

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

B. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Unless reports are inaccurate the Pure Food Commission should be rechristened the Impure Food Commission.

The Filipinos appear to be in great demand just now not only for Omaha, but also for New York and features.

The subsidence of the waters of the Missouri merely emphasizes the fact that every one on this earth has his ups and downs.

What about the enforcement of the smoke ordinance? The smoke nuisance is more offensive in the summer than in the winter months.

Omaha may have no state fair this year, but the Ak-Sar-Ben demonstrations may be confidently relied on to outshine all previous festivities.

The throes of an election, w. va., are in the behavior of a kindly set far. If they wish to know the proper way to conduct such an affair they should import a little Kansas or Nebraska talent.

The Filipino congress had another brief session, but with only a portion of the members in attendance.

The Third Nebraska is on its way home. And it is safe to say the train cannot travel too fast either for the soldier boys or for the relatives, sweethearts and friends awaiting their return.

Discussion of Andrew Carnegie's assertion that it is a disgrace for a millionaire to die rich has developed the location of quite a number of people, both millionaires and others, who are perfectly willing to die in disgrace.

The prognosticator who set October 20 as the date for convening congress in special session should guess again. October 20 falls on Friday this year and no president would flout the inauguration superstitious to the extent of inaugurating a congressional session on that day.

One thing at a time. It is useless to agitate in favor of the erection of four or five viaducts all at one and the same time.

Now that General Miles has concluded to keep his mouth closed regarding the beef inquiry report his lawyer has rushed into print on behalf of the general.

With the Filipino troops could be supplied with the fillipino supplies they might be induced to stand firm long enough for Otis to finish them.

Memorial day comes in less than three weeks. The committees of the G. A. R. who have taken on themselves the work of preparation should have the cordial co-operation and support of every patriotic citizen in the community.

The position of King of Samoa may have its advantages, but the needs of royalty in those islands must be very limited.

Railroads are appearing before the Interstate Commerce commission to declare that regular freight tariffs have been adhered to, not only by themselves, but by their competitors.

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SHOWING THEIR HAND. The popocratic reformers who made the campaign of Nebraska last year chiefly on the anti-monopoly issue have again shown their hand and proved themselves recreant to the trust reposed in them.

Under the law the assessment of all railroad property is made by the State Board of Equalization, consisting of the governor, the auditor and state treasurer. The board has held its annual session, but instead of revising the assessment of railroad property to conform to existing conditions, the valuation of last year has been adopted without change.

As usual, representatives of the railroads went on hand to plead the cause of the corporations, but the interests of the people, presumed to be represented by Governor Poynter, Treasurer Meserve and Auditor Cornell, were entirely ignored.

It is a matter of common notoriety that the earnings of railroads have increased enormously within the past year and their values as gauged by the stock quotations have been proportionately increased. It is also a matter of notoriety that all the railroads doing business in Nebraska have within the past year made material improvements, not only in their roadbeds, but in their rolling stock.

The law expressly requires each railroad to make sworn returns of every road locomotive and every passenger or freight car added to its rolling stock. If these reports have been made there should have been an increase in the assessed valuation. If they have not been made the state board has been derelict in its duty to enforce the law.

One thing is plain and palpable—the railroads of Nebraska were either overvalued last year or they have been undervalued this year.

Nobody, not even a railroad manager, has ventured to assert that their properties were overvalued by Governor Holcomb and the late state board in comparison with the general valuation of property in the state.

So long as they can control the sham distributors who fill the state offices by the distribution of pills and personal favors to the men behind the party machine the railroad managers will be perfectly content to keep their hands out of politics by helping all political parties.

The republican party has no call, says the New York Sun, "to indulge in windy declamations against trusts.

The republican party against trusts. Let it be a crime, or that the highly organized forms of modern business are to be disturbed at the request of the same set of persons that is frantic for a cheap dollar."

What is the republican record on this most important question, which promises to be the leading one in the national campaign of next year?

An indication of the unrest prevailing in many old world countries is found in the announcement that 50,000 Galicians have arranged to migrate to the United States.

Investor Keely's machines and manufactures to be put into operation at Jamaica Plain, Mass., to whom they were sent, and some other genius with a talent for exact invention may be afforded an opportunity to ferret out the Oxford street magnanimitous secret.

A "British Investigation." It may be consoling to bear in mind that "whitewashing" isn't peculiarly an American practice.

New York's mayor insists that Dewey return by the Suez canal and land at that place; all because New York is the largest city in the country.

This situation the republican party, in view of its record and as the party of the people, cannot ignore.

Railroads are appearing before the Interstate Commerce commission to declare that regular freight tariffs have been adhered to, not only by themselves, but by their competitors.

Investigations by the late legislature brought out evidence to show that Auditor Cornell had simply allowed in free railroad transportation since his assumption of official prerogatives and that Reform Treasurer Meserve boasted asking and accepting passes whenever occasion presented. These two reformers, acting with Governor Poynter, acting as the State Board of Equalization, have

just adopted the same railroad assessment for 1899 that stood for 1898, much to the joy of the railroad managers. And there are some uncharitable critics who will believe that the free pass distribution bears fruit in spite of protestations that no public officer would permit himself to be influenced by such small and insignificant favors.

It is members of the popocratic testimony that all members of the popocratic gang of hold-ups wanted in the last campaign was control of the county attorney's office through the election of Shields.

Complaints are made in some quarters of the operation of the national bankruptcy law and while it is not surprising that such is the case the fact is a little discouraging to those who advocated the legislation, because it promises a renewal of agitation which it was hoped had been ended for some years at least.

The law has been in operation less than six months and has not yet had a fair trial. According to the referee in bankruptcy in New York, during the time the law has been in effect a great part of the persons who have taken advantage of it failed five, ten or fifteen years ago.

Funston of Kansas is almost as bashful as Dewey. While he admits that there are some political honors which might tempt him, he says they are mighty few and adds "The one or two within the gift of the people of Kansas I would not have the gall to ask for."

County Attorney Shields may derive some consolation from calling The Bee and its editors hard names, but how does that explain his refusal to prosecute protected gamblers against whom he admits he has evidence and his retention of a deputy who uses his position to protect criminals even to the point of refusing to give testimony against them on the ground that he might by so doing incriminate himself also?

Give Jersey Time. Philadelphia Ledger. The country is beginning to look forward with some interest to the announcement of the first billion-dollar trust.

Hard Words Avoided. Philadelphia Times. With French official language of the czar's peace conference matters are more promising. Had the Russian been choosier words from the start were inevitable.

Time to Get Together. Minneapolis Times. The proposed convention of governors and attorney generals of western and southern states to formulate some concerted plan of action against trusts will be subject of educational way. The more the subject is studied and discussed the better prepared the public will be to take effective defensive action.

What's in the Breakfast Cup? Chicago Tribune. Brazil's coffee crop is said to be worth \$140,000,000, and most of the product is sold in the United States.

Words Well Spoken. Louisville Courier-Journal. The father of the late Colonel Stotesberg, killed at the head of the Nebraska regiment in the Philippines, writes to the War Department in Germany "black" even my son died as a soldier would choose to die, and it is a further comfort that his republic has many, many such sons who will work and die for its glory and honor."

America as a Dumping Ground. New York Mail and Express. The investigation into adulteration of food conducted by Senator Mason has only just begun at Chicago, but evidence as to the necessity of a national pure food law has already been adduced.

A Stricken Father's Sentiments. Minneapolis Tribune. The father of Colonel Stotesberg of the First Nebraska volunteers, who fell dead with a bullet in his heart while leading his men in gallant fashion, has written a letter to the War department, in which he says of his son: "I think it is consolatory to die, and it is a further comfort that his republic has many, many such sons who will work and die for its glory and honor."

The Louisville Courier-Journal after beating about the bush for some time touches upon the very delicate point at issue in the following manner: "Kissing is largely a matter of feeling and feeling is an emotional matter, and the impulse that Jacob kissed Rachel, and then he lifted up his voice and wept, because he had not met her sooner. Nevertheless, like the other fine arts, has a scientific basis."

An Old-Time Sedition Law. Springfield Republican. Recent occurrences—the taking from the mails of a pamphlet containing speeches by Messrs. Hoar, Edmunds and Boutwell—have recalled the old edition law which was enacted by the federalists in John Adams' administration, and which proved the ruin of the federalist party.

Investigations by the late legislature brought out evidence to show that Auditor Cornell had simply allowed in free railroad transportation since his assumption of official prerogatives and that Reform Treasurer Meserve boasted asking and accepting passes whenever occasion presented.

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ECHOES OF THE WAR.

The stigma of "coward" draped by every soldier, has been officially attached to the names of three officers of the Seventy-first New York volunteers, for their conduct at the battle of San Juan. The men thus stigmatized are Colonel Downs, Lieutenant White, and Major White. A board of inquiry of the State National Guard has had the matter under investigation for several weeks, and its findings have just been made public.

The conduct of the Seventy-first in the battle of July 1 is one of the unpleasant episodes of the Santiago campaign. By some mysterious influence it was singled out from among New York regiments for what was regarded as special good fortune—participation in the first invasion of Cuba.

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NEWS AND AFFAIRS.

Indianapolis News: The reports as to the health of Havana and Santiago continue to be of the most encouraging nature. The intelligent and thorough cleaning of the cities and the other sanitary measures adopted by the present government have had a very effective effect. So far, there have been very few cases of yellow fever. With proper precautions there is no reason, one would think, why Havana and Cuba should not be as healthy as Galveston and Texas.

Philadelphia Record: Payment to the Cuban troops of the \$3,000,000 gratuity from the United States government will begin this week—first to the troops in Havana province, and thereafter to those in other departments, ending with Santiago. The largess will be shared by 100,000 men, so that each will receive \$75. It is not much; yet each recipient of this amount must first surrender all arms and war-like equipment in his possession, and this means the practical disarmament of the island population at a comparatively trifling cost.

New York Tribune: The population is probably 25 per cent less than it was before the war, and the health and purchasing ability of those who are left are reduced to a minimum. And yet the custom house revenues are today about as large as they were before the war, when the population was probably 25 per cent more than it is now.

Washington Post: A loyal American, editor of a newspaper in Havana—Mr. Thomas R. Dawley, the head of the Times of Cuba—has just been arrested, with the prospect of being thrown into prison by order of a Cuban judge. He has not been convicted by his accusers.

Chicago Record: "Clara and I hated America to take off our new hats at the concert." "But you did, didn't you?" "Yes, and all our friends were over we found out that three blind men sat right behind us."

Chicago Tribune: "How much did those fish cost? You asked the friend at the end of the pier." "They have cost me a dollar and a half in boat hire, half a dollar for minnows, half a dollar for the fish, a quarter for bush money to the chap who sold them to me, a suit of clothes, and probably my church membership," replied the Sunday fisherman, with a hunted look in his eyes.

Indianapolis Journal: "And, by the way, brother," asked the minister who had been called in to preach the funeral sermon of the ex-convict, "were all those bear stories the truth?" "Parson," said he, "that's a mighty mean advantage to take of a 'dyin' man'."

Detroit Journal: Now the Oriental farmer went for joy. "Puff it out, Allah!" he cried. "I have lifted the mortgage from my fourteenth wife, and she is now a widow."

A farmer there is much like a farmer here; farmers everywhere will go in debt for labor-saving machinery, thus yielding themselves into the clutches of the money power.

Philadelphia Press. The kid reporter heaved a sigh and lit a quoniam pipe. He had treated it to make it old—it certainly was "ripe."

For the copy reader's pencil had been at his work again. O ye who toil in other fields beyond the Fourth Street.

You miss the joy it offers in the hours that are late. But you do not know what grief it is, you cannot know what pain. To see your "biggest" story by the copy reader's pen.

You get a good assignment and are told to "puff it out." And you do it to a column and a half or thereabout.

Then the news room gets a "fake" or some dago penny who's sick. And the copy reader's pencil cuts your story to a "stick."

It is probable that reader has a wife and child, and he No doubt must have a heart somewhere in his anatomy. But the milk that grind exceedingly fine, and take so long to wash. Aren't in for a minute with the copy reader's flat.

LOOK TO THE UNITED STATES.

Newfoundland People Favor This Country in Preference to Canada. MARSHALL, Mich., May 11.—Rev. Bishop Hawley of St. John's, N. F., administered confirmation in St. Mary's church today to a large class. In an interview Bishop Hawley said: "The public sentiment of Newfoundland is more in favor of annexation to America than of confederation with Canada. This feeling has been accentuated by the fact that the country has been recently drawn into a most shameful railway contract by a Canadian syndicate and Canadian politicians. It amounts to a virtual swindling of the country out of a \$13,000,000 railway and all its coal, minerals, forests and agricultural lands. A desperate fight for our freedom is now imminent. The local Parliament opens today, and it is believed the contract broken up. I do not believe the immediate prospect of the settlement of the French border question. The complication arises not from any intrinsic difficulty in the case, but because politicians have always thought of it rather as a means of exploiting their own popularity than of relieving the country of the grave burden of the French aggressions."

LINES TO A SMILE. Detroit Journal: The Lawyer—Take your case to somebody else. You are too thick-skinned. The Client—Hardly pay you to skin me, eh?

Washington Star: "Did you ever find that when you stood up to get a newspaper that a coin you had in your pocket was over you?" "No," answered Senator Sorghum. "I never was investigated."

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DISCOUNT SALE.

33 1/3 OFF. It is probable that reader has a wife and child, and he No doubt must have a heart somewhere in his anatomy. But the milk that grind exceedingly fine, and take so long to wash. Aren't in for a minute with the copy reader's flat.

MEN BEHIND THE GUNS.

Quality, Not Quantity, Counts in the Final Results. The latest European critics of the American navy look askant at the limited room for men's quarters on our ships and at the consequently small number of men employed upon them. The facts are indisputable, as reference to the record shows.

Our big cruiser Brooklyn, of 9,215 tons, for example, has only 522 men. The British Achilles, of 9,520 tons, has 707, and the Varesip, of only 8,400 tons, has 575. The French Dupuy de Lome, of 8,517 tons, has 612 men, and the Little Duplex, of only 7,700 tons, has 531. The German Kaiser, of only 7,531 tons, having no fewer than 565 men.

The same contrast exists in the case of battleships. Our Oregon, of 16,228 tons, has 473 men. The British Asen, Dardur and Centurion, of from 15,500 to 16,000 tons each, have respectively 615, 606 and 622 men. The French ships of the Magonia class, of 16,850 tons each, have each 660 men. And the German Bismarck, of 19,100 tons, has 652 men. To go to a larger type, our Iowa, of 11,410 tons, has 565 men. The British Nile, of 11,940 tons, has 558. The French Amir Dupere and Brennus, each a Frenchman, of 11,410 tons, has 558. The German Kaiser Wilhelm II, of 11,200 tons, has 655 men.

We have not heard that the effectiveness of our navy is seriously impaired by the looseness of its men. The Oregon managed to get along very well on her unequalled voyage and in the light at Santiago with a smaller complement than European ships of her size have. She had twenty-seven fewer men than the Viesca of the Quebec, though she was 3,288 tons larger; but she contrived to hold her own in her "small bickering" with them, despite that handicap.

We shall not apply to the case Dr. Johnson's famous statement of the ratio between English and French dictionary makers. But we have an idea that the number of men behind the guns does not matter much more than the degree of proficiency those men attain and maintain in handling the guns and especially in hitting targets with projectiles from them.

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