

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$4.00...

TIME FOR HOUSE CLEANING.

One year ago today the legislature of Nebraska elected Joseph H. Millard and Charles H. Dietrich to represent this state in the United States senate.

The election of two republican United States senators, after a protracted struggle lasting nearly three months, was hailed by republicans in all parts of the nation as the crowning achievement of the most glorious victory won in the presidential campaign of 1900, in which Nebraska was the storm center.

The redemption of Nebraska in the face of the fact that it was the home of the presidential candidate of the democrats and populists who were also entrenched in power in the statehouse, it was by no means a mere accident.

While the history of the battle of Nebraska in the year 1900 has not been written, suffice it to say that the triumphant redemption of the state from populism could never have been effected but for the concerted co-operation of the rank and file in the systematic campaign of education, in which The Bee was the most active and influential factor, and the unwritten pledges to the people that the mistakes and blunders of the past would be corrected and the abuses that brought disaster upon the party would be stamped out.

In the legislative campaign the support of republican candidates was invoked and secured on the distinct assurance that the new two republican senators would undo, at the earliest possible moment, the bad work of their predecessors. Had not the voters been convinced that the election of a republican legislature meant the speedy retirement of notoriously dishonest and disreputable federal office-holders, foisted upon the people of this state, there would have been no republican majority in the legislature.

Although no specific pledge was exacted from Senators Millard and Dietrich, they are as much in honor and duty bound to carry out the tacit agreement of the party with the people to whom they owe their election as is President Roosevelt to continue the policy of William McKinley.

Twelve months have elapsed, during which the republicans of Nebraska have patiently awaited the casting out and weeding out of the black sheep whose appointment scandalized the party and shook popular faith in its integrity. It seems to us that the time for housecleaning is at hand, Nebraska republicans must remember that they are still on probation and that their continuance in power will depend not only upon the character of the men nominated by the next state convention, but also upon the disposition manifested to keep faith with the people.

The two senators elected twelve months ago owe it to themselves and to the party to aid in its regeneration and purification. They know that notoriously dishonest men hold important positions in the federal service whom they would not trust in any capacity in their own business houses. The mere fact that these men hold unexpired commissions affords no excuse for their retention. These men have enjoyed a year's respite beyond what they expected when the new senators were elected. To continue to extend clemency and favor to this class simply means to sacrifice the republican party for the benefit of men whose conduct has discredited it with the people.

We feel sure President Roosevelt will not stand in the way of a housecleaning if the senators will only rise to the emergency. This does not necessarily mean a wholesale raid upon federal offices. The work of political housecleaning should be limited to the men whose reprehensible conduct and affiliations with public thieves make their retention in the federal service a constant reflection upon the party and a menace to its success.

THE EASTERN DIPLOMATIC SITUATION. The diplomatic situation in the far east is said to be regarded at Washington with very great concern, in spite of the surface indications which seem to assure the peace and territorial integrity of China through the Anglo-Japanese alliance and the joint declaration of France and Russia. It is the opinion that these agreements, instead of clearing the situation, have only served to increase the tension and make more uncertain the future of the Chinese empire. It is said that information received by the government and a careful study of the terms in which the Franco-Russian note is couched, have brought a realization that the crisis is approaching and that something else must be done to clear away the dangerous clouds that have again begun to gather on the international horizon.

The real danger is felt to lie in the friction existing between Russia and Japan. Unprejudiced official observers, it is said, who have heard both sides, have been informed by those who side with Russia that there is danger that Japan, emboldened by her alliance with England, may strike a sudden blow or make a sudden movement that will bring a conflict. Those whose sympathies are with England and Japan are suspicious that Russia will make a stroke in China or Korea that will force Japan to enter into hostilities. Russia has, indeed, given assurance that she has no such intention and this has of course been accepted by the powers concerned in good faith, yet the joint declaration of France and Russia, while friendly in tone and expressing a desire for the maintenance of the peace and whose sympathies are with England and Japan are suspicious that Russia will make a stroke in China or Korea that will force Japan to enter into hostilities.

Proprietors of blast furnaces at Youngstown have agreed to give their employees an eight-hour instead of a twelve-hour day provided one can be found to make up the extra shift. A few years ago it would have been an easy task to recruit the men from the ranks of the unemployed, but it is different now.

Shippers and railroad men do not appear to take the same view of the result which will be attained by the recent injunctions granted against the railroads. While the railroads profess to believe it will put an end to discriminating rates, the heavy shippers smile and say that when heavy consignments are to be moved the railroad men will quietly shade the tariff sheet. If the railroads are not strong enough to resist the blandishments of heavy shippers possibly a little touch of the law served upon the tempters might bring results.

lunge to England and Japan, which may be interpreted to mean that those two powers refuse to countenance the principle which England, Japan and the United States have made their own—that the integrity of the Chinese empire must be preserved.

It is stated that neither Russia, France, England nor Japan has made any official overtures to this government to ascertain the position it will occupy should war come in which one or both the powers first named would be arrayed against one or both of the others. No expression of opinion was asked from this government when it was furnished with the Franco-Russian joint declaration. There is perhaps nothing particularly significant in this, since the position of the United States is well understood by all the other powers interested in China. Without being a party to any international agreement this government, it may safely be assumed, would not be a mere idle spectator in the event of a war that threatened the dismemberment of China and possibly the destruction of American interests there. We should probably take no active part in such a conflict, though we should certainly insist upon our rights and interests being respected by the parties to the conflict. An element of uncertainty lies in the position of Germany, though that power is by no means inactive in China, as recent reports regarding its operations in Shantung show. While the diplomatic situation in the far east is certainly interesting, no serious trouble in that quarter appears imminent. That it will come in the not very remote future, however, is the judgment of many careful observers.

DESERVED PUNISHMENT. The sentences passed upon the embezzlers of postal funds in Cuba—Rathbone, Neely and Reeves—are severe, but it will not be questioned that they are deserved. These men were entrusted with duties of great importance, for which they were selected by reason of implicit confidence on the part of the postal authorities at Washington in their ability and integrity. Rathbone had been first assistant postmaster general during Harrison's administration and made a good record in the position. Neely was a fairly successful business man and Reeves held a position in the office of the auditor of the treasury for the Post-office department when detailed for Cuba.

All, therefore, were men of good reputation, whose appointment to organize the postal service of Cuba was regarded as judicious. It was a work for which they were well remunerated and the successful performance of which would have brought them credit and probably other opportunities. As soon, however, as they entered upon this important task they conspired to defraud. Finding there was opportunity to steal they did not hesitate to improve it. Rathbone and Neely were the real conspirators, Reeves being their tool, but the latter deserves to be punished equally with the others, notwithstanding the fact that it was largely upon his evidence that they were convicted. When the embezzlement was discovered the Washington authorities lost no time in ferreting out the facts and taking the thieves into custody, which is worth while recalling to the credit of the authorities. The convicted men intend to appeal, but it is not probable that they will gain anything by doing so, and they should not. They basely betrayed the confidence reposed in them and scandalized the government, and the punishment to which they have been sentenced is none too severe.

THE SOUTH OMAHA BRIDGE SCHEME. SOUTH OMAHA, March 26.—To the Editor of The Bee: Excuse me for the intrusion, but I want to say that I do not believe there is a man, woman or child in South Omaha that is opposed to the South Omaha bridge, for we all recognize it as something that is bound to benefit the city, and eventually it will benefit Omaha as much as it will South Omaha.

I know Mr. Charles S. Gleed, who is said to be at the head of the movement, and know that he is considered one of the best men in the whole state of Kansas and is a man of the very highest standing. I do not believe that an opponent of the bridge bill can be found in South Omaha if you should search the city with a fine tooth comb.

What is for the benefit of South Omaha should be for the benefit of Omaha as well, and it is incomprehensible to me how anybody in Omaha can oppose the measure on account of the benefit that will at once accrue to South Omaha, for it will in the end benefit the whole of Douglas county.

If the Rock Island railway is at the back of the scheme, all well and good. We are in favor of the bridge, no difference who is going to build it. F. A. AGNEW, Secretary South Side Improvement Club.

This shows how easily some credulous people can be humbugged. Everybody who has taken the trouble to look into this South Omaha bridge project knows that it is purely a speculative scheme promoted by parties who want a franchise that they hope to be able to dispose of for a round sum of money. The charter gives them four years time to hawk this franchise about, and, if no capitalists can be found willing to bite, they have nothing to lose by the venture, while at the same time they will make sure of covering whatever expense they may have by the sale of stock already on the market at 30 cents on the dollar. How the people of South Omaha can profit by any scheme of unbecoming we fall to comprehend.

The intimation that the Rock Island railroad is at the back of the scheme is preposterous. The Rock Island has a lease over the Union Pacific bridge that will not expire during the present generation. That lease includes the use not only of the Union Pacific bridge and its approaches on both sides of the river, but also of the depot and terminal facilities at Omaha, as well as the trackage to South Omaha.

The connection of Mr. Gleed with the proposed bridge franchise has not yet been disclosed. Mr. Gleed has heretofore been connected with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, but that road does not need a bridge across the Missouri to reach South Omaha. If it

Pres. Roosevelt's Course

By compelling a vigorous prosecution of the suit to prevent the Northern Securities company from effecting a consolidation of the northwestern railway systems President Roosevelt will justly endeavor himself to the people as an executive who is not afraid to do his duty.

There is no question as to the president's duty in the premises. The people of the northwestern states are menaced by a combination which will place their agricultural, commercial and manufacturing interests at the mercy of the big syndicate of multimillionaires. The proposed combination of the railway systems of that section will benefit the combine and a few big monopoly shippers alone. The people, the farmers, smaller shippers and manufacturers will suffer disastrously. They have appealed for federal assistance and President Roosevelt fully responded by instructing his attorney general to bring suit to prevent the merger.

This action on the part of the president naturally antagonizes the great carrying trusts. They resent what they consider Mr. Roosevelt's insolence in daring to oppose their domination in this country. Developments have already come to public attention which show that the president has insured the equity of these monopoly influences. They are determined to punish him in the event of his continued revolt against their rule. They will not hesitate to use all the weapons possible to them as owners of the president's party to encompass Mr. Roosevelt's ruin. They class him as an "unsafe" man—that is, a man who cannot be counted on as for the trusts and against the people under any and all circumstances.

If President Roosevelt does his duty in the present instance he will also be acting with the shrewdest wisdom for his own gain in public life. He will find himself supported by the great majority of the American people, the farmers, the small shippers, the business concerns and manufacturing industries. The trusts cannot wish this combination of a president and the people. The only way they can defeat the people alone is by means of a president who will do their bidding and keep the national government arrayed against the people. If Mr. Roosevelt chooses to be the people's president rather than the trusts', he will be an invincible figure in American public life.

ever wants to enter South Omaha or Omaha it can do so from Kansas City or Atchison, the same as the Missouri Pacific, without crossing and recrossing the river.

The opposition to the bridge bill is not because Omaha is afraid South Omaha will grow too much, but because Omaha is interested in South Omaha. It would take not less than \$500,000 to build the bridge exclusive of approaches on both sides. The chances are that the promoters behind the bridge scheme will presently ask South Omaha to vote bonds, just as was done by the Nebraska Central, as an additional bait for investors. An increase of South Omaha's bonded debt must eventually be shared by Omaha when the two cities are finally merged.

If all the men, women and children of South Omaha are really in favor of this hot-air project, they are for it because they do not understand its real character. The hour of trial came and Mr. Havemeyer was not among those present. In his stead appeared the magistrates fined him the limit—all too small, for he is only \$10—and threw in a lecture on a bond for the law.

Former Mayor Hewitt has original ideas of how New York City acquired its eminent position. It is said that in a conversation with a man who knew little about the metropolis. "To what do you ascribe New York's greatness?" the former mayor was asked. "To push," laconically responded Mr. Hewitt. "But your city has been greatly favored. You will admit that."

"Only to giving birth to citizens who are resourceful and energetic, and in the ability to always attract men of the same stamp from other places." "But haven't the natural advantages of New York much to do with the city's progress?" "Sir," responded Mr. Hewitt, closing the conversation, "nature would make the grass grow on Broadway if we didn't interfere."

John Kubelik, the young violinist, was the victim of a remarkable feminine oration in Brooklyn last Monday night. He had given a recital in the Academy of Music. Encore succeeded encore and flowers were thrown on the stage in profusion. When Herr Kubelik came out several hundred impressive young women were crowded about the door. He was hugged and kissed and mauled for several minutes. When he came out of the scrimmage—thanks to the police—the woman screamed "coward" at him and pelted him with flowers. An immense wreath, weighing several pounds, was forcibly hung about his neck. In an exhausted condition he was helped to his carriage and the crowd of excited women dispersed.

Wall street has its beggars like the rest of the town, but they don't wear rags; neither do they stifle up to a man and "hand" him. They look like fairly well-to-do members of society, reports the New York Times, and very likely that is just what they are. But they certainly have their nerve with them. One of these fellows, in the habit of walking into Wormser's office, just at the busiest times, would push his way right into the inner sanctum regardless of doormen and other obstructions, till he could find Louis Wormser himself. And he never went out again until he had extracted some loose change.

Wormser became tired one day, and said, "Look here, Miler, I'll make a contract with you; here is \$5 if you'll clear out for one year." "Make it \$10, and it's a go." "Not much, \$5 it is. Take it or leave it, but you don't get another cent here till next January 29 whether you take it or not." Miler squirmed and struggled, but he took the \$5 and kept his word. Next year he appeared at 2:30 p. m., January 29 to renew his contract, and succeeded. But this year Mr. Wormser was not in town and Miler came in half a dozen times before he finally found him. He got his \$5, but he wanted car fare, too, for all the times he had failed.

"I am a poor man, Mr. Wormser," he wailed. "I have had to come all the way because you did not keep your part of the contract. Now, look at all the money and time I've wasted. You ought to pay me an extra \$2 for that." And he almost got it—but not quite. A PARALLEL.

Equally Applicable to the Philippines and the United States. Senate Document No. 171 contains "corroborative" evidence relating to the Philippine sugar tariff. On page 248 is a letter from the "International Paper Company, per T. W. Spicer, Manager Export News Division." It is addressed to Hon. R. L. Edwards, chief bureau insular affairs, and was written a year ago. It calls the attention of the government to the extreme desirability of placing a low tariff on the entrance of paper, especially news paper, into the ports of the Philippines.

The latter part of the letter is so sound and stated so clearly and convincingly, as an argument for the repeal of the duty on paper and wood pulp throughout the United States, that we reproduce it, taking the

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK. Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. Now and then a judge on the bench of New York City gives evidence of indifference and contempt for the rights and privileges which the ultra-rich think they have inherited. Some of the latter class look down as it were, with profound pity on the poor man, rudely thrusts them aside when the white dainties and ideas roughed over less favored people, confident that wealth will heal the sore spots and rub the heels of justice. Occasionally an impolite judge is found who plants a banana peel where it will do the most good.

When Frederick C. Havemeyer was arrested the other day for racing his automobile in Fifth avenue, New York, he regarded the incident as a petty annoyance and nothing more. He deposited a \$50 bill as a bond for his appearance in police court, and made a mental note to send a servant around to the magistrate's office in the morning. The hour of trial came and Mr. Havemeyer was not among those present. In his stead appeared the magistrates fined him the limit—all too small, for he is only \$10—and threw in a lecture on a bond for the law.

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A Good Friend. Don't take Ayer's Sarsaparilla if you are well. Don't take it simply because you are sick. Take it for what the doctors recommend it and you will like it, become fond of it, for it gives health, strength, vigor. "I suffered terribly for twelve years. The doctors said my blood was all turning to water. I then tried Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and soon my health was fully restored."—Mrs. J. W. FIALA, Hadlyme, Conn. BREEZY CHAFF. Boston Transcript: Mrs. Joy—And how did that recipe turn out for the pudding? Was it a success? Mrs. Fryer—A splendid success. The whole family has had the dyspepsia ever since. Washington Star—"Some men," said Uncle Eben, "is so conceited dat it ain't no use tryin' to flatter 'em. Dey jes' think dey are mighty senseless not to find out how good dey is, years ago."

liberty of making such changes in it as I should show perfectly it applies to the situation in the United States. "No one can question the educational value of the newspapers and it is due to the great cheapening of the price of the article itself that the newspaper has been able to spread this education so widely among the masses. The large sums which are being spent at present and which will continue to be spent by the various state governments and the gifts of the federal government in the establishment of schools for the education of 'Americans' prove the interest we have in enlightening the population of the 'country,' and I am sure that no better element could be used by the administration in carrying out this work than a well-established, well-conducted press, which could carry into many homes, at a small cost, such information of general affairs and of our system of government as would aid in after life the work begun at the public schools. As the administration can in no way assist publications, it can at least lighten the burden of the publisher by either abolishing the tariff on the material used by him or by placing only a nominal duty upon it."

PERSONAL NOTES. Decorate the Easter eggs. A recent invention is said to make it possible to cut the hardest steel as easily as cheese. No up-to-date burglar should be without it. After Emperor William had named his new naval yacht Albatross it was hardly necessary for the reporters to add that he was greatly pleased with the little vessel. John Dunfee of Syracuse, N. Y., has been awarded the contract to build and equip a railroad among the fjords and hills of northern Norway. He will be the first American contractor to construct a railway in Norway.

One thing at least is revealed by these letters of Napoleon to Josephine, and that is that, though he did divorce her, she certainly had her innings in the first few years of married life. He was doing the worrying then. Major Joseph G. Pangborn, accompanied by his wife and daughter, has just completed a tour of Afghanistan, Turkestan, Persia and other Asiatic countries, for the purpose of getting specimens for the Field Columbian museum. Another record for fast traveling was established last Monday on the Pennsylvania railroad, when a special train, having President A. J. Cassatt on board, covered the ninety-one miles between Philadelphia and Jersey City in exactly seventy-nine minutes. This is the fastest time ever made on the road.

The purchases of the home of Chief Justice John Marshall in Richmond, Va., is contemplated for the purpose of erecting thereon a proper court house as a memorial of the federal government to the great chief justice, as well as a proper home for the judiciary, of which he was such an ornament.

HER LITTLE FELLOW YET. M. A. Mattland in Christian Work. What funny creatures mothers are! I sometimes laugh to see— For all my bigness and my age— How mine looks after me. She wants to warm me when I'm cold, To dry me when I'm wet, I do believe she thinks me just A little fellow yet! I got a hump at half one day That knocked me rather flat, But if I had not lost the same I'd not have minded that. And when they brought me to the door I saw her eyes grow wet. So, I am sure she thinks me just A little fellow yet!

I'm not a schoolboy any more, With satchel at my back It does not make it so; I don the haversack. I'm going to join the volunteers— My mother says, "I've got— And surely then I will not be A little fellow yet!" Of course, although she thinks me this, It does not make it so; I'm big enough and strong enough As some of you are now. But, then, one feels so small inside To think she can't forget. Or can't believe that I am not A little fellow yet!

Ah, well! the mother's good as gold, And kind as kind can be; There's no one else in all the world That's half as kind to me. So let her think it if she will, Home for I, too, am a "yet." It may be I will wish I were Her little fellow yet!

The Little Fellows. especially like to bloom in the spring and Easter is the time for them to bloom. If you have not already visited our juvenile department you should do so—for this department abounds in all the choicest and novel fixings that go to make the boy more lovable and attractive. Our great aim is to dress the boy becomingly and stylish and nowhere else can you find such a lot of beautiful wearing apparel as here. If you are down town today or tomorrow, stop in and look over the novelties for this season and the latest and best that the markets can produce—and they are always shown by us first. SUITS— FURNISHINGS— HATS— CAPS— "NO CLOTHING FITS LIKE OURS." Browning, King & Co. Exclusive Clothiers and Furnishers. R. S. Wilcox, Manager.