

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: George B. Tschuck, secretary of the Bee Publishing Company...

Net total sales, 887,815. Net daily average, 24,022. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 28th day of February, A. D. 1902.

The South Omaha municipal election comes on April fools' day, but it will be no joke.

Carrie Nation is still at large in Nebraska. How Kansas manages to get along without her is a conundrum.

One of the saddest features of the disaster to General Methuen is that it is likely to prevent another outbreak of Kipling.

When we have jury panels made up of none but business men the price of doctors' certificates may be expected to soar upward.

The Douglas County Democracy is to be presented with a handsome portrait of William Jennings Bryan. No details are given as to the christening.

The fight of the Real Estate exchange for more equitable taxation is giving the lawyers an opportunity to unwind their oratory which they are not overlooking.

The lower house of the Iowa legislature has killed the woman's suffrage bill passed by the senate.

Iowa people are confident spring is at hand, for the country roads are many of them impassable.

The experience of the state in losing valuable documents by fire should induce the custodians to be more careful of the original documents.

Those little differences between Russian soldiers and American sailors have been settled by the Russians apologizing.

The latest manifestation of judicial activity consists in running the South Omaha democratic primary by mandamus and injunction.

One member of the Board of Education wants the official school report to include statistics of the parochial schools.

Grinnell, Ia., has gone the limit in prohibition legislation. It not only refuses to allow saloons to run within the city limits...

County Treasurer Blanner reports balance of cash on hand of more than \$100,000 at the present time.

FIGHTING BATTLES AT LONG RANGE.

Now that Mr. Edward Rosewater has returned to Omaha, perhaps he will be willing to make another explanation concerning the change of his paper on the Philippine question.

In its issue of February 8, 1898, the Bee pleaded that the Philippines be assured independence, and said by this means "We would avoid an expenditure of money and a loss of life which, if hostilities are prolonged, may be very great."

Our amiable contemporary delights in fighting battles at long range. Its guns are always elevated way above the target, while it carefully avoids coming into contact with issues that are within reach.

From that time on the Bee became an advocate of the single gold standard, regardless of popular delusions concerning the effects of free coinage.

To agitate in favor of Filipino independence at this stage is as idle as would be the reopening of the agitation for free silver coinage.

Its first duty is to restore peace and establish order on all the islands. The Filipino proper constitute less than one-fourth of the population.

Instead of improving the condition of the islands such a policy would make it a thousand times worse.

But now let us ask in all candor, why does the World-Herald persist in fighting battles at long range?

Why does it seek to suppress public sentiment and agitate the people of Nebraska?

Joseph S. Bartley was pardoned on the 1st day of January and, although the whole state has been convulsed over his liberation, the World-Herald has been as silent as the grave.

The acquittal of Meserve in spite of the tacit admission that he had appropriated in one swoop \$3,000 of interest on school money illegally farmed out has also been studiously ignored.

And so has the pointed intimation of Judge Baxter that the remedy for treasury looting must be sought in the amendment of the state constitution.

Surely that point has been manifest to the World-Herald as well as to the Bee, which has for years exerted itself for a speedy revision of the constitution that will put an end to speculative investment of public funds and to other abuses arising out of the outgrown organic law.

Once more we ask, why does the World-Herald shoot over the heads of the people of Nebraska at targets in Asia and Africa, while it shuts its eyes to the targets within reach?

STATE ANTI-TRUST LAWS. Little has been accomplished through anti-trust legislation by the states, for the reason that most of the state laws contain discriminations that are unconstitutional.

The opinion says that if combinations in respect of the sale and purchase of goods, merchandise or commodities, whereby prices may be controlled, are hurtful to the public interest, it is not possible to perceive why like combinations in respect of agricultural products and live stock are not equally hurtful.

It is pointed out that the exemption principle in the Illinois law contravenes the principle of the equal protection of the laws to all, as provided for in the constitution.

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will be generally done. It is not difficult to understand why the acts of these several states should contain discriminating provisions, though it may be somewhat surprising that in so many instances legislators failed to see the unconstitutional character of such provisions.

It illustrates the difficulty of framing anti-trust legislation that will stand the constitutional test.

FAVORABLE TO NICARAGUA.

There is nothing surprising or unexpected in the fact that a majority of the senate committee on interoceanic canals voted in favor of the Nicaragua canal bill that passed the house.

Meanwhile the representatives of this government and those of Nicaragua and Costa Rica have been in consultation and have about completed agreements.

In view of the apparent indifference of Colombia, which in the circumstances is certainly remarkable, the majority of the senate committee concluded that it was advisable to act.

Every United States senator is expected to plant a public building in his home town before his term runs out.

THE PRODUCERS' INTEREST.

Senator McCumber of North Dakota, in supporting the shipping bill now before the senate, stated that he did so because he believed that the results of its operation would be beneficial not only to his agricultural constituents, but to the people of the entire country.

In the report on the pending bill submitted by Senator Frye it was pointed out that both positively and negatively the American transpacific mail system which the measure makes possible will contribute powerfully to American maritime ascendancy in the Pacific.

It will accomplish this result, the report declares, because it moves along the normal lines of the world's progress.

Special conditions render it certain that the earliest and most rapid development of American shipping under the bill will be on the Pacific.

"While American shipping," says the report, "in transpacific trade has been stationary and foreign shipping has doubled within four years, nevertheless that trade is not so completely in possession of ships under foreign flags as is the trade of the Atlantic; the opportunity for new American maritime ventures is greater."

The agricultural producers have a further interest in the building up of an American merchant marine for our foreign commerce for the reason that a great part of the vast sum now annually paid to foreign ship owners for carrying our products abroad, a very considerable portion of which is paid by those producers, would be kept here and distributed among our own people for labor and supplies.

Under the proposed legislation the shipbuilding industry of the country would be greatly increased, giving employment to a vast amount of labor.

The capital thus expended would go to a very large extent find its way to the food producers, thus giving them a better home market.

This is obvious, even if with an American merchant marine our producers had to pay as much as now for the carrying of their products abroad, though it is by no means probable that this would be the case.

Under existing conditions nearly all that they pay to the foreign ship owners goes abroad, helping to maintain the shipbuilding industries and adding to the wealth and maritime power of other countries.

With an American merchant marine on the ocean adequate to the demands of our foreign commerce, most of the large sum that now goes into foreign pockets, estimated to be from \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000 annually, would be retained and expended here, increasing our national wealth and strengthening our own maritime power.

This question of an American merchant marine is national in its scope. No section of the country has a monopoly of interest in it.

The agricultural producers of the west and south would derive not less benefit from it than the manufacturers of the east and middle states.

General Funston has ceased to be a hero in the democratic calendar. A few short months ago the democratic press was shedding tears by the barrel because it was alleged the administration was not going to reward him suitably for his services.

He received his commission all right, but because his views do not coincide with the democratic idea regarding the Philippines he has fallen from grace.

The haste of railroad managers to dissolve freight and passenger associations, following on the announcement that the Interstate Commerce commission had resumed activity, would be amusing if it were not serious.

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DELAWARE'S GREAT COUP.

Milwaukee Sentinel: "An English general takes chances on the annoyance of being compelled to read in his home newspapers during an enforced absence as given in a Boer camp that the war in South Africa is practically over."

Chicago News: It will be extraordinary if this Boer success against one of the most experienced of their generals does not stir the British people at home to serious self-questioning as to the demands for a more competent administration of the War office.

The capture of a British general will put fresh heart into the Boers. Instead of Methuen's taking Delarey or Dewet, Delarey has taken Methuen.

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