

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Table with 3 columns: Number of copies, Date, and Total. Rows include various dates from March 1st to March 31st, with a total of 772,536 copies.

Net daily average, 24,757. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of April, 1899. H. L. PLUMB, Notary Public in and for Douglas County, Neb.

The \$200,000,000 owing by Uncle Sam to Spain will go by draft. It is an ill wind.

Just watch Spain's creditors line up for a center rush as soon as that \$200,000,000 indemnity becomes sight on the horizon.

County Attorney Shields should not be so modest. It would have been just as easy to have sued for \$100,000 as for \$25,000.

It is too bad Governor Roosevelt could not continue his journey west of Chicago. He would have found a reception in the transmississippi country more enthusiastic than anywhere.

It seems the commander of the insurgents driven back by General Lawton is a Chinaman. But it also appears that he has no better success against American arms than had the Spaniards.

No application for a share of Douglas county's allotment of state patronage is considered by Governor Poynter unless endorsed by the chief moguls of the Herdman gang of political desperadoes.

Are we to have another damning and flimsy clearing house exhibit for this week just because the clearing house bankers cannot agree among themselves upon a plan that will give Omaha full credit for all the business it does?

Boss Croker will testify before the New York legislative committee. Croker could undoubtedly give some interesting testimony if he would, but no one anticipates that he is going to turn state's evidence against his Tammany associates.

Translated into the dialect of the street Colonel Roosevelt's complimentary allusion to the college and university man in the army means that an educated target is just as easy to hit in war time as one that has not had even the advantages of common schooling.

A syndicate of fifteen Deadwood bachelors has hung up a purse of \$150 to be given the first young woman able to lead one of them up to the matrimonial rack. The purse is not large enough to induce a western girl to make much of a hustle, but if the bachelors' club will make it a sufficient object a winner will be promptly forthcoming.

Among other foes the boys in blue are expected to fight in the Philippines is the plague. A mild form of small-pox has been prevalent there ever since the troops arrived and now they are warned to be on the lookout for more serious epidemic diseases. It seems that Uncle Sam has annexed several things not contemplated in the contract.

The new governor general of the Ladrone islands is about to start for his post. He will have a brass band and \$50,000 to blow in with which to duly impress the natives with the importance of their new rulers. Properly invested this amount should make the little island of Guam one of the warmest places in the world during the coming social season.

The public is still waiting for County Attorney Shields to explain why while prosecuting certain gamblers who have declined to cut up with the Herdman gang of blackmailers he refuses to prosecute the protected gamblers, although admitting possession of conclusive evidence against them. The question is: Why has he pigeonholed those sixty-one complaints?

If it is really a vindication he wants, County Attorney Shields should at once commence suit for damages against the World-Herald for printing the same item upon which he bases his suit against The Bee. If the original publication of an article is libelous and damaging, its republication must be even more so. Let Mr. Shields show good faith by instituting proceedings against the World-Herald and at the same time fumble his verdict.

WHAT THE HARVEST HAS BEEN.

Now that the work of the recent session of the legislature has been digested the people of Nebraska are in position to judge for themselves as to the merit and value of the harvest.

It is common to stigmatize the last legislature as the worst that has afflicted the state, and this verdict will doubtless be rendered by many people disappointed by its shortcomings or disgusted with its failures. As a matter of fact the last legislature will pass into history as above the average of law-making bodies in point of intelligence and disposition to serve the public interests.

While no very momentous measures have been evolved and fashioned into law, much important legislation has been framed and enacted. Among the most important are the revision of the insurance laws and the divorce of the insurance department from the auditor's office, the restoration of the Australian ballot in its original purity, the law regulating primary elections, the corrupt practices law, the laws regulating and restricting the employment of women and children, the building loan association law, and last but not least, the law making the office of clerk of the district court a salary instead of fee position.

The disappointing features of the legislature are the defeat of all revenue revision measures, the neglect to submit amendments to remedy defects in the constitution, the failure to correct abuses and extortion on the part of franchised corporations, the refusal to do away with the railroad pass bribe, the scandalous reiteration of the do-nothing secretary of the State Board of Transportation, incidentally the legislature will justly merit censure for extravagant appropriations for state house officials and state institutions, especially the increase of the university tax from three-eighths of a mill to 1 mill.

From behind the scenes the downright hoodlum instrumental in the passage of certain bills and the defeat of others is a matter of common notoriety. The hold-up gang and venal members, while perhaps less numerous than in former legislatures, was as bold and reckless as ever and included fully as many of the fusion reformers as of the republican majority. Their operations were stimulated by the corporation lobby, which made no secret of the systematic purchase of members, committee clerks and clerks of the two houses hired to manipulate bills at all stages. In this lawless work the most active factor was the Herdman gang of Omaha blackmailers and leg-pullers who were on the ground from the opening to the close of the session.

PEACE DECLARED. The final act in the restoration of peace between the United States and Spain took place in Washington yesterday, eleven months and sixteen days from the time war was declared. In that brief period events have occurred of the most far-reaching importance. For Spain it has been a period of disaster and humiliation. To the United States it brought responsibilities of the gravest nature. Never was history made so rapidly as during those eleven months and it is history without parallel in the swift achievements of the victorious nation.

The restoration of peace will be speedily followed by the full resumption of diplomatic relations and the early negotiation of a treaty of commerce under which trade between the two countries can be resumed. There will be no difficulty in accomplishing this, as both governments undoubtedly desire the re-establishment of commercial relations as soon as practicable. It is the understanding that our government will promptly pay the \$200,000,000 for the cession of the Philippines and it is needless to say that the Spanish government has use for the money.

The conclusion of peace suggests the question whether the volunteers are not thereby legally released from further service. It was urged in congress that this would be the effect, the act under which they enlisted should be for two years or during the war. A Washington dispatch says that volunteers who are in the Philippines may return home if they desire to do so and that it is expected a large number will return. Reports from there indicate that most of them would be glad to return, or at any rate to get out of the service, but it would seem that they cannot now be spared. The government, however, is hurrying forward regular troops and probably within a couple of months all volunteers in the Philippines who wish to come home can safely be allowed to do so. There will be some re-entrainments, but these are not likely to be numerous.

THE FUTURE OF CUBA. Governor Roosevelt expressed what is perhaps a very general feeling in regard to Cuba in saying that it is entitled ultimately to settle for itself whether it shall be an independent state or an integral portion of this republic. "But until order and stable liberty are secured," said the governor, "we must remain in the island to insure them, and infinite tact, judgment, moderation and courage must be shown by our military and civil representatives in keeping the island pacified, in relentlessly stamping out brigandage, in protecting all alike and yet showing proper recognition to the men who fought for Cuban liberty."

The problem of the future of Cuba is certain to grow in interest and perhaps also the difficulties connected with it will increase. The men who fought for Cuban liberty are probably unanimous in favor of an independent government, but there is a very large and influential element favorable to annexation and it is not unlikely that this sentiment, which is largely inspired by commercial considerations, will grow. It is easy to understand why the sugar and tobacco planters desire annexation, which would give them a free market for their products here, while business men and property owners feel that there would be greater security under American rule. These influential forces will work for annexation. The duty of the representatives of the United States in Cuba is to give no encouragement to any faction, but to leave them entirely free to determine what their political future shall be. As to our own people we believe a majority of them are not in favor of annexing Cuba.

THE PHILIPPINE SIDE. The statement of the native side of the unfortunate state of affairs in the Philippines does not contain much that is new, but it makes an interesting contribution to history and its general truthfulness cannot fairly be questioned. There is in the possession of the Washington government the facts respecting the negotiations with Aguinaldo before Dewey sailed from Hong Kong for Manila which sustain, for the most part, what is said in this statement regarding the overtures made to the Filipino leader by American consuls and the urgent request of Dewey that Aguinaldo should accompany him to Manila. It is not claimed that he received any positive assurances that the Philippines would secure their freedom as the reward for their co-operation and assistance, but there can be no reasonable doubt that he was given to understand such would be the case, for otherwise he would not have gone to Manila. The statement now made agrees with one published two months ago on the authority of an intimate friend of the former American consul at Singapore, Mr. Pratt, at whose suggestion Aguinaldo went with Dewey to Manila. This said that in the interviews with Pratt the insurgent leader clearly stated his policy, which embraced the independence of the Philippines. He was willing to accept American protection temporarily, on the same lines as it should be instituted in Cuba. In outlining the policy of a Philippine government Aguinaldo, according to this statement, proposed that the ports of the islands should be free to the trade of the world, that the entire freedom of the press would be established, that there would be general religious toleration and that full provision would be made for the exploitation of the natural resources and wealth of the country by building roads and railways and by the removal of all hindrances to enterprise and the investment of capital. Thus Aguinaldo had in mind a well-defined plan of government, to be organized, perhaps under American protection, as soon as Spanish sovereignty there was at an end.

THE PRICE OF WAR.

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