

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 21st day of December, A. D. 1901. M. B. HIGGATE, Notary Public.

It begins to look as if the market house were about to gain a lap on the auditorium.

Every public officer who is exposed in the betrayal of his trust raises the cry of political persecution.

Omaha's first bad coasting accident of the season has been recorded. The annual injunction to coasters to be more careful should not be ignored.

Admiral Schley says he has no ambition for civil office, but he may change his mind, or allow it to be changed for him, by the time 1904 rolls around.

The state treasury will always be more or less in politics. But that is no reason why any state treasurer should make himself a candidate for the penitentiary.

Oklahoma thinks it can make the steeplechase better by going it alone than by hitching three abreast with Arizona and New Mexico. Every tub on its own bottom.

A British syndicate has acquired 90 per cent of the tobacco interests of Cuba. Here is another chance to help the poor Cubans by remitting the duty on tobacco for the benefit of the British pocketbook.

The subject of William Allen White's next literary dissection is former President Grover Cleveland. If it does not draw out at least a threat of suit for libel, it will not be considered a complete success.

Our amiable hyphenated contemporary wants to give public notice that it takes back all the nice things it said a little while ago about Judge Baker and his merited recognition by promotion to a higher bench.

From the bills presented by the grand jury it would seem that the purty reformers in South Omaha had plenty to keep them busy sweeping before their own door without bothering about their neighbors' stoops.

Ex-Treasurer Meserve insists that his indictment for embezzling money belonging to the state school fund is simply politics. That's just what Joe Bartley said when he was arrested for pocketing state money.

The ratio of Chinese to other population of this country is about one to one thousand, but from some of the arguments put forth to banish the Chinaman a person would suppose the one was on the point of swallowing the one thousand.

The salary of state treasurer as fixed by the constitution of Nebraska is \$2,500 a year and he is prohibited from profiting in any additional amount from the office. No man who finds himself in the office dissatisfied with the salary need stay there a single day.

St. Louis is expressing apprehension that the three hours assigned to it on Prince Henry's program will not give sufficient scope for the display of its abilities as a host. With only three hours at its disposal St. Louis will be in a quandary whether to introduce the royal guest to the world's fair grounds or to the world's biggest brewery.

Judge Gordon can subscribe to all the oaths of office he pleases, but that cannot obliterate the fact that at the last election to which he submitted himself as a candidate a majority of the people of Omaha voted against him and for his opponent. The popular verdict was against Judge Gordon and it cannot be reversed on any legal quibbles or statutory technicalities.

STATE TREASURY IN POLITICS.

The indictment of former State Treasurer Meserve for the embezzlement of money paid as interest on the school funds in his custody while state treasurer is pronounced by the Omaha World-Herald an effort to inject the state treasury into politics. That paper goes so far as to intimate that the action of the grand jury was a partisan conspiracy to make political capital against the so-called fusion reform forces of the state.

When the republican state convention of 1901, by an almost unanimous vote, declared against executive clemency to treasury embezzlers and denounced the farming out of public funds for private gain, it gave expression to the sentiment of the rank and file of the party. Its position on that question has not been changed, whether its representatives in the state house comply or refuse to comply with its platform pledges.

If the republican state treasurer were guilty of the same practices for which Mr. Meserve has been indicted, that would afford no excuse or palliation for the conduct of Meserve. The failure of the Douglas county grand jury to indict Mr. Stuefer does not bar his prosecution in the Douglas county courts if the same proofs can be produced against him as were presented before the grand jury against Meserve.

The prosecuting machinery in this county is in the hands of democrats, who are not likely to spare Stuefer because he is a republican, although they tried hard to shield Meserve for partisan reasons.

The threat that the prosecution of Meserve will force the prosecution of Stuefer and carry the state treasury into politics will frighten nobody. The state treasury has been in politics for years. It was forced into politics when Joe Bartley was arrested and convicted for looting the treasury.

Although Bartley was a republican, he was prosecuted by a republican county attorney and sentenced by a republican judge, not to make political capital, but because his guilt was established beyond a reasonable doubt.

The people of Nebraska, regardless of party, have insisted and will continue to insist that every dollar of public money, whether derived from taxation, from the sale or lease of public lands, or from interest on securities or bank deposits, shall be accounted for and turned into the treasury. This is the law and every treasurer who violates the law does so knowing that he is betraying his trust and subjects himself to all the penalties imposed by the law.

So far as The Bee is concerned, it has made no distinction between republican treasurers and democratic or populist treasurers. If the World-Herald imagines it can serve its party by trying to defend Mr. Meserve it will find itself in just as bad light as it brought itself by its championship of the Bartley pardon.

AUSTIN CORBIN'S PROJECT REVIVED. The announcement is made that the Pennsylvania Railroad company contemplates the establishment of a steamship line between Montauk Point, Long Island, and Milford Haven in England.

It is given out that the object of the new steamship enterprise is the development of the foreign coal trade. We apprehend, however, that the extension of its transatlantic coal traffic is only to be incidental to the main purpose in view.

The proposed steamship line between Montauk Point and Milford Haven is by no means a new project; it is in reality a revival of the long-cherished plan of the late Austin Corbin, who had planned a steamship line between these terminals with a view to reducing the distance of steamship travel across the Atlantic by selecting the shortest route between New York and London.

All the details as to harbor facilities and railway connections between the terminals and the two greatest world cities had been worked out under Mr. Corbin's direction and the Long Island railroad, which now connects New York with Montauk Point, and of which he was president, was nearly ready for traffic at the time of his sudden death.

Mr. Corbin's design, which will doubtless be also the plan of the Pennsylvania railroad managers, was to establish a new transatlantic steamship line that would land mail and passengers eighteen hours sooner than they can reach their destination by existing routes. But Mr. Corbin also had in view the establishment of a free port modeled after the free ports of Germany, where international traffic could be carried on without the intervention of the custom house and where, under certain restrictions, American wares in demand in foreign countries could be manufactured for export.

Whether this part of Mr. Corbin's program is to be adopted by the Pennsylvania railroad cannot be conjectured.

The projected short cut between New York and London is far-reaching and may eventually result in a revolution of transatlantic passenger travel. Should the existing steamship lines find themselves distanced in the race for transatlantic traffic, they will be forced to seek new American terminals that bring them nearer to Southampton, Havre or Queenstown than they

WHERE IS THE DIFFERENCE?

A protest has been entered by Samuel Gompers as president of the American Federation of Labor against the proposed transfer of the Bureau of Labor from the Interior department to the Department of Commerce which is about to be created by congress. The ground of Mr. Gompers' remonstrance is that the transfer of the Bureau of Labor would for a long time frustrate the ambition of the bureau to be transformed into a Department of Labor with full cabinet privileges and responsibilities.

When Bartley was up for trial the attorney general came to the assistance of County Attorney Baldrige, to make sure that the case was properly presented. In view of the fact that County Attorney Shields can hardly be expected to prosecute ex-Treasurer Meserve with even reasonable vigor, the present attorney general would be fully justified, for the protection of the state, in following his predecessor's example.

Among the various and sundry appropriations embodied in the urgent deficiency bill passed by the house of representatives last week is an allowance of \$30,000 to defray the expenses of the special committee of congress that accompanied the remains of President McKinley from Washington to Canton.

The chief justice of the Nebraska supreme court has taken certain lawyers severely to task for presuming to confuse the court with a reckless array of immaterial material in his briefs. But is a certain lecture sufficient penalty to be inflicted for this offense? When the lawyers complain because the court decisions are confusing they should be prosecuted for contributory negligence.

On taking the witness stand, Jim Hill announced that he had come to tell the Interstate Commerce commission anything its members wanted to know from him. And he forthwith put in three hours sparring with his inquisitors to respond to their questions without telling any more than he had to.

It seems absurd to apply the title "his excellency" to every man who happens to be elected governor.

The government that equipped the Spanish navy was the best friend the United States had during the war.

Our mule is not the only emotional inconsistency. Germany, although united to the Boers by ties of blood, is busy filling orders for barbed wire to unite Kitchener's blockhouses by ties of metal.

President Thwing of the Western Reserve university declares that the American people have become a people of the newspaper. Coincidentally, the rest of the world is being made to confront the fact that the American people are the greatest people on earth.

There seems to be a general impression that the interior department has gone too far in ordering the noble red man not to paint his face. If it could prevent him from coming into the state with the interior liquor it can well afford to let his other features alone.

Australia is the hottest country on record. I have ridden for miles astride the equator, but I have never found it hotter in the dry times there appears to be little more than a sheet of brown paper between you and the lower regions, and the people facetiously say that they have to feed their hens on cracked ice to keep them from laying boiled eggs.

Every moment of Kaiser Wilhelm's brother's time will be occupied during his brief sojourn in this country next month, and it is to be trusted that his entertainment will be as pleasant and felicitous as the innocent occasion which renders it possible. However our hectic blatherers may blare, the populace will resolutely refuse to see in the forthcoming parade of fun and feathers anything more than a cordial welcome to a good fellow and a friendly representative of a foreign power.

Repealed rumors afford some foundation for the belief that the two great telegraph companies are seriously pondering the advisability of offering their lines and plants to the government. As our Washington correspondent has stated, it would not be a bad bargain for the companies, provided they could get their price, as they would base that price, of course, upon the present earning powers of their properties, and that would be about five times the amount it would cost the government to duplicate the lines and plants.

Several facts support the theory that the time for the company to sell out to the government, if they can, is rapidly approaching. Their receipts have been lessened considerably by the use of leased lines by large commercial concerns. Railroads are furnishing economical wire service to shippers and the telephone is competing more and more. Wireless telegraphy now looms up as a very imminent possibility, and when it is made commercially practicable it will be a most formidable competitor with present methods. For these and other reasons it is not an unfair presumption that a sale would be advisable—from the companies' point of view.

The total capitalization of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies aggregates \$171,000,000, from which some idea may be formed of the sum the government would be asked to pay for the properties. If the government cannot be induced to purchase, it is evident that some sort of reorganization taking in wireless systems and telephony will be necessary before many more years have passed.

THE SECRET REBATE

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Favored grain buyers are given a practical monopoly of the trade over vast areas. Thus the farmer must take less for his grain and the miller and consumer must pay more for grain and flour. Furthermore, lower rates are charged on grain for export than on grain for domestic use.

These are merely two illustrations out of hundreds of the rebate evil. They are not only violations of the statute law, but they are also violations of the principles of fair trade and of the public interest. Secret freight rebates are also the great means of industrial oppression. By their means the trust can drive the independent producer out of business, although he may make a better and cheaper article. Thus monopolies can be established and the public kept at higher prices for what it buys.

Railway managers, when these charges are pressed home, confess their truth. Their excuse is, in substance, that they are forced to give rebates "to get business." Mr. A. of the large importer of Y. & Z. railway, will say in effect: "The large manufacturer, with an established trade and shipping 1,000 tons a week, demands a lower rate than the small manufacturer, whose shipments are neither large nor regular. I know, if I refuse, that Mr. B. of the P., D. & Q. will make the concession, and my road will get none of that freight. To protect myself from the wrath of my directors and shareholders I yield."

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As a remedy for the secret rebate system, which has resulted and does result today in the oppression not only of thousands of individuals, but even of whole communities, the Interstate Commerce commission advises that penalties for violating the law be imposed not only upon the railway official, but upon the corporation which he serves, and that greater publicity of railway business be enforced.

Something may possibly be done in this way, but to many investigators of the subject the root of the evil seems to lie deeper and to consist of a false theory upon which railway charges are based. Hitherto transportation has been viewed as a commodity which its providers had for sale. It was held that it is, as to other commodities, the "wholesale and retail principle" applied—that it might justly be sold in large lots at a lower price than was charged for small lots.

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ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

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PHILADELPHIA RECORD: Lord Cranborne did not touch upon, presumably owing to a complete knowledge of the facts, Germany's explicit denial is extremely gratifying. There is nothing in this airing of diplomatic closets to mar or spoil the pleasant prospect of Prince Henry's visit.

Philadelphia Record: Lord Cranborne's statement in parliament with reference to Great Britain's veto of joint intervention by the powers in our difference with Spain has been effective in drawing out a declaration from the German foreign office. Germany, so it is declared, did not propose intervention to other powers, nor did she support any proposition to that effect, either before or during the course of the war. It is admitted, however, that joint action was suggested from some quarter, and what Germany would have done if the British government had not uncompromisingly opposed the proposition is not stated. One may guess that she was not over friendly at the time from the attitude of her naval commander at Manila toward the American admiral.

Lincoln Post (pop.): The indictment of ex-State Treasurer Meserve by the Douglas county grand jury appears on its face to have been a political move, pure and simple. It was necessary to do something to distract attention from the Bartley steal, conviction and pardon, and as there was a way to make a prima facie case against Mr. Meserve, he was indicted. That Mr. Meserve deposited school funds in banks for safekeeping, nobody will seriously deny. That there was a competition for the possession of these funds is also without doubt, and that Mr. Meserve took interest on these deposits is very probable. The question, however, will be whether the funds deposited in the Stock Yards National bank at South Omaha were loaned to that bank or not. If they were then Mr. Meserve was guilty of embezzlement.

Grand Island Independent (rep.): The grand jury of Douglas county has returned an indictment against the late fusion state treasurer charging him with embezzlement of the state school funds. While it has generally been known that Meserve farmed out state funds and committed practices, even worse than State Treasurer Stuefer has recently been charged with, the fact that he was indicted for the same offense, to simply knock Mr. Meserve off the ticket and cover the maladministration over in the interests of "reform." And the indictment is the first real evidence that the general rumors have been correct. Mr. Meserve, when informed of the indictment, stated that he knew of some charges, but expressed the opinion that it was a political move. This will, unquestionably, be the cry of the fusionists. The evidence secured by the grand jury indicates that Meserve had on deposit in the Omaha Stock Yards National bank at South Omaha a large sum of money belonging to the school funds upon which he had been paid interest and that he had pocketed this interest.

Teaching the Military Spirit. Philadelphia Record. At some of the western universities retired army officers are employed as instructors, and in occasional instances their instruction includes more of army life than was intended by the faculty. In one case more than 100 young men were thoroughly initiated into the mysteries of draw-poker, and the income of the military instructor was considerably augmented.

PHILADELPHIA PRESS: "Hello, there!" the wagon tongue called facetiously to the wheel, "you look tired."

"Yes," replied the wheel quickly, "many a wheel has become tired because a waggon tongue spoke too much."

Baltimore News: "My darling," he exclaimed, "I would go to the end of the earth for you."

"Suppose,"