

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. BOREWATER, Editor.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: George B. Trzasko, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Omaha Daily Morning Evening and Sunday Bee, printed during the month of December, 1899, was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Date, Circulation, Total. Rows for each day from 1st to 31st, showing daily circulation figures and a total for the month.

Total 771,535. Less unsold and returned copies 11,873. Net total sales 759,662.

Net daily average 24,502.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 1st day of January, A. D. 1900.

M. R. HUNTING, Notary Public.

What is the Board of County Commissioners going to do about Albyn Frank's debt?

Judge Scott says he retires from the bench with pleasure. That will do to tell the horse marines.

If all the self-made puff of all the popocrats who want city office are to be printed the party organ will have to enlarge the paper.

The Iowa legislature does not meet until next week, but the wires at the Des Moines end are already pretty close to the fusing point.

The Boers are reported to have fired shells into the English lines loaded with plum pudding. This blow below the belt is clearly a foul under the rules.

Omaha's two yellow journals have now reached the condition of "You pat me and I pat you." This is another case of "I expected this, but not so soon."

Seventy-five cents a day in fines is all that the police court has turned into the school board treasury in 1899. No wonder Judge Gordon is popular among the criminal classes.

Of course there is nothing wrong in the office of the late clerk of the district court. All this trouble arises simply because of the exposure of his crooked work in The Bee.

The Peter Cooper club will have a goodly sized art gallery stowed away in the basement if the pictures of all the populist leaders unfaithful to their promises are to be consigned to the storage room.

A judge of the Iowa supreme court has promulgated the opinion that twenty-two years is long enough to hold office and he will voluntarily retire. It is always refreshing to find a man who knows when he has had enough.

How kind of the members of the populist national committee to go to all the trouble to assemble at Lincoln at the same time as the meeting of the populist state committee, just to give the latter friendly counsel and advice.

Interest in the Iowa senatorial fight appears to be centered more on what Dr. Eiker is going to do next than upon the result of the organization of the legislature. As a handy legislative acrobat Eiker is entitled to the championship belt.

The supreme court pressure gauge shows that unless the safety valve goes up pretty soon an explosion is likely to follow. There are so many applicants for the clerkship perched on the lever that the pressure is rapidly reaching the danger point.

If Albyn Frank wants to test the new law requiring him to account for fees received as clerk of the district court the way to do it is to arrest him for embezzlement at once. That is what his refusal to pay over public money which he has appropriated amounts to.

When the popocratic conference was called to meet at Lincoln Mr. Edlinsten neglected to state "None admitted except on invitation." The result is he has a number of uninvited guests on his hands whom he cannot well get rid of. The democrats are sticking closer to the populist wagon than a poor relation.

Playing revolution will probably not be so popular in France since the sentence to prison of one of the royalist conspirators. The French government's leniency heretofore has encouraged peasant politicians to make cheap notoriety without any danger to themselves. Prison sentences may have no terrors to men really moved by firm convictions of right, but noisy agitators are not likely to court them.

THE SENATE FINANCIAL BILL.

The most interesting portion of the speech of Senator Aldrich, chairman of the senate finance committee, in explanation of the bill reported from that committee as a substitute for the measure passed by the house, relates to the provision authorizing the secretary of the treasury to convert a portion of the national debt into bonds bearing 2 per cent interest. This is perhaps the most important difference between the two bills and the one likely to cause greatest discussion in conference.

The proposition, Mr. Aldrich stated, "contemplates a profitable anticipation of interest payments and consequent reduction of the public debt." In order to effect this the holders of the outstanding bonds specified in the bill are to be paid in exchange for them "a sum not greater than the present worth of such bonds, computed to yield an income of 2-1/4 per cent per annum and their par value," which according to Senator Aldrich would take \$88,000,000 out of the treasury. It is doubtless true that under present conditions the withdrawal of this amount from the treasury "would afford welcome relief from dangerous congestion," but would the transaction be of any advantage to the government? Mr. Aldrich says it would be of inestimable advantage to place the national debt upon a 2 per cent basis and keep the obligations issued at that rate at par in the markets of the world. It is of course desirable to reduce the rate of interest—though it is very questionable whether it can be done at this time—but it is not apparent that the conversion of bonds proposed by this bill would result in any saving of interest to the government or any benefit whatever to the national treasury. It probably would be of benefit to the money market and it is very likely that the national banks would regard a 2 per cent bond more desirable as a basis of circulation than the outstanding securities, with the result of increasing bank circulation. These are considerations favorable to the proposition, but they are not conclusive as to its value.

The plan of extending the public debt, as this bill proposes, when the treasury has a surplus available for reducing the debt and its receipts are in excess of expenditures, is a departure from the past policy of the government which will hardly meet with general public approval. It is true, as Senator Aldrich said, that there may be disbursements which cannot be paid from current revenues and it is always prudent to consider the possibilities of the future, still it is not clear that in any event there is anything to be gained by extending the debt, even at a lower rate of interest, instead of reducing it. So far as the money market is concerned the latter should be quite as beneficial as the other.

In regard to other features of the bill the explanations given by Senator Aldrich will not change the very general opinion that on the whole the senate measure is inferior to the house bill. This is especially true in respect to the declaration of the standard and the payment of the obligations of the government in gold. It is not as direct, straightforward and unambiguous in these particulars as the measure passed by the house, which leaves nothing open to doubt or question. The statement of Senator Aldrich that the senate bill contains no disavowal of the position heretofore taken upon the question of international bimetalism and places no obstacles in the way of its accomplishment in the future seems irrelevant and if intended for political effect would better have not been said. In declaring that the gold standard the republican party should drop all thought of international bimetalism, which is a present impossibility and will probably never again be seriously considered by the leading nations of the world.

THE SCHOOL BOARD DEFICIT.

The Board of Education has made a startling exhibit. The receipts from all sources for 1899 show an ostensible falling off of over \$150,000 as compared with those of the preceding year, while the expenditures for 1899 exceed those for 1898 by over \$40,000. Thus the year 1900 opens with a shortage of over \$190,000, which must be paid off sooner or later in addition to the current expenses for maintaining the public schools. The shrinkage in receipts for 1899 is practically confined to the slump in the amount collected from licenses and police court fines.

The comparison between the receipts for licenses for 1898 and 1899 shows a shrinkage of \$149,000 in the liquor license fund and over \$13,000 in the police court fines. The showing with regard to the license fund is, however, fictitious. If it were correct it would mean that every other saloon and liquor shop in Omaha had been closed within the past year, when in fact the decrease will scarcely exceed 10 per cent.

What concerns Omaha taxpayers at this juncture is how they can meet the demands of the school board without almost causing confiscation of property by the tax collector. At the present rate of assessment, one-third of market value, a tax of 10 mills would yield \$350,000, or a 1-mill tax would yield \$135,000. Under the old system of taxation the school tax levied in 1893-4 was 3 mills; in 1894-5, 3 mills; in 1895-6, 7 mills; in 1896-7, 5 mills. All these taxes, however, were imposed on the old system of valuation, which varied between one-sixth and one-tenth of the true value. If we are to make good the deficit of former years and meet the estimate of this year we shall be obliged to levy a tax fully three times as heavy as was ever levied in Omaha. If we do not levy it and continue the wasteful system of issuing 7 per cent warrants without applying the pruning knife we shall soon pile up a crushing school debt that will overwhelm the taxpayers.

The problem before Omaha taxpayers is how to put on brakes without crippling the schools and how to meet the obligations already incurred without enormous increase of this year's tax burden. Manifestly the shortest way out would be to fund the debt, and the

THE STRIKE IN BOERDOM.

Indianapolis News: In answer to a British telegraph message the Boers replied "Hats!" It is hard to see why the Boers are considered an unprogressive nation.

Globe-Democrat: When driven out of a position, which does not happen often, the Boers show remarkable recuperative powers. They seem to have an idea that fighting is easier than running.

San Francisco Call: Several times during the Christmas holidays the Boers have been dropping shells stuffed with plum pudding into beleaguered Ladysmith. Next thing we know they will be dropping oysters on the half-shell.

Chicago Chronicle: It is painful to note that later reports from Coleridge indicate that General Buller's glorious victory was, after all, one of the usual "I regret to report" variety with which British military literature has made us familiar the last three months.

Minneapolis Times: First the Missouri miles expanded and brought disaster upon a railway, and now comes report that a railway engine has run away and carried numerous members of the Atkins family into the very jaws of the Boers. Oom Paul will soon begin to believe that all things come to him who waits.

Philadelphia Record: The tremendous financial outlay which England is under no means prepared to meet in the matter of relief in the Indian famine districts is placed at \$100,000 per day beside the ordinary expenses of government. Great Britain, as it scans these figures, can appreciate Kipling's truthful verse that it is "Pay, pay, pay."

Detroit Journal: When the forces of the British in South Africa numbered 80,000 the Journal threw out a guess that 200,000 would be necessary to subjugate the Boers. Approximately that number of troops will be under Lord Roberts' command when he lands, and the London Standard now suggests that 100,000 more will not be enough to make the end sure. The idea seems to be to fill South Africa so full of British troops that the Boers will die from lack of sleep, having no room in which to lie down.

Springfield Republican: The fact that the Boers do not have a highly developed social instinct, and hence their favor in the present crisis, is in the matter of raising the crops the Boer women are in the field to do the work of cultivation and harvesting, thus allowing every available man and boy to shoulder a rifle. If the "ladies" of the veil were accustomed to Browning, 5 o'clock each evening, what parties you may be sure they could not be got into the plowing and reaping on such short notice. A nation in the position of the two republics needs women like the wives and mothers of the Boers.

OPEN DOOR IN CHINA.

Philadelphia Press: After a prodigious but fruitless agitation in England, Secretary Hay took the simple, direct and effective step of demanding that our treaty rights be respected and accepted by all nations acquiring territorial rights in China. All the "signatory powers"—Italy, Great Britain, Russia, France and Germany—have given the required pledge and accepted the view that these treaty rights go with Chinese territory and must be observed by all who control the ports and provinces to which this law tariff now applies.

Detroit Free Press: What in the world has been done to prevent the renewal of agreements with the Chinese and other nations, an old-world power of consequence dare invite any more trouble than it now has on hand or feels the liability of encountering. England is too busy to accept any more orders. France is watching for an opening and cannot be interrupted. Germany has nets out in every direction and cannot take her eyes from the borders. Russia is in training for armed trouble and Japan is working full time to make the trouble. When the secretary asked the representative governments of the other side of the world to sign "just as a matter of accommodation," it was easier to comply than to argue. The grab game is being played at too furious a rate to regard such little interruptions. But some day, when the world is at hand, it will be the way of the world for some of these powers to ignore the compact and try to barricade the door after closing it.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: This diplomatic victory of the United States will have beneficial physical as well as moral consequences for China and the rest of the world. It was the appropriation of Vasco da Gama, in the service of Portugal, rounding the Cape of Good Hope to India in 1497, and of Magellan, in the service of Spain, crossing the Pacific from the American continent in 1521, that placed her in the list of the world's great states. Today America, standing at the open-swinging portals of the new age, has, in relation to China, achieved a triumph of vastly greater service to itself and to civilization, and will give an opportunity to the Chinese to ultimately have a share with the Japanese in the designation of the "Yankees of the east."

WASHINGTON'S STATUE IN PARIS.

The city council of Paris has chosen a site for the equestrian statue of General George Washington, paid for by the subscriptions of American women. It is the work of the American sculptor, French. The site is a fine one, the junction of two great avenues, and fitting of his horse, the slightest eyes of the American hero are directed toward the Arc de Triomphe, the Palais du Trocadero, along the Avenue de Jena and other memorials of glory, which, in the French sense of the word, he cared nothing about. The erection of this simple and heroic figure in the midst of the city of Paris should serve a good purpose. A soldier by necessity, a gentleman by nature, a statesman because sincere, honest and straightforward, a hero without glitter or pretence, George Washington may well remain a figure for the Parisians to look at early and often.

HAWAII IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Decided Issue Taken with the Decision of Superintendent Jackson.

In deciding a case laid before him, Superintendent Jackson of Lincoln, Neb., said: "It seems to me that nothing in the laws of Nebraska would prevent the reading of the bible in our public schools. I am of the opinion that in this enlightened age and Christian land the public school teachers ought not to be deprived of reading the bible, or of presenting the bible, or of repeating the Lord's prayer."

This statement is disingenuous and an attempt to defend a weak decision. When the matter is fairly looked at, who can deny that a public reading of the bible and the repetition of the Lord's prayer by any other to a religious service and nothing else? Everyone who is present at a religious service is supposed to take part in it. It is the intention of every state to have such a public school system that no man can have honor and respect in the land which will tend to prevent him from forcing his children to attend them. Forcing the children of Jews, Catholics, free-thinkers, agnostics, atheists, etc., to take part in a religious service, is a violation of the rights of the minority. The public schools are to teach the secular branches and the rudiments of good citizenship. The teaching of what is due from each man to his God, to his neighbor and to himself, is the duty of the parents as a church to which they delegate their right. Whenever the state undertakes to do this work it meddles with matters with which it has no concern, and in the cases where the rightful guardians object, it meddles with the rights of the parents as a church to which they delegate their right. Whenever the state undertakes to do this work it meddles with matters with which it has no concern, and in the cases where the rightful guardians object, it meddles with the rights of the parents as a church to which they delegate their right. Whenever the state undertakes to do this work it meddles with matters with which it has no concern, and in the cases where the rightful guardians object, it meddles with the rights of the parents as a church to which they delegate their right.

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OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The sequel of the present war is clearly appreciated on the continent of Europe. "Had England been victorious in South Africa," says the Moscow Gazette, "it would not have had much effect in Europe, but her final defeat may be followed by a vast new universal policy in which Russia would take a leading part. As matters stand today the most serious danger is the far off. All those points of the world where English and Russian interests are in conflict and which are not accessible to the British fleet will fall into Russian hands. The Austro-Russian agreement made two and a half years ago having assured peace in the Balkan peninsula, Russia is now free to execute her plans in Asia, which are of more importance to her than anything else. Events in South Africa will not fail to stimulate Russia's spirit of enterprise in the far east." No doubt when England shall have lost her present position as a world power, and as a result of her defeat in South Africa, which is not likely, there will be a scramble for her place, and Russia will be among the foremost competitors.

The present attitude of France and Germany in respect to Great Britain and her war in South Africa shows her closely balanced are international jealousies and antipathies on the one hand and selfish motives on the other. If war were not so costly Great Britain would probably not have an apparent ally in Germany, and France would scarcely pretend to maintain a neutral attitude. The German press and people make no concealment of their dislike for the British and their sympathy for the Boers, although some sort of an understanding undoubtedly exists between the governments of Great Britain and Germany. The French exhibit every Boer's attitude and rejoice at the success of the British arms. A distinguished German professor of history, writing in the North American Review, asserts that England has only one friend in Germany, the Kaiser, and is heartily hated by the German people. The French welcome British defeat as revenge for Fashoda, and they are in sympathy to blood-letting or the other horrors of war which prevents "sudden volcanic outbursts of popular passion" in France and Germany, with Great Britain as the object of their common dislike. These nations are doubtless restrained from giving vent to their feelings by the fact that international jealousies and antipathies, by the conviction that it would be more profitable for each in the long run to allow Great Britain a free hand in South Africa.

A few months ago the British admiralty proposed a naval training ship, which were full-rigged vessels, out of commission, and replaced them by modern cruisers without masts or sails. It is inferred therefrom that the government has decided that it is no longer necessary to train young officers in a form of seamanship which, in the royal navy, has become obsolete. The same action has provoked much criticism in the daily press, many writers, including a large proportion of naval officers, maintaining that the practice with ropes and sails, even if superfluous as modern naval education, is nevertheless invaluable for its development of resourcefulness, nerve, activity, and other virile qualities essential to the ideal officer. This authority is the view of the United States admiralty, as is proved by the recent launch of their new sailing training ship. It is interesting, also, to note that the North German Lloyd company is about to set up a training ship, having sail power only for the practical education of cadets, who later on, when they have passed the necessary examinations, will receive commissions as officers in their great steam fleet. The teaching of these cadets will be under the supervision of the Bremen school of navigation.

PROTEST.

Washington Star: "Alas," she sighed, "we have just seen wine glasses, not beer glasses." "What do you mean?" asked the eminent senator. "Why, I could point to one of my beer glasses who alone is worth more than the whole senate is in Webster's time!"

Chicago Times-Herald: "Here's an article that says stars are good timekeepers," said the man in the club window. "The fellow who wrote that," replied the man at the writing table reminiscently, "must have had a watch to a comic opera prima donna."

Philadelphia Press: "Oh, there was an awfully funny joke in the paper today," began the dear little wife. "It was about a man and his wife, who went to the opera one night." "Yes, dear," the great brute interrupted, "I read it."

"Oh, you mean that. I wanted to tell it to you. It was so funny." "Oh, ahead of me, it will be even funnier the way you tell it."

TRY THE BEE.

When the cat's away the mice will play, Unless, perhaps, they see wine glasses.

The mice have heard that noted song - Of how the cat came back.

If you love a girl, why, tell her so, Nor keep her spirit and, If you're a business man, make it "go" By putting in an "ad."

Fort Crook, Neb. C. B. PROCTOR.

THOUGHTS THAT TICKLE.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Did Rev. Mr. Plum leave any tracts when he called yesterday, Brooker?" "Yes, Brooker, I mopped 'em up."

Detroit Journal: "Why was I ever born?" "The man with the emaciated cast of countenance pondered long and bitterly. "Perhaps it was because I was a poet," he finally exclaimed, in a hollow voice. Art is notoriously illogical.

Detroit Journal: First Cannibal—There wasn't much of the milk of human kindness in just as the gardener went out, "who is that man?" "Second Cannibal—I should say not! I feel as if I had eaten a dairy lunch!"

Chicago Tribune: "Dorothy," said the mistress of the establishment, happening in just as the gardener went out, "who is that man?" "Only a hoe head, ma'am," replied the kitchen maid, blushing.

Indianapolis Journal: Clerk—Did you say you wished to see wine glasses, madam? Madam (severely)—Wine glasses! Not at all; show me some unfermented grape juice glasses.

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IT'S IDLE TALK.

To pretend to have the only wearable clothing and to be in the habit of selling it for less than cost all the time—even bread costs money and porterhouse steaks bought on the profits of \$10.00 suits for \$1.97 won't be very thick. But to say that our Men's Suits are the best for the money—say \$10 to \$25.00—is simply to affirm that doing the largest manufacturing business in our line in the country, we naturally have important advantages over others.

Partitioning Africa a Source of Serious Trouble to the Powers.

Paraphrasing an old saw, African complications make strange bedfellows. There may be truth in the cabled opinion that all Europe is yelping at the heels of England, and there is a prudent disposition to keep outside of the kicking range. Not so on an open, stand-up challenge has the British nation received, except from the Boers. Even the outlanders, said to outnumber the controlling people two to one, showed their indignation for previous treatment by making the best they possibly and by the shortest route in getting out of the danger zone.

The German government favors the English, but the liberal and intelligent element of the people appear in a vigorous but impotent opposition, for the emperor will dictate the national policy so long as he wears the crown.

Dr. Barish may denounce Chamberlain's course as unbecomingly stupid and preposterous, but the overbrow of English authority in South Africa. He may picture the advantages that would be gained by the world, England included, should it encounter defeat, but he deals with sentiments that do not appeal to the ambitious war king.

On the reverse appears Germany increasing its navy and strengthening its sea force because it distrusts its ally and believes that its future safety and the observance of future good faith toward it by England is liable to turn upon the question of its ability to take care of itself should Great Britain elect to repudiate the terms of the alliance. Being of the same blood, the interested rulers probably understand each other.

In seeking the influences now bearing upon the great powers of the old world it is much safer to stick to business considerations than to moralizations based upon civilization or Christianity. Africa is four times as large as the United States and has a wealth in marketable products that is approached by no other of the natural divisions.

Within less than a generation this vast territory has been seized upon and appropriated by conquest or through the intimidation of natives by a mere showing of civilized force. France has the largest territorial possessions, equal to the entire area of our United States, and England owns a little less that is far richer and more desirable. The holding of both are practically contiguous.

In the order of their possessions after these two come Turkey, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Spain and Italy, the independent states of the world. Abyssinia, South African Republic, Orange Free State and Liberia. Within these is a population of nearly 150,000,000, largely native, and the annual trade, capable of indefinite expansion, of \$750,000,000.

With so many contestants in the ring, and with the advantages to be gained by continuous railroad lines under one control and ports most desirable in commerce, the dangers liable to precipitate a general struggle become apparent. The dark continent, in which civilization was cradled and from which it departed centuries ago, will make startling history for years to come.

THE GAME OF GRAB.

Partitioning Africa a Source of Serious Trouble to the Powers.

Paraphrasing an old saw, African complications make strange bedfellows. There may be truth in the cabled opinion that all Europe is yelping at the heels of England, and there is a prudent disposition to keep outside of the kicking range. Not so on an open, stand-up challenge has the British nation received, except from the Boers. Even the outlanders, said to outnumber the controlling people two to one, showed their indignation for previous treatment by making the best they possibly and by the shortest route in getting out of the danger zone.

The German government favors the English, but the liberal and intelligent element of the people appear in a vigorous but impotent opposition, for the emperor will dictate the national policy so long as he wears the crown.

Dr. Barish may denounce Chamberlain's course as unbecomingly stupid and preposterous, but the overbrow of English authority in South Africa. He may picture the advantages that would be gained by the world, England