

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

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Table with 2 columns: Date and Circulation figures. Total circulation for the week is 750,880.

George B. Tschuck, Secretary of The Bee Publishing Company. M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

BEFORE TAKING AND AFTER TAKING.

The old proverb, never say ill of the dead, applied to politics should read: 'Never say anything good of a politician until after he is dead.' This is strikingly illustrated in the career of Silas A. Holcomb...

THE BOERS' FIRST BATTLE.

The unexpected very often happens. In the war between the Boers and the British the first pitched battle has culminated in a victory for the British army. The prevailing impression among military men of all nations, including those of England, was that the armies of the Dutch republics which had taken the initiative in the war would prove victorious in the first onslaught by reason of the fact that the British reinforcements could not reach the seat of war in time to be of service to the British garrisons scattered over large areas, at best very difficult to successfully defend.

According to the accounts that have reached us through British sources the first battle was fought with reckless dash on the part of the Boers and dogged valor on the part of the British. From the outset the Boers were at great disadvantage in attacking a force powerfully entrenched and equipped with the best rapid-fire guns and small arms handled by men perfectly drilled in their effective use.

It is in accord with the eternal fitness of things for the champion fakirs and sham reformers to reproduce the complimentary things said by The Bee concerning Silas A. Holcomb before he had been tried and found wanting as credentials of his eminent fitness for the position he now seeks. But these political outbursts take very great care not to reprint what The Bee has said about Mr. Holcomb since he has become known by his acts.

AN EXTRAORDINARY VINDICATION.

In his speech at Van Wert, O., Colonel Bryan said that he was not discouraged by the defeat of 1896, because he felt that if his party was wrong then it was right in its position would be vindicated by experience. 'I believe the last three years have vindicated the position taken in 1896,' he declared. Can it be possible that Colonel Bryan is sincere in making this statement? He knows what has taken place during the last three years. He has traveled in every section of the country within that period and witnessed the improved conditions everywhere. He has seen the evidences of prosperity on all sides wherever he has gone and he has read the proofs of it in the swelling statistics of industrial and commercial activity. He knows that financial distrust has given place to confidence and that all interests look hopefully to the future as promising an even larger measure of prosperity than they are now having.

In view of all this, what does Colonel Bryan mean by asserting that the position of his party in 1896 has been vindicated? That party prophesied all sorts of evil and disaster to the country if republican principles and policies should prevail and not a single prediction has been verified. In every speech made by Colonel Bryan in the last national campaign he told the idle workmen that they would get no employment if the republican party triumphed and that the wages of the employed would be reduced. Today the demand for labor in every section of the country is in excess of the supply and wages are higher than for several years. It is told the farmers that republican success would mean less reward for their toil and increased hardships. Today the agricultural interest is in better condition than ever before in the history of the country. Tens of thousands of farmers who three years ago were heavily in debt are now free from indebtedness or have so far reduced it that it no longer embarrasses them. They were told that unless we had the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 prices of products would further decline, but on the contrary prices of all products advanced.

The shillbush of the poperaic party in 1896 was calamity and its promise ruin and disaster in the event of republican success. Instead there are general prosperity and unprecedented industrial and commercial activity. The mills and factories are running full time and are deluged with orders. Present indications are that the enormous exports of last year will be exceeded this year. Home consumption has been immensely increased. In all material respects the American people are better off than the people of any other land under the sun. Instead of a vindication of the poperaic position, the existing conditions demonstrate most conclusively and convincingly the utter fallacy of the financial and economic principles of that party. The theory that there would be no prosperity under the gold standard has been completely and forever demolished, yet the declaration of Colonel Bryan implies that he thinks it not only still sound, but really stronger for having been discredited by events. It is easy to understand why he holds this view. He is the embodiment of free silver and it is the question above all others upon which his hope of gratifying his political ambition rests.

Not a single plank of the Chicago platform has been vindicated by the events of the last three years. Not a fact in existing conditions justifies one doctrine or declaration of that revolutionary deliverance. In the light of experience since 1896 it is very much clearer now than then that poperaic success would have brought immeasurable evils to the country from which it might not have recovered in a generation.

The industrial commission at Washington has been furnished with statistics regarding the American merchant marine which are decidedly impressive as showing the low estate this country has reached as a maritime power in respect to international commerce. The author of the statistics, Mr. F. L. Neall of Philadelphia, has evidently made most thorough and painstaking study and research and there can be no question regarding the accuracy of his facts and figures. Mr. Neall states that the volume of merchandise imported and exported by the United States for the calendar year 1898 amounted to \$1,890,000,000. The weight of this merchandise was over 37,000,000 gross tons, or more than 3,000,000 tons per month. In regard to the transportation of this merchandise, vast in value and bulk, it is shown that out of a total shipping tonnage suitable for transoceanic traffic aggregating 27,000,000 tons, the United States has but 125 vessels, steam and sail, with a carrying capacity of 236,185 tons. Think of this for a maritime and commercial nation whose shores are washed by two oceans, whose commodities are in world-wide demand and whose resources are inexhaustible. In all other respects independent of the rest of the world we are dependent upon the shipowners of Europe, chiefly those of England, for carrying our commodities to foreign markets and bringing back what we buy abroad. This dependence is not only expensive, costing our people, according to the lowest estimate, \$182,000,000 annually, but it places this country at a distinct disadvantage in the competition for the world's trade. Whatever may be said of the axiom that 'trade follows the flag,' there can be no question that the nation which is able to send its commodities to foreign markets in its own ships under its own flag has a decided advantage over the nation that cannot do this. Great Britain's commercial supremacy is largely due to her possession of this advantage, which she still relies upon to keep her at the head of the world's commerce, while Germany's rapid advance in recent years as a commercial power has been greatly aided by her merchant marine. The unusual interest that is being shown in this question of a merchant marine for the ocean carrying trade gives promise of practical results. President McKinley's references to it in his recent tour give ample assurance that he will urge legislation upon congress and the general expressions of republican platforms favorable to such legislation will undoubtedly induce congress to act. There is no time better than the present, as was said by Mr. McKinley, to build up a merchant marine and our enlarged commercial relations make it more than ever essential that we should take up this work, so vastly important to commercial progress and commercial independence. In regard to the policy that should be adopted there will have to be compromise between extreme views. Free ships are out of the question. The country will not tolerate a policy for the advantage of European shipbuilders. On the other hand there is a very strong public sentiment against subsidies or bounties, such as proposed in the bill introduced in the last congress and which will be brought forward early in the approaching session. A compromise is practicable and will probably be effected. At all events the next congress will undoubtedly legislate upon this

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1899.

A TEMPORARY ADJUSTMENT.

The perplexing Alaskan boundary question has been temporarily adjusted and the danger of serious friction between American and Canadian interests in Alaska for the time being removed. According to report from Washington the agreement temporarily defining the boundary makes no concession detrimental to American interests, while at the same time being essentially fair to Canada. It is admitted by the representative of the Canadian government in London that the provisional arrangement is fair to both sides and insofar as it will prevent local friction, satisfactory. It is stated that the effect of the modus is to give the United States control of the tidewater, the British being fifteen miles above; to maintain the American control to the new and important Porcupine country and to save the rights of all American miners who are now on the Canadian side of the line.

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According to the accounts that have reached us through British sources the first battle was fought with reckless dash on the part of the Boers and dogged valor on the part of the British. From the outset the Boers were at great disadvantage in attacking a force powerfully entrenched and equipped with the best rapid-fire guns and small arms handled by men perfectly drilled in their effective use. In this battle it was not merely superior range of artillery but superior men behind the guns that carried the day for the British. The Boers are conceded to have displayed great bravery from the opening to the close of the battle and that fact is attested by the heavy losses inflicted upon the imperial forces, which were particularly severe in the number of officers killed and disabled.

The effect of the first battle upon the final outcome of the war cannot be prognosticated at this stage. While the loss of one or two regiments is not likely to be regarded as an irreparable disaster by the Boers, the moral effect cannot but be seriously depressing. The battle near Glencoe cannot of course be compared to the first battle of Bull Run, since the conditions of the American republic and the two African republics are so dissimilar. In the American war of the rebellion the United States had 30,000,000 of people and vast resources in men and money to fall back on. The Boers, on the other hand, have a comparatively small population and limited resources for carrying on a protracted war. Their chances of success were staked upon a short, sharp and decisive conflict waged in territory with every foot of which they were familiar. The loss of the first battle may be disastrous, but it is by no means fatal to the cause for which the Boers are contending.

SOME IMPRESSIVE FIGURES.

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This dependence is not only expensive, costing our people, according to the lowest estimate, \$182,000,000 annually, but it places this country at a distinct disadvantage in the competition for the world's trade. Whatever may be said of the axiom that 'trade follows the flag,' there can be no question that the nation which is able to send its commodities to foreign markets in its own ships under its own flag has a decided advantage over the nation that cannot do this. Great Britain's commercial supremacy is largely due to her possession of this advantage, which she still relies upon to keep her at the head of the world's commerce, while Germany's rapid advance in recent years as a commercial power has been greatly aided by her merchant marine. The unusual interest that is being shown in this question of a merchant marine for the ocean carrying trade gives promise of practical results. President McKinley's references to it in his recent tour give ample assurance that he will urge legislation upon congress and the general expressions of republican platforms favorable to such legislation will undoubtedly induce congress to act. There is no time better than the present, as was said by Mr. McKinley, to build up a merchant marine and our enlarged commercial relations make it more than ever essential that we should take up this work, so vastly important to commercial progress and commercial independence. In regard to the policy that should be adopted there will have to be compromise between extreme views. Free ships are out of the question. The country will not tolerate a policy for the advantage of European shipbuilders. On the other hand there is a very strong public sentiment against subsidies or bounties, such as proposed in the bill introduced in the last congress and which will be brought forward early in the approaching session. A compromise is practicable and will probably be effected. At all events the next congress will undoubtedly legislate upon this

BRITAIN'S MILITARY POWER.

Put to the Greatest Test Since the Crimean War. The immediacy of the task of the British admiralty in transporting to South Africa the reinforcements needed for the war with the Boers, and of the army service corps (corresponding to our commissary department) in providing sustenance for such an aggregation of troops in a country generally speaking destitute of the necessities of life, will be appreciated in the United States in view of our recent and still continuing experience with the difficulties of carrying on general operations at a 12,000-mile range. The distance from Southampton to Cape Town is somewhat greater than that between San Francisco and Manila; and whereas the problem confronting our army transport service is the carriage of about 20,000 men and their equipments to the theater of operations, the British authorities are wrestling with the far more serious one of transporting an army nearly twice as large in as many weeks. The dispatch of 15,000 soldiers from England to Egypt in 1882 within three weeks was considered a great feat at that time and was said to have elicited words of praise even from the tactful Von Moltke. The present undertaking exceeds the latter in magnitude—having regard for the greater length of the voyage and the number of men carried—in the ratio of four to one. It is not surprising that the British have been drawn into the service of the British government and the conversion of liners into transports is proceeding with feverish haste at every wharf along the coast of Great Britain. The efficiency of the fleet will be put to the test for the first time in several generations in a conflict with white men. According to an excellent professional military authority as the Berlin Militar-Wochenblatt, the strength of the fleet forces is 60,000 well equipped men, so that the opposing armies will be numerically pretty evenly matched, with the odds very slightly in favor of the British. The smallness of the two armies compared with the measure of modern times will be compensated for by the desperation of the Boers, the immediacy of the scene of operations (the Transvaal alone being as large as France) and the fact that the fleet forces are 60,000 well equipped men, so that the opposing armies will be numerically pretty evenly matched, with the odds very slightly in favor of the British. The smallness of the two armies compared with the measure of modern times will be compensated for by the desperation of the Boers, the immediacy of the scene of operations (the Transvaal alone being as large as France) and the fact that the fleet forces are 60,000 well equipped men, so that the opposing armies will be numerically pretty evenly matched, with the odds very slightly in favor of the British.

Iowa produces an enormous quantity of gold every year, and it is largely dug from the ground, but rarely is it found embedded deeper than the cornstalk roots. The report of the discovery of gold-bearing sand at a depth of sixty feet will doubtless soon be put on ice along with stories of discoveries of gold along the Blue river valley in Nebraska. Such reports are said to be the means of raising the price of land with a suddenness beyond all comparison.

The poperaic World Herald is trying to recall examples where employers threatened to discharge employees in 1891 if they did not vote according to directions. The Bee still has in its possession letters of the World-Herald charging some of its Nebraska correspondents because they failed to follow that paper in its flap from denouncing it to 1 free coinage as robbery to the ardent support of the silver billionaires' cause.

The southsiders are perfectly justified in insisting upon prompt work in the construction of the Sixteenth street viaduct. They have already been deprived of the use of Sixteenth street altogether and cut off from street railway service too long. The railroads, too, should see to it that a great portion of the inhabitants of the city are not inconvenienced longer than is absolutely necessary.

The practical disappearance of silver republicans as shown by the registration records is sought to be explained on the ground that they do not wish to uncover their strength. The silver republican party was never anything more

BLASTS FROM BAWNS HORN.

Principle flies no flag of truce. Service is greater than sovereignty. When money is king, misery is queen. Circumstances are less potent than ideals. A good pastor is an incarnation of the Good Shepherd. Grasp the irksome duty tight, it shall turn to sweet delight. Many a geologist has yet stumbled and fallen over a stone. The preacher who starves his head cannot feel his people's hearts. Weaken your lusts by starving them before you wrestle with them. If the hearstings are richly moved, the pursestrings will surely be loosened. We can bear one another's burdens without being busy-bodies in each other's business. 'Inasmuch as ye did it not' will ring in the ears of some of the lost, through all eternity.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

There's many a slip 'twixt America's cup and Lipton. If St. Thomas sends over a breeze of his tea from 'eylon's lake all will be forgiven. Yacht critics are now diligently explaining some remarks they made the day before. Autobian is the latest name for horseless vehicles. It comes from Stockholm. It might have been improved before landing. The real secret of Columbia's wonderful speed has leaked out. The goat and patrol were unloosed after the seventh hike. Lieutenant Bramby of the Olympia is said to be the greatest smoker in the navy. Except when on duty, he always has a cigar close at hand. The discovery of marine monsters near Chicago a few days ago shows the danger of experimenting with water immediately after a full meal. War correspondents on the Boer side of the argument can have all the privileges they need. They are permitted to accompany the firing line and can go into the thick of the fray if their sand holds out. The sympathy of the dental profession is not going out to the Boers, not by a jugful. To be President Kruger had in hot jumping tooth, but instead of calling in a professional he gouged it out with a clasp-knife. During a Simpson revival in New York City last week, pledges to the amount of \$150,000 were received in one day. One pledge of \$100,000 was returned to the joy of the congregation was restrained until the financial standing of the pledger was examined.

UNIFORMITY OF SOIL.

The Genevian 'Gannan Bell' of the Middle West. J. Sterling McClain, Conservative. There is a remarkable uniformity in the soil of northwestern Missouri, southwestern Iowa and southeastern Nebraska. In the Iowa counties of Mills, Fremont, Page and Montgomery, the Missouri counties of Atchison, Holt, Andrew and Newton, and in the Nebraska counties of Cass, Otoe, Nemaha and Richardson the same soil covers all the fields. It is a rich, black loam. It is like the loess formation along the Rhine and therefore phenomenally fertile and productive. The last fifty years—the Nebraska counties have only been opened to settlement since 1854—there has never been a total failure of crops in any one of the counties named in either state. Their average crops of corn have been, no doubt, during a half century the largest per acre in the United States. There are more well-fenced farmers in the counties named and fewer farms under mortgage than in a similar area anywhere in this republic. There are very few mortgages representing anything besides debt payments of the money agreed to be given for the land. In Fremont county, Iowa, and Atchison county, Missouri, are two of the largest cornfields in the world; in the former the Payne corn patch of 8,000 acres; and Atchison county, Missouri, rejoices in the Dave Rankin cornfield of 10,000 acres, the same being one of the fields in a farm of thirty thousand acres. And in all these counties the season of 1899 has been propitious and bountiful. Calamity howlers are agitated! In the presence of the matured corn crop, fat cattle, fat hogs and high prices for beef and pork even hibernian howlers are tongue-tied. There is nothing upon which to base discontent. The people are prosperous. The honest, temperate and industrious are happy.

RACIAL RECONSTRUCTION.

Slavonic Race Decried to Preponderance in London Spectator. The Slavonic race in its various branches is increasing more rapidly than any civilized race known in history, and we must accept the fact that the growth of Europe is surrounded by the present at least, final, and not to be argued with or gainsaid. The Russian empire now numbers 130,000,000 and, though the numbers include Germans in the extreme west and Mongols in the extreme east, yet the mass are pure Slavs, presenting thus a homogeneity rare in history. But, in addition to Russia, we have Slavonic offshoots over a large European area which render the future of much more than half Europe certainly Slavonic. The troubles in Austria have reminded us of the Slav kingdom of Bohemia, but it is not in Bohemia only that the German is face to face with the Slav; he is so in Galicia, in Carinthia and Carniola, while the Magyar is surrounded by the Slav in the land of his birth. In the Balkan peninsula it is a case of whether Slav or Greek shall inherit the lands made desolate by the Turk and few who have studied the question in the light of recent history can stomach the idea that it will be the Slav. We need not quote that hackneyed saying of Napoleon—'Cossack or republican'—it is more to the point to say that, whatever the future political forms of Europe may be, the actual population will be largely (if not predominantly) Slavonic, and that this fact may mean a different Europe from that known in history. For where, from the point of view of numbers, is the counterbalancing element to the Slav to be found? France is stationary, and very nearly so are Spain and Portugal. Germany is full, and can only maintain herself in comfort by reason of the American outlet for her surplus. Austria is actually a ground for Slav as against German, Italian, and Magyar. Italy, like Germany, sends her surplus over the Atlantic. The great future of English-speaking people is not in Europe, but in America and the southern seas. The Norse people are hemmed in by barren lands and are probably increasing faster in the north-west of the United States than at home. Now, if we set against these facts the actual growth of Russia herself, the increase of Slavs in central Europe, and the probable future of the Slavs in the Balkan peninsula, we cannot fail to see that, within a measurable period, the Slavonic element in European society will preponderate in the balance. What effect will this racial reconstruction of Europe exert on mankind? It will be a long time before we shall realize that if we want to find the great seeds of the historic peoples of Europe, we shall have to look beyond Europe, to Teutonic North America, to Latin South America, to Teutonic Australasia. Yet this will, so far as one can see, certainly be the case within another century, assuming the present general drift of things to continue.

PORTRAYS LIFE'S REALITIES.

Deep-rooted Source of Newspapers Power and Influence. Public Opinion Times. The newspaper generally serves as a topic for discussion at every church conference and words are sometimes spoken by sensational ministers that would wound the feelings of a sensitive press. Rev. Dr. Greer of New York, at the recent Minneapolis gathering of ecclesiastics, inveighed against what he described as 'the newspaper habit'—meaning the reading of 'daily journals' rather than serious books on philosophy or religion. Possibly he also intended a rebuke to people who preferred to enjoy a brightly newspaper rather than listening to a dull sermon, but he carefully refrained from going into details. Of course, he said 'the newspaper must necessarily be sensational because he defined news to be 'the uncommon things of life.' That is not a bad definition, but the New York World points out that many 'uncommon things of life' are recorded in Holy Writ and casually cited 'Joshua's command to the sun and moon to stand still (which the sun and moon are said to have obeyed); the story of Jonah; the translation of Elijah and much else of like kind.' Then the World asks: 'All these incidents were 'uncommon' and therefore sensational; but are we to shun them on that account?' We must not be understood as intimating that Rev. Dr. Greer condemned the newspapers. Far from it. He probably had read reports of several great public libraries in this country which show that the circulation of books therefrom decreased from 10 to 25 per cent during a large part of last year. The people of this country were then studying history, and it was made, day by day, and had no time for Gibbon, Macaulay or historical novels. Another war has just begun and though it will be waged in far off South Africa the morning newspaper will bring the daily progress of events to your breakfast table.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTIES.

Indianaapolis Journal: 'How do you like your new suit?' 'It is quite immaterial. The important question is, How does she like me?' Chicago Record: Smith: 'My congratulations, old man. I hear you have another increase in your family. Son or daughter?' 'James (sighs)—Worse; a son-in-law.' Detroit Free Press: 'Julia, I think I'll give you furniture for your birthday present.' 'How lovely, Harry. I'll take a piano, a sewing machine and a lady's writing desk.' Jewellers Weekly: Returned Volunteer—'What's an appropriate gift from a soldier to his sweetheart?' 'A powder box about the right thing.' Harper's Bazar: Mrs. Van Swamp—'William, dear, as you have another child coming, will you please hold the baby's rattle in your hand? It amuses the sweet precious so much.' Baltimore News: 'He is not in,' said Mrs. Shortly to the collector. 'What! You know he is not in,' said the collector. 'What I want to know, has he any?' Detroit Free Press: She—'There is nothing like a wedding so much as love and patriotism. What is your taste, Freddy?' He—'I have always thought well of the southern.' Chicago Record: 'Nan, how does my hat compare with Kib's?' 'Nan, how does my hat compare with Kib's?' 'Your looks more like a hearse coming around the corner than hers does.' Chicago Post: 'If you think he wants to marry you for your money, why don't you tell him that your father has called and that you are consequently penniless?' 'I'm afraid I'd lose him.' Somerville Journal: Many a man grumbles about the cost of his wife's dressmaking and millinery bills, who, if he should figure up closely, would find that his own hats and clothes cost more than hers do. Chicago News: He—'This war in South Africa will make diamonds dearer.' She—'I suppose so, but any girl who really loves a man would be willing to wear a ring of pearls and opals until the trouble is over.' Pittsburg Chronicle: 'Talk about your elaborate weddings, Mr. Snuggs, one that is to take place in Cleveland next week will be simply out of sight.' 'Tell me about it,' said the bridegroom. 'Mrs. Snuggs, eagerly. 'The bride, the groom, the best man, the minister, the musician and the fifty invited guests are all blind.' Harlem Life: Ethel—'Do you like Mr. Exams, mamma?' Mamma—'Yes, child, very much.' Ethel—'And Mr. Fish and Mr. Dixon and Mr. Sheldon?' Mamma—'Like them all, pet.' Ethel—'Which one are you going to marry, then?' Mamma—'The one who proposes first, darling.'

PLEASURES.

High in the green-crowned vault of heaven majestically wait the sisters seven: Moored in a starlit, jeweled sea— A sea of wondrous mystery. Over the bounding deeps below, The precious barks may proudly go, Naught shall the skipper's peace destroy, 'Till loosed-for sign hath brought his joy. Faithful and true while mortals sleep, These 'virgins seven' their shells keep; Bathed in a flood where moonbeams play— The silvery tide of the 'Winged Way.' FRANK B. THOMAS.

What to Wear

It is a question with every man at the changing of seasons as to what to wear. We shall be very glad of a chance to advise him. Besides the select patterns in striped worsteds of which we have an exceptional line at \$12.50, \$15, \$18, \$20 and \$25 there are fancy chevrons in stripes, checks and plaids, at \$8, \$10, \$12.50, etc., and if your taste is for serge, we have them in round and square cut of all desirable grades.

Drawing Room & Co.

102 Broadway, N. Y. C.