

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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Table with 2 columns: Circulation numbers for various months from 1901 to 1902.

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To fuse or not to fuse, that is the question. Emperor William kissed Prince Henry on both cheeks.

At this time of the year it is well for hunters to remember that it is dangerous to grab a loaded gun by the muzzle.

A Kentuckian paid a debt by taking a swim in the river on St. Patrick's day. It is a serious matter when a Kentuckian takes to water at any time of the year.

King Edward has revived the custom of snuff-taking as one of the courses at banquets. The guests will all sneeze when the king takes snuff.

So many royal personages are coming to the coronation of King Edward that court authorities are at a loss to know where to put all of them.

The State Corn Improvers' association has just been organized at Lincoln. The next thing we will hear of is a State Association of Corn Extractors and a State Association of Corn Juice Samplers.

The discussion of the river and harbor bill in the lower house of congress affords a very interesting diversion for members whose districts are located inland and away from mud creeks and dry ditches.

About twelve months ago a band of burglars relieved the postmaster of Chicago of \$74,410 worth of postage stamps. Now the postmaster of Chicago asks congress to relieve him of the overdraft on his bank deposits.

When Omaha gets through wrestling with the tax levy, and corporation assessment it will have to grapple with the insurance combine that is preparing to raise the insurance rates 25 per cent along the line of least resistance.

Democrats who have been mentioned for congressional candidates in Iowa are declining with a rapidity which is astonishing. Democrats who have had experience in running for office in Iowa are not anxious to add to their store.

A bass singer in a Columbus (O.) church choir has recovered his lost voice after eighteen years of enforced whispering by coughing up a tooth. The next sweet singer from Ohio who loses his voice will know where to look for it.

The appointment of Dr. John B. Ralph as health commissioner is a merited recognition of the efficient service rendered by that officer while performing the arduous duties devolving upon him during the past four years.

Arguments in favor of mandamus Governor Savage to appoint a new fire and police commission for Omaha have been heard by the supreme court. In the meantime candidates for these positions are holding their breath and waiting for a windfall.

Ex-President Cleveland is credited with saying that the republican party has the faculty of pulling together at critical times while the democratic party does not. The reason is not hard to determine. The republican party is not composed of men who are habitually looking backward.

Now that William E. Curtis, the famous explorer of European ruins, has viewed the plains of Troy and the site of the city of Priam, he might as well come home to die. There are no more ruins worth looking at in this world unless it be the fragments of the dismembered populist party.

A CONFERENCE DECISION.

The fifth conference of the house republicans on the question of granting tariff concessions to Cuba having decided in favor of the 20 per cent reduction proposed by a majority of the republicans of the ways and means committee, the matter will probably be at once brought before the house of representatives. What the result will be there cannot be confidently predicted, since the vote in the conference does not accurately reflect the relative strength of the supporters and opponents of the proposed concession.

Still the action of the conference is to be regarded as indicating the probable adoption of the 20 per cent reduction by the house. It might be defeated by a union of the republican opposition with the democrats, the latter generally favoring free trade with Cuba or a larger tariff reduction than proposed, but it is unlikely that such a union will be made. The advocates of the proposed reduction claim that if it shall be adopted by the house it will also be accepted by the senate and will also be satisfactory to the president.

The controversy over this question, however, is not yet ended. The decision of the conference is not absolutely conclusive, although it certainly improves the chances for the adoption of the 20 per cent reduction. So far as the administration is concerned, it appears to be entirely inactive regarding the matter. The president desires that something shall be done for the industries of Cuba, but he is not committed to any specific proposition and doubtless will approve whatever congress may do in the matter of concessions.

OMNIBUS LEGISLATION.

The weakest spot in the federal constitution is the lack of a provision that will enable the president to veto any item in an appropriation bill. Omnibus legislation, or the bunching of miscellaneous claims, jobs and grants into one general bill, coupled together with meritorious and necessary appropriations have been the source of colossal corruption during every session of congress and has cost the country millions upon millions of dollars.

The omnibus claims bill and the river and harbor bills that are now being rolled through congress will alone aggregate nearly \$100,000,000. These bills include many just claims against the government and appropriations for much needed improvements, but the bulk of the enormous sum, which is proposed to be drawn out of the treasury under various pretexts should, by rights, have been adjusted by the court of claims, or be excluded altogether.

When these bills reach the president, he can only do one of two things. He can approve the bill with all its jobbery and robbery, or he can veto it and by so doing defeat measures in which the whole country is vitally concerned. This glaring abuse has grown worse from year to year, but after the lapse of more than a century no amendment to the federal constitution has been proposed that would enable the president to exercise the veto power in the same manner as the governors of nearly all of the states are able to do with regard to appropriation bills passed by the respective legislatures.

TO STOP REBATES.

The Interstate Commerce commission is showing a most commendable purpose to put a stop to rate-cutting and the paying of rebates by the railroads and its efforts should be successful. It will be able to present what seems to be an invulnerable case. Railway officials have testified before the commission that rebates are paid. They have frankly acknowledged that in this respect the law has been violated and there is no doubt that this is still being done. The commission asks the courts to stop this unjust and unlawful discrimination and there ought to be no doubt that the injunction and the restraining order asked for will be granted.

It is said to be understood that the railroads will make no serious objection to this; that most of the large railway systems claim to be in favor of preventing rate-cutting and paying rebates and that responsibility for the practice is really with the small roads, which cut their rates to hold their own against the larger roads. Violation of the law by the small roads affords no excuse or justification for like misconduct on the part of the large roads. If the latter are really desirous that rate-cutting and the paying of rebates shall be prevented they should set the example. Moreover, they have it in their power to put an end to the unlawful practice on the part of the small roads wherever they know it to exist. They have an unquestionable right to bring such a violation of the law to the attention of the commission, as provided in section 13 of the interstate commerce

act. The fact is that the worst offenders against the law are the large roads and the attempt to saddle responsibility upon the smaller roads is preposterous.

Pertinent to this is the indictment of the Louisville & Nashville railroad by the federal grand jury at Louisville on the charge of discrimination in rates. This is the railroad company whose vice president has been most insistent that the interstate commerce law does not need amendment so as to render it more effective and to enlarge the powers of the commission for enforcing the law. The indictment of the company for violating the law suggests why its vice president has so persistently urged that there is no necessity for strengthening the interstate-commerce act.

The present activity of the commission may cause some anxiety in railway circles, as well as among favored shippers, but it is in the public interest and will have general approval.

A BUNCO BRIDGE PROJECT.

Now that the bill authorizing the construction of a railway and wagon bridge across the Missouri river at South Omaha has passed both houses of congress, it may be pertinent for us to ask who will furnish the capital to build the bridge, and when will it be built?

At the lowest estimate it will cost not less than half a million of dollars to bridge the Missouri river without computing the expense that will be incurred in constructing the necessary approaches. It is an open secret that the scheme has been engineered through congress purely as a speculative enterprise with a view to raising the wind by the sale of the franchise.

As a matter of fact, the three bridges that now span the Missouri river afford ample facilities for all the railroad and wagon traffic that is likely to be built up at Omaha, South Omaha and Council Bluffs for the next fifty years. So far as we can learn, nobody in South Omaha except the promoters, at whose instance the bill was framed and introduced, expects to be benefited by the construction of such a bridge, nor does anybody in these parts expect to see the third railroad and wagon bridge constructed across the Missouri river between South Omaha and Council Bluffs during the present generation. There was absolutely no call for it nor any excuse for granting a franchise for the construction of a fourth bridge without a guaranty from the promoters that they mean business.

THE COAL MINERS' CONVENTION.

The most important convention of anthracite coal miners in several years is in session at Shamokin, Pa., the results of the deliberations of which are awaited with much interest not only by the coal operators, but by all manufacturers who use the product of the anthracite mines. There is a great deal of dissatisfaction among the miners with existing conditions and their efforts to secure a conference with the operators with a view to remedying these conditions having been without avail, the convention was called to consider and determine what should be done.

There is apprehension that a strike may be the result and it is pointed out that at this time such a conflict would be a very serious matter, particularly to the industries of the Atlantic coast. It is said that in the event of a strike it would be only a short time before there would be a coal famine. There has been a tight coal market all winter. At no time during the past five months have the hard coal fields been sending to market as much of that fuel as was needed. Consequently not many of the big industrial plants using anthracite have much of a supply on hand at this time and such a mining should stop.

It is to be expected, therefore, that very earnest efforts will be made to avert a conflict that would inevitably have very damaging results to large industries and of course to the labor employed in them. Here would seem to be a particularly good opportunity for the officials of the National Civic Federation to exert themselves in the interest of peace and doubtless they will do so.

A bill to increase the salary of the Omaha collector of customs from \$900 to \$1,000 per year has been introduced in the lower house by Congressman Mercer. The collector of customs of Omaha is also the surveyor of the port and custodian of the federal building. His present income approximates somewhere between \$3,500 and \$4,000 a year and the services are performed chiefly through a deputy. In view of the fact that the collector of customs and surveyor of the port, at the present, is reported to have devoted less than an hour a day all of the year round to the multifarious duties devolving on him, the increase of pay would seem entirely uncalled for. We can safely predict that Mr. Mercer's generosity with Uncle Sam's money will be appreciated and reciprocated. There is, however, any danger, however, that Cadet Taylor will throw up his job even if Mercer fails to pull through the bill to increase his salary.

Strange Race Distinctions.

Chicago Chronicle. Minister Conger's wife gave a tea which was attended by Chinese princesses who had never before seen a foreigner. Being only pagans, it is probable that they didn't steal the silver for souvenirs as did the Christian guests who thus ruined the caterer who served the Meteor luncheon.

Pitiful Results of War.

Philadelphia Ledger. Eighteen more soldiers who have been driven insane by the hardships of campaigning in the Philippines are now on their way to the Insane Soldiers' hospital at Washington. Somehow, this effort seems to give a more horrible character to the war in the Philippines than sickness, wounds and death itself. And there has been only too much of it during the struggle thus far.

Pardon of the Anarchists.

Detroit Free Press. It is not the churches who have to explain, for it was a delegation of ministers that called upon Governor Algeft after his pardon of the Chicago anarchists and took him to task for what he had done. He answered them by producing a petition for the pardon signed by every president but one of all railroads centering in Chicago, and by every president of a bank, state or national, in the city. The man who presented the petition was Lyman J. Gage, late secretary of the treasury. Was it conscience, mercy or policy?

and leaving open the bungalow. Every year has seen an increase in the overlap and by the time one overlap is funded a new overlap is started.

According to Assessor Malm, some people in the Ninth ward who have money to burn decline to list their full bank balances. The way to make these people list their bank balances is to require the banks to submit a detailed statement of deposits. Some of these Ninth ward capitalists would probably deposit their surplus in their pocket-books or in their stockings, although that might prove inconvenient even in the month of April, when the weather is so very variable.

The president has vetoed a couple more bills designed to patch up the military records of men who left the service during the civil war with a cloud upon them. Like private pension bills this class of legislation is generally passed through courtesy to the member who introduces and no consideration is given to the equity of the measure. Generally speaking, military records which need fixing at this late day are too badly damaged to warrant the repairs.

The amount raised up to date by Porto Ricans to the McKinley monument fund amounts to \$1,497.42. This was raised by contributions none of which were in excess of 10 cents in amount, the committee fixing that limit. From this showing it would not appear there was any general dissatisfaction in the island with the conditions prevailing under American rule, such as have been pictured in the opposition press.

The Lancaster county assessors have agreed to assess real estate and merchandise at one-fifth of its cash value. Where the Lancaster county assessors, or the assessors of any other county, get their authority for a deliberate violation of the law and of their oaths of office, that requires them to list all property at its actual cash value, is not reported in the Lincoln papers.

The weighing of the mails has progressed far enough to show that there will be a large increase over four years ago, when the weighing was last done. This increase, besides affording proof of general business activity, will mean a substantial increase in revenue to the roads which already find the mail contracts among the most profitable portions of their business.

The Pennsylvania anthracite coal miners assembled in convention solemnly declare that they want their coal weighed, and they want it weighed so badly that they are ready to fight for it if necessary. That is precisely the condition of the consumers. They also want their coal weighed, but it always makes them so hot when the heavy coal bill is presented.

Members of the Omaha Real Estate exchange can accomplish a great deal in the way of equalizing assessments by cultivating the personal acquaintance of the precinct assessors and stroking them down the fur. That is the way the tax shirkers usually manage when they want to unload tax burdens upon the backs of other people.

Dave Mercer has suddenly discovered that Omaha needs a quartermaster's supply depot. Why he did not discover that long-felt want two years ago, when the bill to create a quartermaster's supply purchasing depot had passed the senate and why he deliberately smothered the bill in his own pocket, he has failed to explain up to date.

New Jersey towns easily hold the record for the season's disasters and are so far in the lead there is no necessity of getting up any more demonstrations in order to hold their place, besides the rest of the country objects to having insurance rates raised once more in order to pay losses in that section.

We rejoice to know that the experiments with wireless telegraphy across Lake Erie, between Detroit and Cleveland, have proved a most brilliant success, although confined to the transmission of single letters. Coherent talk was not attempted, we are told, because Lake Erie was out of sorts.

There'll Be Something Doing. Chicago Tribune. Whisper it softly. Dealers in bicycles report a marked increase in their orders this year.

Jarring Their Conceit.

Buffalo Express. The feature of Lord Methuen's release which comes especially hard on the British press is that it shakes their own belief in their assertion that the Boers are a barbaric people whom it is a duty to civilization to subdue.

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ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

A few weeks ago all the world that loves a lover throbbed with admiration for the courage of Fannie Payne McCormack, a New York heiress, who, it was claimed, tossed the millions of her late lamented pa and his will to the winds and wedded the man of her choice. Brooklyn McCormack died a year ago he left a pot of \$15,000,000, to be divided among four children, but having a dislike for Fannie's steady company, Louis Herzog, he inserted a codicil directing that in case of her marriage to Herzog half of the estate be limited to a nearly handout of \$15,000 a year. Miss Fannie spurned the old man's restriction, married the man of her choice and was hailed as the bravest bride that ever pledged loyalty at the altar. But things do not always run as they seem. Now comes Mrs. Fannie Payne McCormack Herzog with a petition to set aside the codicil, and the problem goes up to the New York supreme court for settlement.

George Gray, aged 34, an artist in throwing fits, was caught by the police while giving paralyzing exhibitions in front of a private residence, so that he might be carried inside and cared for. Once inside he would tell a pitiful story which got him money and sympathy. Last Sunday the sidewalk on Sixty-ninth street was the scene of his operations. As he was about to be carried into a private house Bicycle Policeman Leasenbee recognized him and had him taken to the Presbyterian hospital. There he astonished the physicians by increasing at will the pulsations of his heart to 105 beats a minute. The doctors after an examination said he was a physical curiosity.

The Charity organization and Commissioner Partridge have been on Gray's trail some months. His father is believed to be a well-known Brooklyn man. Gray is said to have a smattering of medical knowledge. Sometimes he made \$20 a day.

The committee in charge of the statue of General W. T. Sherman ordered on behalf of the New York Chamber of Commerce and now completed has declared in favor of a site in Riverside drive, 300 feet south of Grant's tomb and immediately facing it.

William E. Dodge, chairman of the committee, speaks of this place as the ideal situation, and adds: "There is, indeed, a certain fitness in placing a statue of General Sherman near that of his great leader and personal friend."

No decision has been yet made. Other sites have been suggested. The matter now goes to Mayor Low and the Municipal Art society.

There seems to be a wave of murder sweeping over New York. Almost every day develops some new sensation. There is Patrick on trial for the murder of Rice; Florence Burns, a young girl, under arrest for the murder of her lover, and John Voepel, a boy of 17 years, under arrest on the charge of murdering his mother, one of the most revolting of crimes.

Saturday added two new murders. Maude Gentile was found dead with a bullet wound in her temple in a Forty-second street hotel. The man who had gone to the room with her, and who is missing, had been heard to threaten her. The other murder was that of John P. Stover, a painter, who was shot by his wife because of his alleged cruel treatment of her. The murder of Brooks, of which the Burns girl is accused, evidently suggested this murder to Mrs. Stover, who shot her husband while he was asleep in bed. She accused him of wasting money on the theater and the receipt from relatives in Philadelphia, and from a letter found in her room it is clear that she first contemplated suicide instead of murder. Rarely have there been so many serious crimes committed in New York City in so short a space of time.

He was a man from a western town, relates the Evening Post, and he came into the office of the old-fashioned New Yorker with a breeches that stirred the historic soul of the shrews. In a corner of his business card—which he presented to the old-fashioned New Yorker with a flourish wide as the prairie—there was a list of the concerns with which he was connected: "President Lone Rock Gas company," the New Yorker repeated with his eye on the card, "Vice President Lone Rock Electric Street Railway, Business Manager Lone Rock Independent, Director Lone Rock Water Company, President Lone Rock Realty Company, Vice President Gaiety Theater Company, Secretary and Treasurer Lone Rock Fire Brick and Paving Company."

The old New Yorker finally looked up from his perusal of the card and there was something like awe in his voice. "If you were only a director," he suggested timidly, "in the Lone Rock company, you'd have an interest in pretty much everything dead or alive out there, wouldn't you?"

PERSONAL NOTES. Louisville, Ky., is excited because its health officer has discovered that Limburger cheese is full of microbes.

Secretary Cortelyou and Judge Day will prepare a life of William McKinley. It will be an exhaustive and authoritative work.

General Clinton Paxton, Palms of Baltimore, who died in Naples, Italy, on Friday, represented Baltimore at the constitutional centennial celebration held in this city.

A monument to the memory of Matthias Baldwin, the father of the locomotive building industry in this country, and founder of the institution which bears his name, is to be erected in Philadelphia.

Commander Booth-Tucker of the Salvation Army, who has taken the oath of allegiance as a citizen of the United States, said that he was already half American, as his ancestors were Virginians and he had long since adopted this as his country.

Sir Edward Clibber, who has just been made an admiral of the British navy, was in charge of his country's fleet in Manila bay when Admiral Dewey made his entry and gave the Americans valuable assistance during the trying days that followed.

Prof. Herbert A. Giles of the University of Cambridge, in a lecture before Columbia university students, said that the Chinese had cultivated their national literature more than has any other race, and that literature leads them to an official career.

Literature Long has accepted an invitation from the Boston Latin School association to be present at its dinner on April 7 at the Exchange club. Secretary Long once taught in the school as a substitute for a short time. Dr. Edward Everett Hale will preside at the dinner.

Three cabinet officers have come from the congressional district which the new secretary of the navy represents—Timothy Pickens, Washington's secretary of state; Caleb Cushing and now Mr. Moody. It is not recalled that any other congressional district has been so distinguished.

The most genial of philosophers, "Max O'Rell," celebrated his fifty-fourth birthday on March 2. This year is an interesting one in his life, for it is the thirtieth anniversary of his going to England as the correspondent of certain French papers. It is the interesting characteristic of his career that all his works, which were first published in France, have been translated into English by his wife.

ROYAL Baking Powder. Makes Clean Bread. With Royal Baking Powder there is no mixing with the hands, no sweat of the brow. Perfect cleanliness, greatest facility, sweet, clean, healthful food.

IMPORTANT LABOR COMPACT. Notable Agreement for the Prevention of Strikes. Chicago Post. Not in the history of labor in America has there been a more momentous step taken than the agreement just made between the American Tin Plate company and the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

Philadelphia Record: Mr. Towne—Have you any close neighbors, dear? Mrs. Subbubs—Yes, they are all close. So close that you couldn't borrow a fatiron or a cup of sugar to save your life.

Washington Star: "De habitual kisser," said Uncle Eben, "don't do his wife no good. He simply goes around 'roundin' folks dat he ain't smart enough to have his own way."

Chicago Tribune: "Pa," said little Willie, "I wonder why a bad actor is called a 'ham'." "Perhaps," replied his father, "it's because he's too often served with eggs."

Philadelphia Record: "Do I look like a sugar beet?" demanded the indignant statesman whom the lobbyist was attempting to bribe. "I don't know about that, sir," responded the lobbyist, grabbing his hat, "but you are acting like a turnip."

CHICAGO HEALTH HINTS. Chicago News. If you would keep your health in spite of a heap of winter weather, you should adopt the rules they give, in avoiding generalities. In everything relating to hygiene, don't make them in your hat or other place that's advantageous. Just make them in your wish your friends to think that you're courageous. Go poking round in your where there's anything contagious. Unless you wish to quit this earthly scene.

Imprimis, boil your water till you've cooled all the bacteria. Beyond reconstitution, for the fuda's not superior. And if they should revive when they get into your interior. A certain personage will be to pay. Whenever you take your walks abroad remember there's impurity. In all the air about, so shut your mouth for more security. And breathe with caution through your nose—there's otherwise no safety. That you won't come down with pneumonia.

It certainly does seem a subject for a heap of winter weather. That people should persist in their unscientific blundering. And swell the mortal file when they are given many thundering. Good reasons why they should not persist. Get vaccinated often, and in matters distasteful. Be temperate and practical—cut out the theoretical. Don't work too hard, don't worry, and if Reynolds is prophetic. You have a fighting chance still to exist.

THE SPRING SUIT. Weather conditions have made top coats the chief topic of our advertisement. But its time to consider the new spring suit. Let us show you what we have—\$12.50 to \$25.00. If you are looking for style and trustworthy materials you will find them here. Our new suits are as well made as can be. The best \$2.50 and \$3.00 hat in town is a feature of our hat department. "No Clothing Fits Like Ours." Browning, King & Co. Exclusive Clothiers and Furnishers. R. S. Wilcox, Manager.