

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

R. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: George B. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of copies of the Daily Bee, published during the month of January, 1902, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Copies, Total. Rows include Total, Net total sales, Net total average.

All signs point to a brisk spring trade. The wise merchant will prepare for it.

The Omaha Woman's club is threatened with a rupture over the color line. The clothe-line would be a safer topic of discussion.

Our old friend Tom Blackburn has been seeing things again. He should take something for it before he gets in too bad a way.

Commodore Metcalf might have at least had compassion on the public sufficient to have fired his battery one gun at a time instead of all at once.

Ex-Treasurer Merve has been released pending trial on the embezzlement charge on a bail bond for \$1,000. That does not look much like political persecution.

With the United States, Great Britain, Germany and Japan each placing a foot in the Chinese doorway, neither Russia nor any other country is likely to attempt to close it.

South Omaha people can console themselves with the thought that they might have avoided all this municipal fracas had they taken more kindly to the annexation proposition.

Iowa leads all the states of the union in the value of its livestock. This, coupled with its rich soil and its progressive people, tells the story of the prosperity of our neighbor.

One of the designs on the souvenir which St. Louis will present to Prince Henry will be the key to the city. Extra care will have to be taken to prevent Chicago from getting hold of that key.

The self-sacrificing lawyers who have been making hay out of the Redell case may be expected now to begin gabbling at once for a back pay salary grab. They will not stop until they have drained the well dry.

Before publicly announcing his withdrawal from the liberal party Lord Rosebery should get into communication with Teller, Towne, Web Davis and a few others for pointers on how to make the exit really spectacular.

The Steel trust has purchased several of the most important iron mines in Sweden. Anyone having anything in its line to sell from scrap iron to a big steel mill can find a purchaser by applying to the big company.

Optimism is a good thing, but when it takes the form of promises in the promotion of public enterprises that cannot be kept the reaction is sure to be detrimental. A good clear vision is as necessary as energetic enthusiasm in producing tangible results.

An unusual number of murders have been committed in Iowa during the past year, but the facility with which Iowa courts are disposing of the cases and juries are bringing in verdicts of guilty will probably have a restraining influence in the future.

Democratic papers are inquiring what good was accomplished by the recent visit of the Cook county democracy to the southern states, which are supposed to be solidly democratic. Possibly it did not make votes, but think of the fun the Chicago men had.

Delegate Smith of Armonia objects to the appropriation for the Carlisle Indian school on the ground that it is not good policy to send Indian boys east to be educated. If the school should be closed how would the eastern colleges be able to make up their foot ball schedule?

THE BIRTHDAY OF WASHINGTON.

Public observance of the anniversary of Washington's birthday, which years ago was general, is now rare, but while the stimulus to popular patriotism which the former-time public demonstrations gave is no longer afforded, reverence for the memory of George Washington is as strong and sincere now as it ever was.

This being universally acknowledged, it is needless to dwell upon the character of Washington. It will be more profitable to revert to the wise and patriotic admonitions he left his countrymen; some of which are now particularly applicable when we are cultivating the friendship of all nations.

Washington earnestly counseled this. "Observe good faith and justice toward all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all," says the farewell address. He advised against inveterate antipathy toward particular nations and passionate attachment for others.

The wisdom and patriotism which enabled Washington to dominate most of the great men of his time still exert a potent influence and will continue to do so as long as the American republic lives. His last message to his countrymen is an unending inspiration to loyalty and patriotic duty.

GOVERNMENT DEPOSITS IN BANKS.

Soon after going into office Secretary Shaw wrote to a New York congressman regarding a measure providing for the deposit of government funds at interest in national banks. The secretary of the treasury said he thought that some provision for the deposit of surplus funds of the government with national banks, upon security other than government bonds, would be wise.

In view of the large treasury surplus and the importance of having a large part of it made available for use in the business of the country, the question of providing for an extension of the deposit of government funds in national banks is of considerable consequence. Bills looking to this have been introduced in congress and doubtless some action will be taken.

With the disturbing element removed which hung over the department in the possibility of ex-Chief Redell's reinstatement, the efficiency of the department should be raised to the highest possible standard and every effort made to repress dissension and enforce strict discipline, by which alone this result can be achieved.

As was to have been expected, it has been discovered that there is a little joker in the innocent bill to modify the charter for the East Omaha bridge introduced by request by Senator Millard and already passed by the senate. The bill was doubtless drawn by the company's shrewd attorneys, who are always up to some trick to take advantage of the public.

The reorganization committee of the Asphalt trust proposes to merge into one company all the various paving concerns operating in this country. The reorganization committee evidently thinks the supply of suckers was not exhausted by the defunct asphalt combine that tried that very game as to asphalt paving and failed most miserably.

ADOPTING PUBLICITY.

Some of the great industrial corporations are recognizing the expediency of adopting publicity regarding their affairs. The example of the Steel trust in this respect has been followed by the National Biscuit company, which in its just published annual report makes a very full presentation of its affairs and methods. In the details given unfavorable features are not concealed and the report is a clear and candid statement for the information which is altogether creditable to the managers of the company.

It is to be expected that other industrial corporations will come to see the wisdom and the legitimacy of giving stockholders and the public reasonable information concerning their financial condition and business affairs, for it ought to be plain to all of them that they cannot long retain the confidence of their stockholders and the public unless they do this. A corporation that persists in carrying on its operations secretly and withholds information as to its condition and methods even from those who have invested in its stock, must inevitably give rise to the suspicion that it is not being judiciously and honestly managed.

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conducted can have a sound and sufficient reason for not allowing those who have money in it to know what it is doing and the corporation that withholds this information must sooner or later lose the faith of stockholders.

This is a simple business proposition which it would seem all the managers of the industrial combinations should understand and act upon. The men at the head of the great steel corporation recognize it and it has worked no injury to any corporation whose business is conducted on a sound basis. On the contrary, there is every reason to believe that every such corporation—that is, those that are properly and honestly conducted—would find a reasonable degree of publicity of decided practical advantage.

It is generally conceded that publicity is one of the best safeguards against the trust system, that it is necessary to protect the public from whatever is harmful or dangerous in that system. This being so the people will insist that publicity be required of the industrial combinations by law and it would be good policy on the part of the combinations to meet this demand before they are compelled to do so.

The final order of dismissal following on the findings in the trial of ex-Fire Chief Redell is the natural consequence of the impossible position which Chief Redell assumed when the charges against him were originally filed. Instead of accepting the situation and meeting his accusers with a refutation of their charges, Chief Redell, under the influence of bad advice that has proved so costly to him, preferred to defy the authority of the police commission under which he had been serving by refusing to recognize its authority to discipline him in any way.

EXIT OF REDELL.

The evidence brought out at the hearing will certainly convince every unprejudiced person that the ex-chief had called down upon himself his unfortunate dilemma and had given good grounds for some measure of discipline. That dismissal was the only sufficient penalty in view of the insubordinate attitude taken as soon as the charges were preferred. If the discipline and efficiency of the force of the fire department is to be maintained, will also be readily agreed to by every one who realizes what the essentials are to a well-manned fire-fighting force.

Although ex-Chief Redell had outlived his usefulness as a member of the Omaha fire department, it is only fair to say that the department owes much to the work he has done. At the time he was called in to take charge our fire department had reached a low ebb of effectiveness. Chief Redell infused new life into the demoralized force by bringing modern methods of fighting fires into requisition. There is no question but that under his supervision the men in the department made great advances, but he brought with him, also, the sparks of disorganization and insubordination which, fanned by favoritism, vindictiveness and cruelty on the part of the chief, culminated in the necessity of his retirement.

There can be no doubt that the service would gain in efficiency through the passage of the bill for the promotion of men to better and more work when they are not overworked and when inspired by the certainty that advancement waits on fidelity and efficiency and not on any man's favor.

A POLITICAL FAKE.

A few days ago a citizen of this town, who happens to be vice president of the National Manufacturers' Association, went to Washington to invite President Roosevelt to be present at the annual convention of the association to be held in this city in May next. Arrived at the capital he made an appointment with Senator Beveridge to call with him at the White House and introduces him to the president. The call and the introduction were made in the usual manner and the callers left. No other subject was discussed but that of the invitation. This was a commonplace and every-day occurrence, but it furnished a starting point for the evolutionary process.

How It Originated, and How It Grew and Was Disseminated.

The recent Tilden dinners provoked attacks of indigestion in silver quarters. The Boston Globe suggests that, while we are reviewing our geographies, the new addition to the nation's territory be named the "Roosevelt West Indies."

POLITICAL DRIFT.

The assessment rolls of New York state indicate a total property valuation of \$5,754,429,510. Owing to the large indirect taxation, the rate of direct taxation to be levied on this valuation will probably not exceed 12-100 of a mill, or less than the rate estimated by Governor Odell in his annual message. The rate last year was 1 21-100 mills.

Several American railroad lines, through their officers, have taken occasion to deny that they have any intention of absorbing Mexican roads. The government of Mexico has a way of holding railway officials to account for accidents which is not to the liking of the magnates.

South Omaha is rapidly acquiring the reputation of being the best market for fine breeding cattle as well as for animals for slaughter. The Nebraska and Iowa farmer knows that the best stock is the most profitable and under present prosperous conditions has the money to buy.

What a Tale It Would Be.

Some day the British lion may write a book on "Some twisters My Tail Has Encountered."

A Century's Upbuilding.

It is said that there are 300 real daughters of the American Revolution—that is, women whose fathers took part in the war of independence. They have lived to see a great epoch to the work their fathers

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started, and it also emphasizes the fact that if Rome was not built in its day, nations are in this.

Back in the Horse Trade.

Great Britain may get out of the scandal in the War office over the high price paid for horses without smirching any officers, but it can hardly conceal the fact that some of them were very poor hands at a horse trade.

Three Eminent Sports.

Those were three fine sporting gentlemen who met in Marlborough House the other day. What Sir Thomas Lipton knows about yachting, what Edward VII knew about golf, and what Charles M. Schwab is sorry he ever knew about roulette no doubt would have solved the conversation. It is believed, however, that they discussed the nebular hypothesis and opened a small bottle.

MUNICIPAL GRAFTING.

A Robust Spectacle Recently Exposed in St. Louis. Leslie's Weekly. How utterly corrupt the governments of the great municipalities of the United States have become has just been disclosed in St. Louis. Several prominent members of the city council, including most of the wealthy business men, more the shame—have been indicted for bribery. A combination of members of the municipal assembly was made to pass a bill granting valuable franchises for extensions to a local street car concern. For this privilege the company was to pay \$125,000, \$75,000 of which was deposited in a box in one trust company and \$50,000 in another, a representative of the street car combination retaining one of the keys and a member of the city council the other. The bill was promptly passed by the city council, but before it could be rushed through the house of delegates the supreme court interfered, and the railroad company failed to secure the coveted franchise. It then refused to pay the money on deposit to the members of the council, and the controversy waxed so warm that the circuit attorney's attention was attracted, the grand jury took up the case, the scandal was exposed and indictments followed.

RELIEF FOR POSTAL CLERKS.

Their Cause to Be Presented to Congress in the Night Way. Chicago Record-Herald. Since the postmaster general has issued an order prohibiting postal employees going to Washington to urge the passage of legislation affecting the service the cause of the postal clerks has been taken up by business men in various parts of the country who recognize the hardships of the service and the necessity of prompt relief. The objects sought by the postal clerks are (1) an actual instead of a nominal eight-hour day, and (2) that the entire system of promotions, including advancement in pay from \$600 up to \$1,600, \$1,800 and \$1,400 a year shall be under strict professional control.

There is no reason why the postal clerks, whom there is no harder working employes in the government service, should not enjoy the full advantages of the eight-hour working day to which the government is committed. As a matter of fact they are forced to work Sundays, holidays and nights or so long as there remains any mail to be distributed.

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What Mark Twain Wrote About Them Thirty-Four Years Ago.

The Danish West India islands, about to transfer their sovereignty to the United States, have the same end in view, over thirty years ago. Mark Twain was the Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune in 1867 when the question of purchase was under consideration and wrote several letters ridiculing the proposition. One of these letters, dated December 10, 1867, is a characteristic "jolly" and serves to show the change public sentiment has undergone in a third of a century.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The London which according to the report of the registrar general of the British metropolis contains 4,236,341 inhabitants, is not the Greater London, but the London that is made up of twenty-nine boroughs, whose collective affairs are administered by the London County Council, and it covers 74,835 acres. Of these boroughs the old City of London, with but 26,923 residents, is the smallest division, and Islington, with a population of 334,991, somewhat larger than Pittsburg, the largest. Outside of the County Council's force there is a "Greater London" that forces the urban and suburban population of what is essentially one great center of human activity far above the 5,000,000 level, so that within a few miles of the old city of London there is a grouping of population almost as large as that of the state of Pennsylvania. Aside from the fact, therefore, that London is the hub of the British empire, it is the physical, visible demonstration of enormous size in the way of a contiguous and continuous built-up area, that makes a profound impression and gives a sense of unity in all the variety that makes up London; a variety that ranges from the most abject squalor the world knows to a superb elegance and magnificence seen nowhere else the globe over.

The Russian government is gradually eliminating all foreigners from the public services. Formerly there were a number of British engineers in the employment of the various railway administrations, but as these passed into the possession of the crown, the foreigners were ordered the designers, the large majority of whom are signing their posts, and with extremely few exceptions, the latter alternative was adopted. For a long time exceptional privileges were extended to the large number of foreign naval constructors, artificers and shipwrights, chiefly of British nationality. These were so plentiful, indeed, in the Russian admiralty yards at one time that two or three of the earlier-built battleships of the Black sea and Baltic fleets were practically foreign-built ships built in Russia. The whole body of these foreign engineers, the Russian subjects resigning their posts, and with extremely few exceptions, the latter alternative was adopted.

It is evident that the British government is wide awake to the importance of the part which the colonies are likely to play in future wars and to the value of the present organization of all their military resources for offense and defense. Already two distinguished soldiers, Sir George Clarke and Sir Herbert Chermisoff, have been appointed governors of the states of Victoria and Queensland, and now Vice Admiral Sir Henry Rawson, one of the most brilliant officers of the British navy, who undoubtedly would be selected for high command in the event of a maritime war, has been made governor of New South Wales. Thus the governor, general of Australia is provided with a kind of special privy council of unimpeachable authority on all military and naval matters. Sir Henry Rawson is only 58 years old, but has served for forty-five years. In 1857 he was present at the capture of the Pelito forts, and was the victor in the battle of all quarters of the world. He was one of the umpires at the British naval maneuvers of 1893, and was in command of the ceremonies at Spithead when the body of Queen Victoria was borne in state from Osborne to Gosport.

One of the bills before the French Chamber in which the ministry is most deeply interested is M. Basi's measure, fixing eight hours as the maximum day's work in the mines. A great majority of the miners are said to approve it, and the open support given to it by the government is regarded as a bid for the labor vote at the coming elections. The bill, however, does not insist on the immediate application of the eight hours' day, and, in fact, an amendment of M. Basi insisting on the immediate application of this principle was voted down by the legislative committee, the changes involved will result in a diminution of production, and thereby entail a number of alterations in the general economy of the mines. Hence the necessity of giving the

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