

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK, Secretary of the Bee Publishing Company.

That republican majority in Nebraska grows upon us.

Fred White and Tom Phillips might form an Iowa branch of the society of also-rans.

As an expert in the effective use of promises the sultan of Turkey is entitled to first prize.

Euclid Martin is reported as repelling the insinuation that he is ambitious to sit in the mayor's chair.

The result in Nebraska only gives added proof to the fact that calamity talk will not make votes among people reveling in prosperity.

The county commissioner muddle seems to have been thickened instead of clarified by the appeal for a popular verdict at the ballot box.

The man who takes the most satisfaction out of the election of the Pearse candidates for the Board of Education is the western agent of the school book trust.

In view of the outbreak at the Fort Leavenworth prison cautious people are warned to beware of extending too warm hospitality to strangers hailing from Kansas.

Colonel Bryan announces in the Commoner that he will take another week to frame up an explanation that will still hold out some hope to the Nebraska faithful.

When a Shorthorn cow brings \$5,000 on the market the argument that it pays stock breeders to raise high grade cattle receives an incontrovertible clincher.

If Li Hung Chang's long life is to be credited to his practice of carrying a coffin around with him the habit of being measured for a coffin long in advance of the death call may yet become popular.

Exclusive circles that possess secrets of the supreme court, yet use a newspaper to give those secrets publicity, either are not so exclusive or the secrets of the court originate outside of the court room.

The two referees appointed by the supreme court in the Standard Oil case are to have \$1,200 each for their services. It is needless to say that these little favors have been reserved exclusively for fusion attorneys active in party politics.

The well-defined rumors committee of the school board does not seem to be in any rush to break into the grand jury room. Like the baby and the toy, the clamor for the grand jury was loudest only while it was supposed it could not be had.

"Never before in the history of Nebraska have the citizens of this state had more cause to be thankful for worldly blessings than at present" begins Governor Savage's Thanksgiving proclamation. This puts the whole situation in a nutshell.

The railroads are again indulging in speed competition for the privilege of boasting the fastest passenger trains. Competition for the privilege of giving patrons the lowest rates, however, is carefully subjected to restriction on the community-of-interest plan.

Those Washington correspondents are certainly overlooking unprecedented opportunities. Not one of them has yet given us a complete advance copy of President Roosevelt's forthcoming message to congress.

How can the president write his message without this assistance from the journalistic mind readers?

WILL CAUSE NO CHANGE.

Mr. Rowhill, formerly American commissioner to China, has expressed the opinion, which is shared at Washington, that the death of Li Hung Chang will cause no change in the relations of China to foreign powers recently effected. It is not expected to have any effect upon the obligations which the Chinese government has accepted as the result of negotiations with the powers. So far as the United States is concerned, it is pointed out that its interests will not be involved directly, since all that remains to be done at Peking in which our government is interested is the preparation of trade and commercial treaties, the lines of which have been so clearly marked out that the work to be done is almost mechanical.

It is not at all probable that the imperial government, which readily assented to all that was agreed to by its peace plenipotentiaries, will now, because of the death of one of them, attempt to reopen any question that has been adjusted or venture to reject any understanding that has been reached. It understands the grave danger that would result from such a course and it is too anxious for peace and the complete rehabilitation of the government to take any further risks. The agreements made by the dead statesman with the foreign ministers were unqualifiedly approved by the imperial authorities and they will stand. China will faithfully carry them out, knowing that failure to do so would certainly result to her disaster.

Russian interests and aims in China, especially regarding Manchuria, may be unfavorably affected by the death of Li Hung Chang, whose pro-Russian sympathies were well known. It is thought that a change in the Manchurian situation is now probable which would allow that rich province to be opened up to the commerce of the world, a matter in which the United States is particularly interested. It is said that the Russian minister at Peking earnestly endeavored on the day Earl Li died to secure his seal to the Manchurian convention, which if a fact showed how greatly Russia relied upon him. It is quite possible, however, that had he lived he would have been unable to aid Russia in her designs, owing to the opposition of other powers, particularly Japan, Great Britain and the United States.

China, it is safe to assume, will take no backward step and attempt no evasion of the obligations imposed upon it by the powers. It has had a lesson that its rulers will long remember. Perhaps there will be internal disturbances, but the imperial government will keep faith with foreign powers, since upon that depend its existence and the preservation of the empire. The renunciation of any obligation which China has entered into would be the signal for a movement against her end of which would be dismemberment and the partition of her territory among western powers.

A MAN WHO WILL ACT.

Next in importance to the election of Seth Low mayor of New York City was the choice of Justice Jerome to be district attorney. Indeed it was absolutely essential to the complete carrying out of the work of reform which the new government will have to do, for the executive without a district attorney in sympathy with him might be seriously hindered and obstructed in his efforts for reform. Jerome is quite as ardent and determined a reformer as Mr. Low, so that it may be expected that they will work together amicably and earnestly.

Justice Jerome was a leading figure in the campaign and did most effective service for the fusion ticket. He was tireless and no one showed up more fully or denounced more vigorously the vices and the corruption of Tammany. As district attorney Jerome will very likely find a way to visit the law upon some of those Tammanyites who have been for years profiting by vice and corruption and criminal practices. It must be that some of the men now in the city government are amenable to prosecution and if so Jerome is evidently the man to hunt them out and deal with them as they deserve. Mr. Coker will undoubtedly be back in England before Jerome goes into office and will perhaps remain there several years, but some of his political associates cannot do this. Those may find New York City an unsafe place of residence.

RURAL DELIVERY EXTENSION.

President Roosevelt is favorable to continuing the extension of the rural free delivery system. At a recent conference with the postmaster general he is said to have expressed himself earnestly in favor of the development of the service to the ideal that the friends of the system have had in mind for years. It is understood that in his annual report the postmaster general will recommend an appropriation of \$6,000,000 for the maintenance and extension of free delivery routes during the next fiscal year and it is expected that congress will do this. It is said to be in contemplation to place this under the civil service rules, so that the carriers will be protected and retained in employment to political influences.

Mr. A. W. Machen, who has had charge of the rural delivery system since it started, predicts that in a very few years every farmer in the land will have his mail delivered at his door. The spread of the service, he said, has demonstrated that it will ultimately have the most important effect on the business opportunities of the farmer and it will bring the tradesmen of the cities in such intimate relations with the farming community that gradually we shall see some remarkable results in our domestic commercial world. He declared that it would be impossible now to deprive those parts of the country that have become habituated to the free rural delivery system of its advantages. The outcry against any attempt to do away with it would soon become a political issue that would have to be reckoned with promptly.

There is no doubt that the system is permanent, nor is there any question as to its great benefit. At present nearly 4,000,000 people are enjoying its advantages and within five years the number will doubtless be several times that. If the appropriations are sufficient to enable the department to promptly meet the applications for routes, as an educational influence alone the value of rural free delivery cannot be overestimated.

Provide for the Rainy Day.

The Ohio supreme court has overthrown the teachers' pension law by which instructors in the public schools of the larger cities are assessed 1 per cent of their annual salaries to create a fund for the benefit of those retiring by age from service. It is held to be "special legislation," whatever that may mean in such a case as this. If public school teachers are not forsworn enough to provide for the rainy day themselves, what is to be said of the claims of the masses of the people for state control in the matter?

A CONDITION-NOT A THEORY.

The lecture on taxation by Prof. Ross before the Economic League should forcibly impress the taxpayers that they are confronted by a condition and not a theory. Wealth cannot be created by law, neither can ideals of taxation be coined into effective revenue legislation under existing conditions. The whole structure of our tax system stands on a sandy foundation. So long as assessors can stretch their consciences and appraise property at figures out of all proportion to its market value, so long as boards of equalization continue to discriminate in favor of the big corporations and against small property owners, and so long as men with money and chattels can successfully cover up their holdings or return them at ridiculously low figures, equitable taxation is "an iridescent dream."

What is wanted first and foremost is an awakening of the public conscience against wholesale perjury on the part of assessors and tax shirkers. That sentiment can only be created by a selfish renunciation of the inequality and injustice of the present mode of assessment and equalization. Effective tax reform will come only after the appraisal of taxable property is made uniform and under observation by officers is punished and concealment by property owners entails severe penalties.

The conclusions of Prof. Ross regarding the viciousness of the present tax system are eminently sound, but his recommendations cannot be inaugurated in Nebraska without first changing the constitutional provisions relative to revenue and taxation.

Prof. Ross would have the state government maintained exclusively by taxes imposed on corporations and inheritances, leaving the county, city and school governments to be supported by taxes on realty. Both of these propositions might work very well in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey or Massachusetts, where corporate property runs into the billions and the estates of millionaires and multi-millionaires are common. In those states a light tax on corporations and inheritance would meet all the demands of state government, while in an agricultural state like Nebraska such taxes, unless extremely high, would be inadequate to the support of the state government. In great cities like New York, Philadelphia and Boston, with their enormous realty values, no difficulty would be encountered in meeting the cost of city, county and school government from a realty tax coupled with license and franchise taxation. But in Nebraska such a policy would be unfair. The exemption of all personal property would operate as a hardship on home owners and citizens who have invested in factories, business blocks, etc., whose burdens are heavy enough now and whose revenues could not be increased by higher rentals.

The tax problem must be met in Nebraska with a view to existing conditions and constitutional limitations. A few years ago American students who wanted the best instruction in scientific branches crossed the Atlantic to enroll themselves in European universities. Now European students are heading for America to learn the advances made in scientific work entering into American industrial activity. Nothing could illustrate better the progress made in recent years by America in science and industry.

One of the railroads wants to gobble up another piece of Omaha's streets. Of course the street is of no value whatever. If the city, however, in laying out new streets wanted to occupy land belonging to the railroad the price of realty would take a sudden shoot up.

MUSIC OF THE BAND.

No fault can be found with the esteemed Omaha Bee if it continues to emit a loud buzz for several days.

Pass It Up.

The incomplete returns from Rhode Island indicate that the presidential Thanksgiving turkey will be forthcoming as usual.

Beware of Banquet Loops.

If Schier accepts all the invitations he may yet succeed in getting a case of dyspepsia that will blanket Sampson's completely.

In the Same Class.

There are 2,328,295 illiterate voters in the United States and several million others that habitually vote the ticket straight.

Being a World Power Comes High.

According to the program perfected by the naval board of construction, the modest proposal is to be made to congress to provide the ways and means for building thirty-two new war ships for the navy, to cost something like \$5,000,000. Being a world power is mighty expensive, and nations having ambitions that way must expect to pay for the privilege.

Colonizing Boers in Wyoming.

The project of establishing a colony of Boers in Wyoming may be an excellent one, though the change from the hot climate of South Africa to that of the northern United States will be violent; but this will accommodate only a small percentage of the Boers. Still, it will probably be sufficient for all who are willing to come. Most of them do not yet seem to have abandoned hope of ultimately settling down in peaceful possession of their own land.

Good Thing to Study.

The Nebraska bureau of labor and industrial statistics has issued a township map of the state, accompanied by a compilation of facts relating to Nebraska's material progress. Surrounding the map will be found statistics of railroad and government

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The new life chosen by King Edward has the merit of novelty and comparative brevity. On his accession to the throne it was seriously proposed by some of the most intense imperialists that a catalogue of the subject colonies should be included in the title, special emphasis being laid on the latest acquisition in South Africa. King Edward's choice of a royal designation is safer, however, for it necessitates no change whether the British possessions rise or fall in number. King of the British Dominions Beyond the Sea" is elastic enough to meet any change of circumstances for many years, whether favorable or unfavorable to the crown. It admits of a policy of indefinite annexation and also forestalls the possibility of humiliating amendment in case England should lose some of her colonies.

The American Invasion.

The consternation of the English over the American invasion increases day by day. Some effort has been made to stem the tide by the imitation of American products, but so far it has failed of success. For example, an Englishman attempted to imitate the American daylight bank robber. He entered the most promising banking house, revolver in hand and called on the clerk to hold up his hands. He shot the cashier dead, but on being tackled by a clerk he turned his revolver on himself and cheated the follow. The idea was bold, but because he lacked American nerve he failed as miserably as most imitators must. The Germans have been no more successful with their imitations of American sewing machines, bicycles and some other articles.

A PERSISTENT SURPLUS.

Prompt Reduction of Taxation the True Remedy.

With a surplus piling up in the treasury at the rate of \$5,000,000 a month Secretary Gage has again advised the purchase of bonds at a figure somewhat in excess of the market price. Two things are now evident which apparently did not occur to those who enacted the revenue reduction bill. One is that continued prosperity and business operations have had a tendency to keep up revenue and the other is that expenditures have greatly fallen off. For, though receipts have slightly decreased, expenditures have decreased in a very marked degree. Last month, for example, shows a falling off of only \$2,000,000 over the corresponding month of October of 1900, while the disbursements have fallen off by \$7,300,000. Customs receipts actually show an increase of almost \$3,000,000.

For the four months of the present fiscal year the total receipts were \$191,585,541, which is only \$5,000,000 less than for the corresponding four months of 1900. Even if disbursements had been as high as in the last year there would still have been a surplus under the new law. But the disbursements have fallen off heavily, being \$27,000,000 less than they were for the same month of 1900. From which it will be seen that the net result is a growing surplus. The surplus was \$75,000,000 last year it will be seen that at the present rate of increase it is likely to reach something over \$120,000,000. So it is not surprising that Secretary Gage should advise that he can keep the money in circulation.

Of course, there are two ways of checking the surplus. We can reduce taxation or increase expenditures. We can leave the money where it ought to be, in the pockets of the friends of the status quo, or we can embark on the career of extravagance, keep taxes up to the highest notch and have a "good time" with our income. There will be many appeals to the generosity of congress, based on the fact that the country is rich and powerful. We shall be asked for large appropriations for the navy, subsidies for our merchant marine, money for the isthmian canal, rivers and harbors, public buildings without limit, pensions for everybody who ever wore a uniform, and so on. The temptation will be strong to resist it. Yet it will be well for the president and congress to remember that good times can not continue indefinitely, that taxation is burdensome, even though the people do not complain, and that it is better to reduce the extravagance and waste to draw the resources of a nation and make it difficult for it to endure the stress of hard times when they come. Plainly, the thing to do is to reduce taxation and to do it heroically.

ANOMALOUS PENSION FIGURES.

Soldiers of the Last War Seeking Uncle Sam's Bounty.

The annual report of the commissioner of pensions makes comparisons between the latter class of pensioners and Spanish-American war veterans. The average pensioner is a man of 65 years of age, with a family of four children, and an average income of \$100 per year. The pensioner of the Spanish-American war is a man of 60 years of age, with a family of two children, and an average income of \$100 per year. The pensioner of the Spanish-American war is a man of 60 years of age, with a family of two children, and an average income of \$100 per year.

Political Drift.

There is no objection to Mr. Coker taking his bar and doing the Niagara catarract. Henceforth, whatever offices the fusionists pick up in Nebraska may be classed as "pure velvet." The dawn of better things politically in Buffalo follows the election of Knight to the office of mayor. Mayor Seth Low of New York is a splendid type of the scholar in politics. May his tribe increase. If the reformers keep hammering away, Philadelphia may eventually yield. The century is young yet. Several of the big corporations in New York City played to win, as usual, in the city election by contributing like sums to both campaign funds. Advice from Wolfert's Roost indicate that the neighboring political storm did not disturb the repose of David Bennett Hill. His River Republic has no more to say. The breezy Washington Post remarks that Mark Hanna proved himself the cruiser Brooklyn of the Ohio situation. He drew all the fire of the enemy and beached the whole fleet. Secretary Walsh of the democratic national committee thinks Missouri should turn the democratic candidate for president in 1904. Gunshoe Bill Stone is looking up. Mayor Seth Low will have a say in placing names on a payroll aggregating \$25,000,000 a year. New York's pie counter is second only in that of the national government in quality and quantity of nomination. Practically all the newspapers of Greater New York supported the reform ticket and even out. Nearly all the newspapers of

FLASHES OF FUN.

Pittsburg Chronicle: Mrs. Snuggs—Who are canards so called? "Mr. Snuggs—Because usually they are things that a fellow can't believe.

Philadelphia Press: "I hear your club is going to give an entertainment. Do you think it will be a success?" "Sure to be. We've arranged it so that every member is chairman of at least one committee.

Brooklyn Life: Novelist (desperately)—Unless my book succeeds at once I shall starve to death. "Publisher (cordially)—My dear sir, I commend your resolution. Nothing you could do would better advertise your work, I think.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Fat Man—My dear boy, do you know that one of the best of adages is "There is always room at the top." "Boy—It may be as you say, kind gentleman. But if you think you are going to work me for my lower berth you are very much mistaken.

Chicago Tribune: "What are you doing these days?" asked the friend. "I am investigating snails," said the snail. "Snails? I thought ornithology was your hobby." "Well, it used to be, but I found that birds were a little too—er—swift for me."

Chicago Tribune: "Was Saturday night and a teacher sat alone her parting traces. She averaged this and she averaged that. Of all that her class was doing. She reckoned her school reports. And so many girls all counted. And marked all the tardy absences. And to what all the absence amounted. Names and residences wrote in full. Over many columns and pages; Canadian, Teutonic, African, Celt. And averaged all their ages. The date of admission of every one. And cases of death and disease. And prepared a list of graduates. For the county examination. Her weary head sank low on her book. And her weary heart still lower. For some of the pupils had little brains. And she could not furnish more. She slept, she dreamed, it seemed she died. And her spirit went to Hades. And when they met her there with a question. "Bliss what the per cent of your grade is?" Ages but slowly rolled away. Leaving but partial traces. And the teacher's spirit walked one day In the old familiar places. A mound of dirt beneath the clover. A disciple of Galen, wandering by. Faunted to look at the diggers. And sticking the skull up, look'd through the eye. And saw it was lined with figures. "Just as I thought," said the young M. D. "How easy 't is to kill 'em." Statistics ossified every fold. "Of cerebrum and cerebellum." "By the bones you can tell the creature." "Oh, nothing strange," said the doctor. "That was a nineteenth-century teacher."

Light, Sweet Wholesome Bread, Cake Delicious Pastry are more easily, speedily, unfailingly made with ROYAL BAKING POWDER

Royal Baking Powder is the greatest of time and labor savers to the pastry cook. Besides, it economizes flour, butter and eggs, and, best of all, makes the food more digestible and healthful. There are cheap baking powders, made from alum, but their astringent and caustic qualities add a dangerous element to food.

Philadelphia supported the local reform ticket and lost. If allowance is given for the tough material Quaker City newspapers had to work on the result fairly measures the influence of the press. There must be considerable wailing and gnashing of teeth in the staid old English village of Wantage. Richard of today is not the Richard of yesterday, and his diminished income next year will seriously embarrass projected improvements in the village and check the export of gold from New York.

Minneapolis Journal: Even Nebraska increases its republican majority. Mr. Bryan did his best to prevent it, but republican prosperity is running things in Nebraska nowadays. Chicago Tribune: The intimation to Mr. Bryan is unmistakable. It is admonished to place himself a considerable distance in the rear and comply with the customary requirements. Milwaukee Sentinel: The defeat of the fusion ticket in Nebraska will be a severe blow to W. J. Bryan. Through the instrumentality the democratic and populist parties in that state were once more brought into perfect accord and every effort was made to win back the state. Without Kansas and Nebraska both in his column of sure states Mr. Bryan will have no excuse for going into the next democratic national convention and presenting his Chicago and Kansas City platforms for endorsement, let alone asking for a third nomination at the hands of the party. The reorganizers of the party can well afford to turn a deaf ear to his pleadings if he does not succeed in holding his own state in line.

Chicago Chronicle: The defeat of the Bryan fusion populist and democratic ticket in Nebraska eliminates Mr. Bryan from all consideration of democrats in the future as to their platform and national candidate. As his last hold on the national democracy he announced his intention to "redeem" Nebraska from the republicans, who carried it against him in 1900. Nebraska was not "redeemed." It gave a greater republican majority than it gave a year ago. There are no unkind feelings toward Mr. Bryan; his future is before him, not behind him, as is the case with many defeated leaders. He may fill a career of political usefulness which never would have been possible in a national administration and policy founded on the unsafe, impracticable basis of the Chicago and Kansas City platforms. The democracy must look to the future, not to the past. Its vision must be toward the rising issues, not that of retrospection over abandoned and barren fields of conflicts which ended in defeat. The triumphs of the republican party will not be perennial. They will not be many in the future unless democratic blunders in the adoption of principles and of policies shall always continue along the path of unparalleled obstinacy and folly. The course is plain before us. It is visible to the eye of wisdom. Its lines are palpable to the touch of common sense.

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Boys' single and double-breasted brilliant finish black chevrot Long Pants Suits, ages 15 to 18 years—\$10.00

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