impose a tariff which, without yielding revenue to the government, enables trusts to plunder American citizens. In every instance where a domestic monopoly puts exactions upon the consumer congress should repeal the duty and thus free the public from oppression." It is not to be doubted that this would prove effective as to some of the trusts, but of the more than three hundred and fifty combinations by far the larger number cannot be reached in this way.

Some of the strongest trusts the tariff is in no wise responsible for. These combinations, for example: American Spirits and Manufacturing, Glucose, National Biscuit, Standard Distilleries, Kentucky Distilleries, National Cereal, United States Milling, American Ice company, American Sewer Pipe company, National Enamel and Stamp company, National Salt company, New England Dairy company, Royal Baking Powder company, Union Bag and Paper company. As to the iron and steel combinations, while it is true that the duties on their products yield very little revenue, a repeal of the duties would not necessarily result in breaking them up, since our manufacturers are able to undersell foreign manufacturers in the world's markets and hence having nothing to fear from foreign competition in this market. Even as to the Tin Plate trust it is doubtful whether it could be destroyed by taking off the duty, for tin plate has sold at a lower price here, since the industry has been built up, than it was ever imported for. What probably would result from taking off the duty is a reduction of the price of labor employed in the industry and this might be the case with all the industries which it is alleged owe their existence to the tariff.

While, therefore, a repeal of duties would perhaps be effective as to some of the trusts, most of the combinations, and those the more formidable of them, would not be materially affected if at all. On the other hand it is quite possible that labor employed in the trust industries might suffer. Hence we are not able to see much merit in the plan of removing tariff duties as a means of suppressing trusts. These combinations must be reached in another way and the way that seems most certain to lead to their suppression is through state legislation—the exercise by the states of the powers which have been clearly pointed out by our highest judicial tribunal. It is to be confessed that the prospect of securing such legislation is not encouraging, notwithstanding the strong popular sentiment against trusts, but persistent agitation of the subject may ultimately produce the desired result.

CUBAN ARMY WILL DISBAND.

General Gomez, who must be presumed to be more familiar with the sentiment of the soldiers who served under him than anybody else, has assured Secretary Alger that the army will disband. It appears that the secretary of war received this assurance with confidence. Meanwhile representatives of the Cuban military assembly are in Washington for the purpose of urging a larger payment to the army and they express the opinion that unless this is done there is likely to be disorders and perhaps brigandage. The army, it appears to be conceded, will disband even if no more money is provided, but there is danger that many of the men, not being satisfied with the amount paid them, will attempt to live by plunder. Very likely some of them would do this if \$10,000,000 instead of \$3,000,000 were to be distributed among them.

It is an unpleasant situation, but of course our government will not consider a request for more money, whatever the Cuban soldiers may threaten. The gratuity of \$3,000,000 is magnanimous and there would be a very earnest popular protest in this country against increasing it. However much Americans may sympathize with the unfortunate condition of the Cuban soldiers, we do not feel called upon to provide them with all the money they think they need in order to make a new start in life. The cost of freeing them from Spanish rule has been very great and a people with any sense of gratitude would be satisfied with that. The course of some of the Cubans is calculated to create a feeling that they are not worthy of the sacrifices this country has made for them.

ENCOURAGING STATEMENTS.

The statements at the meeting of the central council of the National Sound Money league, in regard to the decline of free silver sentiment, were encouraging and reassuring to the friends of sound money. Of course everybody capable of forming an unprejudiced opinion has for some time realized that the silver question had lost and was steadily losing adherents. It could not be otherwise with growing prosperity, with higher prices for products and with the larger employment and increased wages of labor. In presence of such conditions no one having a fair estimate of the intelligence of the American people could doubt that the sound money cause was gaining with them and had become very much stronger than three years ago.

That the free silver cause will continue to lose ground as prosperity advances is not to be doubted, yet the friends of sound money should not abate their efforts and the purpose of the league to continue the educational work in which it is engaged is wise. That was judicious advice of Secretary Gage, that the sound money forces should hold themselves in line to oppose any fresh attack of the kind which was so successfully resisted in 1897. That another such attack will be made is already assured. All present indications point to the control of the next Democratic national convention by the free silver men, the reaffirmation of the Chicago platform and the renomination of Mr. Bryan. The party will have new issues, but it will undoubtedly make free silver the paramount issue in its campaign. Hence the necessity of keeping the sound money forces in line and maintaining the educational work that has had such excellent results. An overwhelming defeat of free silver next year will put an end for all time to that wretched fallacy.

THE EXECUTIVE MANSION.

The lower house of the legislature has passed a bill appropriating \$25,000 for the purchase and furnishing of an executive mansion. This is at least \$10,000 more than should be appropriated at this time for this purpose. Apparently there is a darkey in this woodpile. Instead of purchasing a suitable site and erecting a governor's home planned on a scale that would enable the state to build a respectable residence at a cost not exceeding \$10,000, with a view also to future enlargement or embellishment, the bill contemplates the purchase of some old mansion whose owner wants to unload at two prices a structure that will have to be remodelled within a few years.

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Indiana News. When the Cuban army surrenders its arms it should be made to give up its concealed weapons also. There are enough of the latter, apparently, to stock an army.

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Kansas City Star: The fine conduct of the western volunteer troops in the Philippines is exactly what might have been expected. American volunteer soldiers, reasonably well selected, after being seasoned and trained in actual service, ought to be the best soldiers in the world.

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Marked Improvement in the Condition of Workmen.

Chicago Times-Herald. In the face of such well authenticated reports of actual advances in wages in all departments of industrial activity as come from all over the country it is useless to deny the fact the revival of business has led to a marked improvement in the condition of laboring men. That the outlook for labor was never brighter is attested by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, who frankly acknowledges that "the demand for labor in some special lines has tended to increase wages, although he is unwilling to attribute all the increase to improved industrial conditions. Whether the advances are due to organized labor or to an increased demand for labor is of little consequence compared to the important fact that the wages have actually been raised and that the condition of business apparently justifies it. That there has been a remarkable advance in wages all over the country is shown by the reports from a hundred or more manufacturing institutions, representing principally the iron, steel and cotton industries, received by the National Manufacturers' association. The increases range all the way from 5 to 10 per cent and affect in the aggregate not less than 100,000 wage-earners. It is significant also that the increase in nearly every instance was voluntary on the part of the employers and was not the result of any peremptory demand on the part of labor.

CHERRY CHAFF.

Brooklyn Life: "Why, this monument is crooked." "Yes; so was the deceased." Chicago Record: "All the professions are terribly overcrowded." "That's so. Even being an idiot doesn't attract attention nowadays." Detroit Journal: Competition has become so keen that some department stores are said to be talking of giving their customers free board and lodging while waiting for change.

PHILADELPHIA NORTH AMERICAN: Timid Guest

Is this hotel proper? Transient—Give it up. You see, they have never had a fire here, and they are afraid to burn down.

Somerville Journal: "I've a fine mind"

he began. "You may think you have," she interrupted him saucily, "but it would be hard for you to find anyone to agree with you."

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "I took not on the way when it is real, my misguided friend."

"Do you speak from experience?" "I do. I made a mistake once and took a long walk for a bottle of sparkling red ink."

Boston Transcript: Johnny—Pa, Mr. Brownlow said, for obvious reasons, he should be unable to be the principal of the school house tonight. "What does he mean by 'obvious' reasons when a man has any reasons that he can't think of or has reason to think you are sure to name he says his reasons are obvious."

Indianapolis Journal: Who is that man around the corner who complains that the baby waked him when it cried for a few minutes last night? "That's the fellow who says 'Don't you know?' her husband responded. "He's been working in a boiler factory for the last five years."

Chicago Tribune: Chief—Williams, where did you put that maccaroni I gave you yesterday? "On the top shelf."

Chief—Round to make trouble, are you? Assistant—Yes, sir, I was round about that? Chief—Putting Italy in China—that's all.

Where, O, Where?

Cleveland Plain Dealer. Tell me, ye winged winds that round my pathway roam. Is there a spot where bold reporters come no more? The wild wind wailed and weened I just a little bit. Then whistling answered, "Yes, I know one—hit!"

AN EASTER BONNET.

Minna Irvine in Frank Leslie's Monthly. Who's little did the Latin text. And smiles wreathed the altar. And every head was gravely bent. "O'er sacred palms and golden flowers. And all the font was pink and white. With roses strewn upon it. Her saw a little maid, her bonnet. Who wore an Easter bonnet. He walked behind her from the church, And viewed her girlish graces. And breathed the fragrance of her hair. Of dainty bows and laces. A prayer book was in her hand— "She kept her glance on 'em." "Till came a gust of frolic wind. And whisked away her bonnet. Her eyes were full of April tears. A dream of lace and ribbon. The sunny curls about her brow. Were made for man's beguiling. Her face was like a woman. He paused to gaze upon it. And found that he had lost his heart. As she had lost her bonnet. But now a spray of orange flowers Is wreathed about the Latin: "The little maid is all in white— A dream of lace and ribbon. And, as he takes her slender hand, And slips the ring upon it. He murmurs softly in her ear— A blessing on the bonnet!"

Who Pays the Piper?

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Here is an example of the model American soldier whose highest ambition is to be at the post of duty and to offer his life freely for the sake of his flag. Colonel Egbert had almost reached the retiring age. He was marked up by bullets that had barely missed vital organs. But he fought at Manila just as he fought at Gettysburg. The men in the ranks who have shown equal self-sacrifice and fallen perhaps unnoted. Colonel Egbert will answer as the representative of the type of soldier-patriots who are invariably at the post of danger and who mark the light of wounds that are less than mortal.

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St. Louis Globe-Democrat: The waste and ravages of war fall on all, but with especial heaviness upon the workman. Nothing so helps the condition of wage-earners both industrially and socially as peace. Ex-Senator Evans once gave a reason for the miserable state of the war-torn state of wage-earners in Europe, which, if the tendencies of the republican party are allowed to be carried out, will ere long apply to workmen in this country. He said that in Europe wage-earners can earn but little, because every workman has a gun to his tank daily with a soldier on his back.

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Chicago Times-Herald. In the face of such well authenticated reports of actual advances in wages in all departments of industrial activity as come from all over the country it is useless to deny the fact the revival of business has led to a marked improvement in the condition of laboring men. That the outlook for labor was never brighter is attested by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, who frankly acknowledges that "the demand for labor in some special lines has tended to increase wages, although he is unwilling to attribute all the increase to improved industrial conditions. Whether the advances are due to organized labor or to an increased demand for labor is of little consequence compared to the important fact that the wages have actually been raised and that the condition of business apparently justifies it. That there has been a remarkable advance in wages all over the country is shown by the reports from a hundred or more manufacturing institutions, representing principally the iron, steel and cotton industries, received by the National Manufacturers' association. The increases range all the way from 5 to 10 per cent and affect in the aggregate not less than 100,000 wage-earners. It is significant also that the increase in nearly every instance was voluntary on the part of the employers and was not the result of any peremptory demand on the part of labor.

CHERRY CHAFF.

Brooklyn Life: "Why, this monument is crooked." "Yes; so was the deceased." Chicago Record: "All the professions are terribly overcrowded." "That's so. Even being an idiot doesn't attract attention nowadays." Detroit Journal: Competition has become so keen that some department stores are said to be talking of giving their customers free board and lodging while waiting for change.