

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE. E. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$6.00. Daily Bee and Sunday, One Year, \$7.00. Illustrated Bee, One Year, \$10.00. Sunday Bee, One Year, \$2.00. Saturday Bee, One Year, \$2.50. Weekly Bee, One Year, \$1.00.

OFFICES. Omaha: The Bee Building, South Omaha: City Hall Building, Twenty-fifth and N streets. Council Bluffs, to Pearl street. Chicago: 1660 Unity Building. New York: Temple Court. Washington: 501 Fourteenth street.

REMITTANCES. Remit by draft, express or postal order, payable to The Bee Publishing Company. Only 2-cent stamps accepted in payment of ad accounts. Personal checks, except Omaha or Federal exchange, not accepted.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: George H. Tackbuch, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee, printed during the month of February, 1900, was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Number of copies, Total, and Less unsold and returned copies. Total: 758,690. Less unsold and returned copies: 10,000. Net total sales: 748,690.

The new council has started off smoothly, but it is idle to expect to have the wheels run on smooth pavement all the time.

If Peter Cooper had only known in advance about the split in the Peter Cooper club he would have seen to it that he was born twin.

Council Bluffs must have been testing itself for the census enumerator when it cast the largest vote in its history in its municipal election.

If there is anything in a name, Mr. Channel, the new engineer of the Nebraska State Irrigation board, must be the right man for the place.

Another populist state officeholder has resigned, but it is only because he has been able to connect with another office that promises better returns.

The great question of the hour is, How can Omaha produce enough populists to organize and maintain two populist clubs at one and the same time?

South Omaha republicans are making a campaign like to which has not been known in that pushing burg in years, and they certainly deserve to win.

John C. Sheehan has been again given a forcible reminder that Croker is still boss in New York democratic circles.

Hereafter each candidate for admission into fusion populist clubs will be investigated under the microscope to ascertain whether he has any middle-of-the-road microbes concealed about him.

An exhibition of the partisanship which controls the popocratic governor of the great state of Nebraska is given in his appointments of delegates to the Mississippi congress at Houston, Tex., the list of ten containing only two republicans. It is as impossible for a popocratic officeholder to divorce politics from matters which have no relation to politics as it is for a camel to crawl through the eye of a needle.

Treasurer Meserve states it has been a long and hard fight to establish the legality of the State Board of Transportation and now another fight is before it to decide whether it can establish a rate. From the board's standpoint the first victory is the greater one, as it guarantees the continuance of salaries to the do-nothing secretaries. Now that this is assured, they need not hurry for a decision on the other point.

The steward of the Beatrice asylum has resigned as the result of the investigation of that institution by the governor and rumors are afloat that popocratic circles that the superintendent will also resign or be forced to walk the plank. The harmony which exists in the state institutions under popocratic administration closely resembles the first efforts of a student on a violin. It may be encouraging to the student, but hard on the victims.

"McKinley called a tippler" is the heading placed over an item in the local popocratic organ reciting that a Methodist gathering has denounced the outrageous methods of political mountebanks eager to make capital against President McKinley. No self-respecting person would call the president a tippler when as a matter of fact his habits with respect to intoxicants are known to be exemplary.

THE "OPEN DOOR" CORRESPONDENCE. In response to a resolution of the house of representatives the Department of State has made public the correspondence between the United States and European governments regarding the "open door" in China.

The correspondence between the United States and European governments regarding the "open door" in China, there is little disclosed that was not already known in a general way, but the correspondence is interesting in giving a clear exposition of the position of our government on the subject, recognized on all hands as of great importance. The negotiations were begun last September and terminated only a week ago, when the object sought was fully accomplished.

It is noteworthy that this government, in presenting the matter to the British government, did not commit itself to any recognition of the exclusive rights of any power within or control over any portion of the Chinese empire, but was moved to the course taken by a fear of complications between the treaty powers which might imperil the treaty rights of the United States in China. What was primarily sought was the safeguarding of American interests in the "spheres of interest" of the several powers, but concern was also expressed in behalf of a policy under which the commerce of the whole world would enjoy equal privileges in the Chinese markets, as well as for the maintenance of the integrity of that empire, in which it was said this government believed the whole western world is alike concerned.

Three requests were submitted by this government to the powers addressed. The first that there will be no interference with any treaty port or vested interest in any so-called "sphere of interest" in China. Second, that the Chinese treaty tariff shall apply to all merchandise going to ports in such "spheres," no matter to what nationality it may belong, duties to be collected by the Chinese government. Third, that there shall be no discrimination in respect to harbor dues between vessels entering such ports, or on goods transported by rail within the sphere of any power.

Thus the purpose of our government was not only to secure recognition and respect for the treaty rights of the United States, but at the same time to insure equality of treatment for all countries with China, believing that under such a policy all the nations concerned would be benefited and the danger of troublesome complications very greatly reduced if not entirely removed.

Great Britain was the first to acknowledge and assent to the declaration submitted by our government and the other powers having accepted the negotiations were concluded on March 29 and the question of the "open door" in China settled, at least for the present. The opinion has been expressed that there is little binding force in this understanding, but we are inclined to think that no power which is a party to it will be disposed to violate the understanding at the risk of incurring the hostility of the others and thereby inviting injury to its own interests.

THE WATER WORKS PROBLEM. Mayor Moores correctly interprets the recent vote on the question of issuing water works bonds as an emphatic declaration by the people in favor of municipal ownership and the acquiring of the water works plant by the city at the earliest time practicable.

When the water works bond ordinance was before the council on the eve of the recent city campaign, The Bee characterized the scheme of issuing bonds before the appraisal of the works as an attempt to put the cart before the horse. Although the bonds have been voted, The Bee still adheres to this view. It would be not only premature and dangerous to issue these bonds before we know what the plant will cost, but also illegal and in conflict with the provisions of the charter governing the acquisition of water works.

The charter expressly maps out the steps to be taken before bonds shall be issued for this purpose. First, the mayor and council must declare by ordinance that the appropriation of the water works has become a public necessity. Second, the mayor and council must submit seven appraisers and the valuation agreed upon if recommended for approval by the advisory board and confirmed by the mayor and council must be submitted for ratification to the electors of the city at a general or special election. Third, if a majority of the voters voting on the proposition favor confirming the proposition, then the appraisers shall be sustained and the mayor and council authorized to issue the necessary bonds for the purpose. This is so plain and conclusive that no one who reads the charter can fail to understand that the voting of the \$5,000,000 in bonds at the late election was premature and contrary to the statutory provisions relating to this subject.

city may avail itself of the purchasing clause in the contract, the only thing that remains to be done at this time is to ascertain through the courts when the contract expires and how much the city would have to pay for the unexpired contract and franchise.

DEATH OF JOUBERT. The greatest of the Boer commanders is dead and his loss will be a heavy blow to his countrymen, for with Joubert in exile there is no one who can fill the place of the dead soldier. Joubert was endowed with military talent of a very high order—talent that bordered close upon genius. He was at once a good organizer, an able strategist and tactician and an intrepid fighter.

The tributes paid to Joubert, as a soldier and a man, by the press of England, are fully merited and it is highly creditable to those papers that they thus recognize the claims of this distinguished man to candid eulogy. Perhaps no sincerely patriotic Boer hated the British more heartily or intensely than Joubert, but it is recorded of him that he was ever disposed to be just to them and to faithfully observe all obligations to them. The plans he had made for the defense of his country will doubtless be followed as far as practicable, but the greater honor, inspiring his countrymen by his wisdom and courage, is gone and his loss at this juncture is irreparable.

A RUSSO-TURKISH RUPTURE. A serious rupture between Russia and Turkey is threatened. It is reported that the former is actively making warlike preparations and that the tension between St. Petersburg and Constantinople becomes every day more acute. The issue grows out of demands made by Russia upon the Turkish government for valuable concessions in Asia Minor.

Check on Government Building. The great advance in the price of building material seriously affects the national government. It will necessitate the passage of a bill increasing appropriations for public buildings already authorized from 15 to 20 percent.

Counting and Court Heralds. A Nebraska judge has been enjoined forbidding a man to court a girl while his wife is suing him for divorce.

A GROTESQUE ARGUMENT. British Side in the Boer War Likened to the American Revolution. In trying to explain why marked preponderance of Americans sympathize with the Boers rather than the British.

Huge Bonus Spent by Them in Touring. The average number of cabin passengers who go abroad exceeds 100,000 a year.

REGULATION THAT REQUIRES RIDERS TO ATTACH A LAMP TO THEIR WHEELS AFTER DARK HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE NEW CITY COUNCIL.

There is a fair prospect that Iowa will have a valued policy insurance law after a legislative struggle of several years, as the bill has passed the senate by a decisive vote.

The most amusing thing of all is the attempt of the local popocratic organ to make out that the impending republican primaries to select delegates to the state convention represent the act of the machine.

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Weariness of the Hoops. The only prospect held for political excitement comes from the fact that the populists are a great party for not following a cut and dried program.

The Club in Sight. Bryan's Nebraska convention extended to the sound money democrats an olive branch with leaves stripped off and presenting the general appearance of a war club.

A Theory Demolished. Queen Victoria's recent profuse commitments to the Irish troops in her majesty's service, rendered the theory that she has any intention or necessity of kissing the blarney stone on her visit to Ireland.

Prophets Without Honor. The constant improvement in the values of cattle, hogs and horses must remind those who are selling them that the 16-10 advocate who declared in 1898 that the gold standard would deprive all farm products of the then existing value are not the brand of prophets in whom they can take stock.

Speaking About Financial Inflation. Under President Cleveland's administration the money circulation per capita was \$24.98 in 1894, \$22.93 in 1898 and \$21.19 in 1899.

Dean C. Worcester, one of the Philippine commissioners, tells the following story of the late General Lawton: I was with General Lawton at the village of Imus after our soldiers occupied it. The natives were very glad to see us, and they soon formed an affection for General Lawton, who never tired of listening to their complaints and helping them.

The scarcity of carriages for hire in Manila is a constant and considerable source of trouble, reports the Manila Times. You send out your servant to get some sort of a carriage, because you have to go; he comes back in half an hour and says: he can't get one. Or you get tired of waiting for him to come back, and so you go out yourself. It comes to the same thing. You are an excellent and patient specimen of a man, but you are a poor one as a driver.

Congressman Littlefield of Maine always dresses in black. Even his ties are of that somber hue.

Subscriptions to the fund for the benefit of Mrs. Guy V. Henry, widow of General Henry, have already reached the sum of \$5,702.25.

Governor Lounsbury has appointed Friday, April 13, (Good Friday), as a day of fasting and prayer in Connecticut, and says: does so "in accordance with a custom instituted by a generation which feared God and kept his commandments."

Archbishop Chapelle, the papal delegate to the Philippines, said recently: "I have the greatest admiration for General Otis. He has had a difficult task, but he has nearly completed it, and done so as few whom I know could have done."

This is the official designation of the British general commanding in South Africa: "Baron Roberts of Kandahar and Waterford." It is the shortest general in the service.

An Omaha man wintering in California, who was on the suburbs of the Christmas shake of San Jacinto mountains, gets off a little pleasantry at the expense of the railroads. "Of course, you are coming to California," he writes. "Take the first public 'Earthquake Limited' on the Santa Fe route, or take the 'Overland' if you hate excitement."

Because Admiral Dewey canceled his acceptance of an invitation to visit the city of Manila, the members of the Georgia congressional delegation sent word that an invitation to visit Atlanta was being accepted by the admiral during his present southern trip.

Verment has a law prohibiting the sale of liquor in any town unless the citizens thereof vote for such sale and then it must be dispensed by a town agency and only for medicinal purposes or use in the arts. Northfield, a town of 3,000 population, has had such an agency and its receipts from sales have lately been so large that the temperance people have succeeded in having passed a law requiring the publication of purchases once each week.

THE ATTEMPT TO MANUFACTURE CAMPAIGN MATERIAL FOR THIS SUMMER AND FALL TAKES MUCH OF THE TIME OF THE BUSY LAWMAKERS AT WASHINGTON.

Mr. Root's department pulled itself together and replied that it had given permission to everybody who had asked it to dredge along the shores of Alaska and should continue to do so with the condition that navigation should be in no way impeded.

All that is needed is a scoop and government permission and you are a rich man if you get the gold.

The United States senate on Saturday passed the bill for the appointment of a commission to report on the commercial and industrial conditions of China and Japan and appropriated \$75,000 for expenses.

It has been alleged that the appointment of members of congress on commissions does not contravene this section of the constitution, because such commissions are not technically civil offices, but the contention is exceedingly doubtful from the most technical standpoint.

By accepting an appointment as commissioner to inquire into and negotiate matters from the standpoint of the administration, which matters he will be subsequently compelled to pass upon in his legislative capacity, he necessarily surrenders his independence as a member of congress.

His independence as a member of congress. He is appointed by the administration to act for the administration, and his independence, which may be opposed to the view of the body to which he has been elected by the people. He may be perfectly honest in his convictions, but the appointment itself prejudices him in favor of the administration.

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Quebec, reports that the Quebec provincial government has already imposed an export duty of \$150 per ton on pulp and wood exported from that province to the United States. This is clearly a discrimination against the United States and practically shuts off the Canadian supply for our mills.

Such a move is a great opportunity for somebody in this country to make a fight against this high-handed extortion. The forests of Porto Rico will be opened to the paper-making industry the instant free trade with the United States is given to the island.

Meanwhile, let the independent owners start up the rag-paper mills throughout the country. There is a good profit in rag paper at present prices.

There is no longer a national democratic party, as it seems to be accepted that the once proud democracy of the nation has become a mere Bryan party.

The Bryan platform that the democratic convention must accept unless it shall exhibit sufficient courage to assert democracy over Bryan's platform.

The conservative democratic elements have hoped that the cheap money, repudiation of 1896, that would be accompanied by some form of industrial protection and general prostration of business would be abandoned or subordinated in the campaign of 1900, but there is no one thing more distinctly emphasized in the Bryan platform than the demand for a free coinage of silver.

Their business or industrial interest will have every interest in opposing it and the emphatic reassertion of the free silver cause is simply "wild and woolly" western politics run mad.

DETROIT JOURNAL: "Your capital is not large, but quite sufficient. You see, our business is peculiarly so, in that it does not necessitate any evasion of the law."

INDIANAPOLIS JOURNAL: "They say the inventor of ice cream soda is dead." "Let's hope he's gone where it doesn't melt."

WASHINGTON STAR: "How did he acquire that fine Russian accent?" asked one of our subscribers. "Very easily," answered the other. "He made a deliberate practice of putting too much pepper on his omelet."

PHILADELPHIA PRESS: "What a little will you have, my dear?" "What is 'for the gods'?" "Well, rolled up, who is a patron of the drama. 'Partage' means peanuts and plug tobacco."

BROOKLYN ENIGMA: Managing Editor—Your department is evidently in sympathy with the 'Boob' column. 'Forman of Composing Room—Why not?' 'Managing Editor—In my head for the war story last night I converted into pulp a story which won a victory that was remarkable. In the paper this morning it reads: 'The British war' won a victory. That was remarkable."