

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. I, George B. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, say that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of February, 1902, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation type and quantity. Total 547,400. Less unsold and returned copies 19,124. Net total sales 528,276. Net daily average 29,352.

Another sign of approaching spring—the increasing noise emanating from the base ball magnates. The month of March is bound to exhibit its unequalled versatility as a dispenser of all brands of weather.

Field Marshal Lord Wolsley is going to South Africa, purely on personal business. South Africa, just at present, is not an ideal place for British soldiers on pleasure bent.

Nothing short of the presentation of a handsome marble bust of Colonel Bryan will offset the advantage scored by the Douglas County Democracy in the acquisition of that new Bryan portrait.

To the Omaha Woman's club belongs the credit for the enactment of the ordinance regulating billboards. The club women can earn another credit mark by exerting themselves for its more rigid enforcement.

Reports from the Danish West Indies indicate that the negro inhabitants of the islands are of the opinion that after annexation each one of them will have an office. The fakir who started that story should have thrown in a mule for good measure.

The season's business of issuing licenses to sportsmen under the new Nebraska game law is opening with a rush. We suggest that the four-leaved clover would be a more appropriate design for the hunters' licenses than for the dog tags.

The reason given for the resignation of the retiring city health commissioner is that too much work is connected with the office for the money. Yet there seems to be plenty of ambitious physicians willing to assume the burden along with the salary.

Representative Cochran of Missouri never neglects an opportunity to urge this country to take a hand in the Boer war. If the administration could be forced into engaging in war with Great Britain the Missouri congressman would undoubtedly be willing to sacrifice all his wife's relations.

Manufacturers and jobbers can now bid for furnishing Indian supplies with the privilege of Omaha delivery. It has been contended in the past that the lack of this privilege operated as a discrimination against local bidders. With this discrimination removed, several of the important Indian supply contracts ought to come west.

Eastern senators are blocking the bill to give settlers free homes in the ceded lands of the Sioux reservation. Eastern senators are always fearful something in the name of government bounty will inure to the west. No people are so provincial as those whose vision is bounded by a state no larger than an ordinary western county.

A DISORDERLY RETREAT

The local organ of sham reform is again at its favorite cuttlefish tactics. In trying to cover its disorderly retreat on issues that have been agitating the people it emits barrels of inky fluid about the Philippines. In its last issue The Bee propounded these pertinent questions:

Why does the World-Herald persist in fighting battles at long range? Why does it seek to suppress public sentiment and refuse to talk about issues that have agitated 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 silent as the grave. Not a word about the Bartley pardon has appeared in its editorial columns.

The acquittal of Meserve in spite of the tacit admission that he had appropriated in one swoop \$1,000 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. Barely 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? Instead of answering these questions in a frank and manly way, the cuttlefish shoots several volleys of black type into the air to prove that The Bee had continued to express disapproval of the annexation of the Philippines three days after the ratification of the Treaty of Paris.

Suppose that The Bee had continued to denounce the annexation for three months or three years after the ratification of the treaty, how would that justify the indefensible silence of the World-Herald on the Bartley pardon? How would it justify the studied defense of Meserve? How would it justify its refusal to advocate constitutional revision?

In order, however, to put an end to cuttlefish contortions over Rosewater's change of attitude on the Philippine question, we deem it proper to state that Rosewater was absent from Omaha when the treaty was ratified and could not be held individually responsible for the views expressed by The Bee during that period, although he is presumed to be responsible for all that appears in that paper.

But whatever Rosewater said, or failed to say, on the Philippine policy three years ago, affords no ground for the World-Herald in dodging the vital issues of the hour. For the seventh time we ask, Why is it that the World-Herald has maintained such profound silence about the Bartley pardon for more than nine weeks? Why does it throw cold water upon the proposed submission of amendments to the state constitution that will put an end to the farming out of public funds for private gain and give us a higher grade class of state officials?

It is perhaps true, as recently stated by Senator Elkins, that the large shippers who secure rebates from the railroads are chiefly responsible for the apathy which is said to pervade congress in regard to the proposed amendment of the interstate commerce law. The West Virginia senator stated, doubtless with the authority of personal experience, that a good many of the large shippers want to have things remain as they are in order that they may profit by unlawful rebates in violation of the law and he cited the case of one firm operating west from Chicago and shipping 50,000 cars of freight each year which is known to make a rebate of \$15 per car—a fine income, observed Mr. Elkins, if the firm made nothing more on its business.

He said this is not a solitary instance of the aid which the present law lends to such practices. Of course shippers that have such an opportunity to gain from violations of the law will exert all the influence they can command against any amendment of the law intended to deprive them of this gain and to make the act generally more effective. They can afford to spend money liberally to this end and in all probability do so. How shall this influence be met? Manifestly by a united and persistent effort on the part of the smaller shippers and such vigorous expression of public sentiment in behalf of a change in the law as congress will hardly dare to disregard.

Mr. Elkins said that the petitions and other documents that have been sent to congress have had no effect and he thought that nothing short of a united public demand will attain any results. As we have heretofore said in regard to this, it would seem that little more could be done than has been done to convince congress that there is an overwhelming public demand for a change. This demand has been voiced not only in the numerous petitions that have gone to congress and in the action of many commercial bodies, but also most freely through the press. For years congress has been urged by the leading newspapers of the country to amend the interstate commerce law so as to make it more effective and to increase the powers of the commission.

RESTAURANTER WHO SECURES SUCH A CONTRACT SHOULD ADOPT THE CHEAP SOUPHOUSE PLAN OF FASTENING THE DISHES TO THE TABLE.

The western commercial traveler is a brave man. Here he is preparing to form a new organization to reform the hotel service in the territory through which his wanderings bring him, boldly intimating that many of the hostleries whose guests he is from time to time are not up to the standard he has a right to expect. If it comes to a war between the commercial traveler and the hotel keeper, but on the commercial traveler every time.

Does anyone believe that if ex-Treasurer Meserve could have shown that he didn't pocket the \$3,000, he would have shirked himself behind the technicalities of the law? Would a custodian of public funds true to his trust set up a defense that the interest on school fund deposits alleged to have been embezzled by him, did not belong to the state and therefore could with impunity be appropriated to himself?

It turns out that the manuscript rulings of the state department of public instruction have not been destroyed by fire, as reported, but like the Phoenix have risen from the ashes. It would certainly have been irreparable to have lost the commentaries made on the school laws of Nebraska by all the learned educational luminaries who have occupied the office of state superintendent in years gone by.

Some Glory Faded. Philadelphia, North America. The exploit of Methuen's cavalry in beating the Boers in a four-mile race vindicates the remount department of the British army.

Missouri Pleas for Liberty. Kansas City Journal. The Missouri Boers have won another victory for the Boers in South Africa. What in the world do the Boers want to stop the shipment of mules for?

Conundrum Passed Up. Washington Post. A reader of the Post propounds the following pertinent and interesting question: "Will you please inform me through the columns of your esteemed paper the professional politics of the Commoner, a western publication of recent birth?" The Post strives to please, but this is a request it will be compelled to pass.

The Sirens Get Together. Philadelphia Record. Representative Moody, who will succeed Secretary Long upon his retirement from the Navy department, is in his forty-ninth year and vigorous. He has a reputation for strenuous statesmanship and will make a strong helper of the president as long as they shall both pull in one direction.

Absurd Naval Requirements. Baltimore American. A gunner whose examination testifies that he is morally, mentally and physically qualified for a commission in the navy is rejected because he is "professionally" lacking. Perhaps the "professional qualification" which is thus officially ranked above moral, mental and physical tests is to be translated "Americanism." And thus the American navy for all men being equal, and of each man to all he can earn, is again turned down.

Found What He Went For. Springfield (Mass.) Republican. General Methuen is to be congratulated. He went out to look for Delaney and he found him. His condition afterward reminds one of John Phoenix's combat, wherein he got the best of his adversary by throwing himself on his back with his nose interbed between the enemy's teeth and his hair tangled around his enemy's hands and feet.

POPULISM IS LOOKING UP IN KANSAS. A Wichita infant, only three weeks old, is said to have predicted six years of famine. The Low administration of New York City has not yet discovered a way to reduce municipal expenses below that of the Van Wyck regime.

Norman E. Mack of Buffalo, a loyal and loyal foe of free silver, intimates that it is time for Bryan to go away back and sit down. Think of a Mack forsaking a Bryan.

Sheriff Guden of Brooklyn, becoming entangled in a crooked job, refused to resign when requested and was unceremoniously pitched out of office by Governor Odell Guden.

One poet was turned down and one nominated for councilman in Chicago. Small as the handout is, it is something of a tribute to the divine muse, considering the surroundings.

The retirement of Dr. Washington Gladstone from the city council of Columbus, O., in which he tried to effect a few reforms, lends significance to Mark Twain's epigram: "Be good and you'll be lonely."

Senator Clark of Montana is regarded the coming man for the chairmanship of the democratic national committee. In losing Jones, the prophet, the party will gain a comical bar, a very useful article in a political scrap.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

It is two years and upward since Russia gulped down Finland and began the process of its benevolent assimilation, which is evidently not yet completed, as the anniversary of the denationalization of that patriotic and interesting country is still celebrated with rials from one end to the other, which the Russian police vainly try to put down. In taking over the country of the Finns, the Muscovite bear finds that in its quest for honey it has swallowed a beehive, but it is much too tough an animal to be disconcerted by a little thing like that.

The topic of the duel came up for discussion the other day, both in the Reichstag and in the Prussian chamber. More than one speaker insisted in more or less direct tones that the real responsibility in the matter rested upon the shoulders of the emperor. One of the radical members of the Reichstag said that, in his opinion, the only effective cure for the evil was a decree issued by the supreme head of the army absolutely forbidding all duels among officers.

Commercial depression and crop failures have been inflicting severe suffering on Russia for two years. It is about that period since the collapse of speculation prostrated many of the most important lines of business and caused several important bank failures. Some of the provinces were suffering from famine a year ago before there could be any knowledge of what the crop of 1901 would be, and the suffering was widespread and acute before the harvest of last year was entirely over.

Extraordinary vigilance is to be exercised henceforth in France to prevent unnecessary waste of life. A new law just promulgated obliges the mayor of every commune to enforce the sanitary regulations against transmissible diseases, and measures for the isolation of houses and the disinfection of the public authorities of every infectious disease is compulsory upon every doctor and midwife.

Philadelphia Record. "What are you swearing about?" inquired the senior member of the firm. "Oh, that new office boy," replied the silent partner, "he's never to be found when he's wanted."

Chicago Tribune. "They asked me to their reception," said the girl with the two-story pompadour, "but it wasn't because they like me. It was because I can sing."

Chicago Tribune. "Do you know," asked the long, slim person with the wild look in his eyes, "whether or not it was real wine that was used in christening the emperor's yacht just now?"

Cleveland Plain Dealer. "What's the matter with Mrs. Fondivoie's face?" "Her baby boy scratched it."

Ohio State Journal. "When I was your age I didn't have the advantages you have," said the father sternly.

Chicago Post. "Is he really such an expert stenographer?" "Experience is no name for it. Why, just for practice he actually took down a church service."

Philadelphia Record. Probably most physicians will agree with Dr. Lee (one of the surgeons who operated on President McKinley at Buffalo) in his testimony in the Patrick murder trial in New York that "an anesthetic cannot be administered to a sleeping person without awakening him."

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WOMAN'S WORK

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TICKLISH TATTLE.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. "I wonder how Jonah looked when they threw him in the whale?" "Down in the mouth, I suppose."

Chicago Tribune. "I suppose it would be laughable if we could see ourselves as others see us."

Washington Star. "Why did you select that man as a candidate?" asked the henchman. "He doesn't know anything about politics."

Philadelphia Record. "He's got a great scheme to exterminate mosquitoes."

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Advertisement for B.K. Baking Powder. Features a large illustration of a tin of Royal Baking Powder and text describing its benefits for various baked goods like biscuits, cakes, and pastries.

Advertisement for Browning-King & Co. clothing. Features the text "How's the Boy?" and describes a variety of boys' clothing including suits, blouses, and hats, with prices ranging from \$3.50 to \$15.