

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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Omaha bank clearings show a gratifying increase during the past week as compared with the corresponding period last year. Omaha leads such commercial centers as Buffalo, Milwaukee and St. Paul by from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000, while its clearings exceed by more than 80 per cent the bank clearings of Denver and St. Joseph.

With the assurance of the special commissioner of the United States Marine Hospital service that vaccination with glycerine lymph will not make your arm sore or your lower limb ache there ought to be no further objection against compulsory vaccination of all of the good people who have not yet carried their arm in a sling or limped with a cane.

ENFORCING THE LAWS.

The course the administration is taking to enforce the interstate commerce and anti-trust laws is said to be viewed with alarm by some congressmen, who have not hesitated to utter their remonstrances in private. They had not thought it possible that the president would really try to put these laws into effect and now that he has shown that he intends to thoroughly test their value, instead of allowing them to continue as dead letters, certain congressmen have become alarmed, doubtless from fear of the hostility of the corporations attacked. Many railway managers or their representatives have been at the national capital recently and evidently these congressmen have fallen under their influence.

These gentlemen will learn, however, if they are not already aware of the fact, that the purpose of the administration to enforce the laws is approved by the people. They see in the course taken a simple performance of duty. President Roosevelt is not an enemy of corporations that comply with the laws. He made this plain in his first message, as he had previously done in public speeches when he was a candidate for vice president. But when he finds that the laws are being disregarded and violated it is his imperative duty to take action for enforcing them and there is no doubt he will perform this duty whenever necessary, regardless of corporation protests or the fears of politicians. The proceedings that have been violations of the interstate commerce and anti-trust laws are justified by conditions which it would have been a reproach to the administration to ignore. Violations of the interstate commerce were frankly admitted by railway officials. Rate-cutting and the paying of rebates was freely acknowledged. This could not be permitted to continue and the prompt action taken to put a stop to it merits the heartiest commendation.

What is to be apprehended from the alarm which this course is said to have caused some congressmen is the failure of proposed legislation for strengthening the interstate commerce law and making it more effective. The railroad opposition to such legislation, which is very general, is said to be manifesting itself strongly at Washington and its influence is apparent in the apathy that pervades both branches of congress in regard to this matter. Congressmen who fear the power of the corporations—and they are numerous—will do nothing to enlarge the authority of the Interstate Commerce commission and consequently the chances are small for anything being done, at the present session at least, for making the law stronger and more effective. But if congress is under the influence of the corporations the president has shown that he is not and that he proposes to do his duty in enforcing the laws. This attitude may make those who disregard and violate the laws, enemies of the president, but it will strengthen him in popular confidence.

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AN INGENUOUS CAMPAIGN.

Those who find pleasure in bestowing a reasonable amount of attention on public affairs, and especially on that play of personal motives for which public affairs furnish a convenient field, should not overlook the campaign which was begun months ago and still continues in the hope of getting Secretary Hitchcock of the Department of the Interior out of President Roosevelt's cabinet. The method adopted for that purpose is not strictly original, but the scale on which it is being employed and the zeal, the skill and the quiet persistence which the managers exhibit are novel, and must be exceedingly interesting to all who are acquainted with the circumstances.

As we understand the matter, Mr. Hitchcock has not the slightest reason to suppose that the president desires to replace him, nor an intention of asking to be relieved. His duties are congenial to the secretary, and his performance of them is entirely satisfactory to his chief. But there are a few persons who burn to bring about his retirement, and their plan of operations is deserving of scrutiny, though not necessarily of imitation. During the past winter and up to the present time readers of the newspapers have frequently seen dispatches of this general character from various parts of the country, more or less conspicuously mentioned. The Hon. S. D. Hildreth, secretary of the Nebraska Republican Club, who is understood to be about to resign, says that the place has not been offered to him as yet, but that he should be disposed to give such an offer his serious consideration. The announcement was made twice in the same form, nor, so far as we have observed, in a single individual designated as the coming man more than once. Sometimes a dispatch does not allude to the succession at all, but relates exclusively to the present incumbent. Thus not long ago, when Mr. Hitchcock went to

the republican newspapers of the state in a darning unpleasant situation, a position the press hopes to be released next fall. Hartington Herald: Thus far it appears there is not to be a scarcity of good material from which to select a congressional nominee at the coming national convention. Cedar county will present the name of J. F. Jenal, Dixon county will come forward with J. J. McCarthy, George A. Brooks of Knox, Judge Boyd of Antelope, Mr. Vail of Boone, Dr. Hanson of Platte and perhaps a host of others who are also being named. The friends of E. A. Wittke of Thurston county and of William M. Warner of Dakota will have an eye out for an opportunity to secure the nomination for their favorites. These gentlemen, though not named candidates, are too true to their party and state to refuse to accept should the convention single either out for the honor.

Albion News: The News is authorized to say that Hon. H. C. Vail of this city is a candidate for congress, subject to the best judgment of the republican congressional convention. If a man's tastes run that way, it is legitimate, proper and honorable for any American citizen to aspire to a seat in the nation's congress. Mr. Vail is desirous of the nomination only upon the condition that the convention shall deem him the best and strongest candidate for the race. He does not propose to spend any great amount of time in the pre-convention canvass. He has the assurance of considerable support outside of his own county, which has caused him to decide to become a candidate. Mr. Vail stands well at home and there will be no objection to giving him the solid delegation from here. Among all the names mentioned for the place, Mr. Vail is fully equal to any of them in point of ability. He has always been a consistent republican, and stands for the principles of state sovereignty. There are no other names mentioned for the place, and he will make an active and effective canvass of the district.

Wood River Interests: The republican state convention has been called to meet at Lincoln on Wednesday, June 18. Already the political war horses and politicians are prancing around and getting pretty well warmed up. It is the general sentiment among the rank and file of the party that it is put up for governor it means a Waterloo for the polls.

Sidney Telegraph: Since nominations for congress are in order, we rise to nominate that greatest of all republicans and statesmen, the Hon. Gustave Runge. In presenting the name of Runge we realize that he has never taken any bank nor been mixed up in any necktie parties, and he may be lacking in other qualifications to commend him to the suffrages of the people—but, "divil the odds, we nominate him, anyhow."

Lincoln Picket: H. C. Russell of Schuyler is a candidate for governor and the Grand Army of the Republic post of that city is out with resolutions asking the republican party to make him its candidate. Mr. Russell was formerly commissioner of public lands and holdings and an expert in the position of Schuyler. Schuyler also has a candidate for state treasurer in the person of E. H. Phelps, and he's a good one.

Columbus Times: The republican state convention will be held in Lincoln June 18—only two and one-half months hence. It is a state convention called so early in the season, but this year it is the wisest move that could be made. Let a good ticket be selected and give the voters of this state an opportunity to become well and thoroughly acquainted with their fitness and qualifications and Nebraska will roll up 20,000 republican majority.

Alliance Times: The name of Captain J. C. Gammill of Frontier county has been suggested for governor. The Times is advised that Captain Gammill is one of the brainiest republicans and one of the brainiest men in the state of Nebraska. He has battled for both his country and his party with vigor surpassed by no man in the state. He is and would be entirely free from any entanglements with factions or rings, and that is the sort of a man it is especially desirable to nominate this time if we can.

Grand Island Independent: The republican state central committee at its meeting at Lincoln yesterday fixed June 18 as the date for holding the state convention. It appears that so early a date was agreed upon primarily to clear the republican atmosphere of the state, which it can be admitted has been densely foggy for some time. It will depend largely upon what kind of a spectacle will be revealed upon the clearing away of the fog, whether Governor Savage's successor is to be a republican or not.

St. Edwards Advance: We understand that Boone county is to have a candidate up for the congressional nomination. The friends of H. C. Vail of Albion have induced him to allow his name to be used in the convention. Mr. Vail is one of our most successful lawyers, has always been in harmony with the republicans of Boone county and has from the county that turns out good solid republican majorities. In consideration of these facts his chance for catching the nomination are much better than any candidate thus far in the field.

Wayne Herald: Two mighty good men are being very much talked of for governor of Nebraska on the republican side of the fence. They are W. G. Sears of Tekamah and W. M. Robertson of Norfolk, and we believe they are men who, if elected, would have the honor of the party and the welfare of the grand old commonwealth of Nebraska at heart. If they would not, God only knows where we're at. Nebraska is said to stand at the top notch, in that there are less illiterate people in her boundaries, according to population, than any state in the union. But this does not alter the fact that she has some highly educated officials who have been adept in slicking the state and who have placed

REPUBLICANS LINING UP FOR PRAY.

Dakota City Eagle: W. G. Sears, speaker of the last legislature, is not losing any time getting to the front as an aspirant for the republican nomination for governor of Nebraska. Wausa Gazette: Judge Robertson of Norfolk is gaining in popularity as a possible candidate for governor on the republican ticket this fall. There are no reasons why Mr. Robertson should not have the united support of northern Nebraska, and we believe he will win.

Columbus Times: The Times is pleased to learn that Hon. W. M. Robertson of Norfolk has entered the field as a republican candidate for the nomination for governor. If there are others we have not heard of them, and whether so or not, the Times is for Robertson.

Auburn Post: Judge Paul Jensen of Nebraska City is being pushed forward by his friends as a candidate for governor on the republican ticket. Mr. Jensen is a clean, upright young man with a splendid record behind him as a citizen, school teacher, lawyer, soldier and judge, and if elected would make this state an ideal government.

Wood River Interests: The name of Hon. W. A. Prince is being quite frequently mentioned in connection with the congressional race in this district. Prince's brilliant record in the legislature four years ago gave him a state reputation and makes him a strong man for congressional honors. Governor Abbott is also mentioned as a possible nominee.

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AMERICAN PUSH BALKED.

New York Mail and Express. It is not likely that the French government will sell their tobacco monopoly to American capitalists. It would be well, however, if it would. No man who ever smoked French cigar looked farther for the cause of anarchy, assassination and revolution.

Open to Suspicion. Indianapolis News. It is good news that the president proposes to examine, with closest scrutiny all bills removing the charge of desertion from men that served in the civil war. If men were wrongfully charged with desertion it is hardly likely that they would wait nearly forty years before seeking to have the record corrected.

Samples of Dave's Thoughtfulness. Valley Enterprise. Congressman Mercer is flooding the country with a free distribution of rden seed, trees, etc., furnished by the United States government. Mr. Mercer is very thoughtful of his people, especially just before an election, in which congressmen are chosen. Except in congressional campaigns Dave Mercer has become a foreigner to Nebraska.

Make It Unanimous. Boston Globe. A recent technical article by a well known classical teacher contains the following passage: "The ultimate and persistent characteristic and potency of all combined terms is pervasive reciprocal modification, without regard to specific admittances and influences superimposed upon their fundamental attitude and operation."

Contrary minded, no; it is a vote! Efficacious Temperance Reform. Philadelphia Press. The Union Pacific railroad has joined several other important railroad lines in refusing to employ men who frequent liquor saloons. This rule applies while the men are on duty as well as when they are on duty. And as a consequence many of the saloons in places along the Union Pacific lines have been compelled to close from a lack of patronage. Such action on the part of great business interests is much more influential in restricting the use of intoxicants than laws passed to prohibit the liquor traffic and to the enforcement of which public opinion contributes no aid. It will never probably be possible to stop entirely the drinking of intoxicants, but if the church and business interests combine the sale of the liquor traffic can be reduced to a minimum.

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Senator Mason of Illinois turns loose another story from his vast stock and makes a former resident of Omaha the central figure to wind the yarn on. Those who remember Will Visccher will understand at once the whimsicality of the story. It does not fit him, not by a jug's length. According to the story, Visccher, who is now in his sixties, was a victim of exceeding bad luck. He had no money, and was walking the street, wondering how he could get a drink of whisky to cheer him up. He saw a number of men enter a saloon, and he noticed that they were particularly disreputable in appearance and carried guns, he followed them in. When he got inside he addressed the assemblage without waiting for the formality of an introduction. "Gentlemen," he said, "I have just witnessed a most deplorable incident. In a saloon down the street a man with a gun forced an unarmed stranger from the east to take a drink of whisky, even though the stranger protested that he had never tasted liquor in his life, and was morally opposed to its use. Now," said Visccher, glaring around him, "I would like to see some one try to make me take a drink against my will."

He had barely uttered the words, when there was a pistol shot, and a bullet buried itself in the floor at his feet. "Hold on," he shouted. "You have me at a disadvantage. I left my gun at the hotel."

"Never mind that," said the man who had shot. "Here's backstopper." He pointed to the man behind the bar. "Put up six glasses there, and fill them all. You," he said, turning fiercely upon Visccher, "will drink all of them."

Visccher protested, but another bullet struck the floor at his feet, and he thereupon cried to his assistant to bring the glasses had all been filled, and Visccher emptied each in turn, while the man with the gun stood ready to enforce his command. When Visccher had taken the last drink and a row of empty glasses stood before him on the bar, he turned a glowing and a smiling face upon the man around him.

"Now, gentlemen," he said, cheerfully, "if anyone will fill those glasses up again I'll just drink my way back up the line again."

Senator Hanna gave a dinner last Saturday night at the Arlington on the Gridiron club. He has been a guest at every dinner since he has been in Washington, relates the Washington Post, and took the opportunity, to use his own words, of playing a return engagement.

The dinner was elaborately served, the menu being prepared with special care. Being attended only by members of the club, the dinner was marked by a delightful freedom. Although Mr. Hanna was the host, the clubmen did not allow him to escape a few turns on the gridiron, and during the evening there were several "skits" which were a surprise to him. The senator was the central figure of many "presentations" each accompanied by a speech more or less personal in its nature. The climax came when he was told that as much had been said about his "barrel" the Gridiron club did not propose he should be without one. Thereupon he was given a very handsome miniature barrel of black walnut, bound with silver hoops and with a silver spout, designed to hold anything of a drinkable nature. The silver bands were decorated with a garland of gridirons and a silver plate, appropriately inscribed. The stand upon which the "barrel" rested bore a silver gridiron with Senator Hanna's monogram. Senator Hanna's response was humorous and appreciative.

The congregation in the house cloakroom were talking of stump speaking and the men who interrupt, reports the New York World.

"I got hold of one of those 'yes-or-no' men last fall," said Representative Capron of Rhode Island. "He asked me two or three absurd questions and insisted I should answer him 'yes' or 'no.' I protested that the questions could not be answered by a simple 'yes' or 'no,' but he held me. Finally I said to him: 'Now, just to show you the injustice of your stand, I will ask you a question and ask you to answer it by a simple 'yes' or 'no.'"

"I'm ready," said my tormentor. "All right," replied "This is the question: 'Have you stopped beating your wife?'" "I was bothered no more that evening," concluded Capron.

Geromino, the octogenarian chief of strenuous memory, wants to become an American citizen and a taxed Indian. General Exco Dommer, aged 95, is dead. He was the oldest officer on the active list of the French army. They don't retire officers in France at 64.

Alabama is to have an old-time soldiers' contest with its southern neighbor next month. One of whom will be ex-Governor Taylor of Tennessee. No violinist kept apply.

Howard Gould has had Kilkenny castle photographed from every possible point, so that he can build an exact replica of the castle and grounds for his own use in America.

Miss Susan Hale, a sister of Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D. D., has come all the way from far-distant Algiers, to participate in the celebration of Dr. Hale's 80th birthday on April 3.

The house erected by General George A. Custer in Topka, Kan., in 1868, is being torn down to make room for a modern residence. The walls of one of the rooms are decorated with the battle scenes by Custer while planning his campaigns against the Indians.

Sometimes when the Turkish Sultan attends a play in his private theater he hands in to the comedian an original joke or two of his own make. The actor gives these humorous efforts the fullest possible effect, of course, and perhaps that is why they are invariably received with great laughter.

The Century paper on Great West in the April number by Noah Brooks has for its title "The Plains Across." In defense of which Mr. Brooks says: "In the rude ballads and songs of the time, the phrase for crossing the plains was 'the plains across.' And perhaps that is why they are invariably received with great laughter."

Richmond Dispatch: "This system of bipartisan boards is something comparatively new in municipal government. It is a never by any chance did the verma-ward write 'across the plains.' This form of election was at once adopted by the plainmen, who unconsciously drifted into the use of the more poetic phrase, 'the plains across,' and to this day you hear it from the lips of the plainmen among the solitudes of the far northwest."

Washington Star: "Have you made any efforts to collect your speeches for the benefit of posterity?" asked the admiring friend.

"What's the use?" asked Senator Sorghum. "Posterity hasn't any vote."

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Philadelphia Record: "This seems to be a lawless town," remarked the stranger.

"Lawless?" echoed Rattle-snake. "Yes, now, we say bruch law an' mob law an' civil law. No, pardner, I wouldn't call this a lawless town."

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"Lawless?" echoed Rattle-snake. "Yes, now, we say bruch law an' mob law an' civil law. No, pardner, I wouldn't call this a lawless town."

Chicago Tribune: "I am afraid we shall have to try to get your speeches for the benefit of posterity," asked the admiring friend.

"What's the use?" asked Senator Sorghum. "Posterity hasn't any vote."

Richmond Dispatch: "This system of bipartisan boards is something comparatively new in municipal government. It is a never by any chance did the verma-ward write 'across the plains.' This form of election was at once adopted by the plainmen, who unconsciously drifted into the use of the more poetic phrase, 'the plains across,' and to this day you hear it from the lips of the plainmen among the solitudes of the far northwest."

Detroit Free Press: Dennis—"Tis th' carry-burrd gets th' wur-um, Mister Casey?" "Tis that. If ye wa-nt to keep yer head above water these days, ye wa-nt to th' grass grow under yer feet, Mister Dennis."

PERSONAL NOTES.

Geromino, the octogenarian chief of strenuous memory, wants to become an American citizen and a taxed Indian. General Exco Dommer, aged 95, is dead. He was the oldest officer on the active list of the French army. They don't retire officers in France at 64.

Alabama is to have an old-time soldiers' contest with its southern neighbor next month. One of whom will be ex-Governor Taylor of Tennessee. No violinist kept apply.

Howard Gould has had Kilkenny castle photographed from every possible point, so that he can build an exact replica of the castle and grounds for his own use in America.

Miss Susan Hale, a sister of Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D. D., has come all the way from far-distant Algiers, to participate in the celebration of Dr. Hale's 80th birthday on April 3.

The house