

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, depose that the actual number of full and complete copies of this Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of March, 1902, was as follows:

Forecast of the report on the Christmas bribery charges—Nothing in it. When the allied reform forces and the fusion reform forces meet, then will come the tug of war.

When congress gets after the alleged beef trust the beef magnates may be expected to begin beefing. Prepare for still another boost of insurance rates to make good the loss of that famous Board Walk.

The republican city machine still appears to be the nightmare of the Jacksonians and Jeffersonians of these parts. The arguments before the referee in the tax mandamus case have been concluded. Thank God from whom all blessings flow.

That strike on the Boston breweries must be regarded most unfortunate when we recollect that the bock beer season is almost due. With a \$250,000 Carnegie free public library to start with, the city of Havana ought to strike a good gait down the pathway of twentieth century culture.

General Dewet has been a troublesome customer for the British ever since the commencement of the Boer unpleasantness and promises to keep up his record to the end. The next city election in Omaha will occur in March, 1903. It is a trifle too early to begin to worry about the probable candidates who will contest for nominations next winter.

Ex-Senator Allen repudiates the Louisville reform meeting as an assemblage of spurious populists. No reform goes for the fusion wing that does not have the Bryan label burned in the cork and blown in the bottle. According to Interstate Commerce Commissioner Prouty, the railroads of this country are now practically controlled by five men. Five railway kings make a full hand and they doubtless have their hands full also.

Mayor-elect Koutsky has announced that he proposes to turn over in cash to his successor as city treasurer of South Omaha every cent of city money in his possession. Here is a republican example for fusion municipal reformers. So long as Chauncey Depew persists in going around with a chip on his shoulder he must expect his colleagues in the senate to essay to knock it off from time to time. The other senators are merely jealous of Depew and his young wife.

Governor Savage has assured the Associated Press agent at St. Joseph that every penny of the \$181,000 for the embasement of which Bartley was convicted would be repaid into the state treasury. This will be gratifying news to Nebraska taxpayers, but as most of them hail from Missouri, they will have to be shown. South Omaha democrats are like newborn kittens. It takes nine days for them to open their eyes. Although only forty-eight hours have passed since the election, they are, however, beginning to blink and wonder why it was the World-Herald had not said one word editorially in favor of the democratic city ticket during the whole campaign. It will soon begin to dawn upon these hevers of wood and drawers of water in the democratic camp that their organ resembles the heathen Chinee, who for ways that are dark and tricks that are vain is reputed to be very peculiar.

PUBLICITY FOR CORPORATIONS.

Representative Littlefield of Maine has a bill providing for publicity of accounts of corporations doing an interstate business which he proposes soon to bring forward in the house. The measure vests the authority to collect corporate statistics in the secretary of the treasury, though it is possible that in the event of a department of commerce being created the authority would be lodged in the head of that department. Mr. Littlefield thinks the chances for the passage of the bill are good and in regard to its being obnoxious to many corporations, which of course such legislation would be, he remarked that they would scarcely be able to oppose the plan with any very good grace, since it is as fair to one as to another and it would be no more injurious to have a particular corporation's affairs known to its rivals than to have their business known to it.

The Littlefield bill does not go so far as some may think expedient or necessary in order to secure satisfactory results, but its author does not think it would be wise to propose a too drastic measure at the outset. Thus, for instance, he is of the opinion that nothing would be gained by attaching a taxation provision to the bill as a penalty for refusal to submit returns, being disposed to rely very largely upon the fact that the declaration provided for in the bill was to be made under oath, although admitting that in the case of personal property and income taxes the principle of declaration had not worked very satisfactorily. Obviously any legislation of this kind should be sufficiently comprehensive to be reasonably sure of effecting the desired object, otherwise it would soon become a dead letter. However, it is gratifying to know that a serious effort is to be made to secure some legislation requiring corporations engaged in interstate commerce to let the public know their financial condition and it is to be hoped Mr. Littlefield will press his bill to consideration as soon as possible.

THE CHRISTMAS CHARGES.

Thus far not the slightest bit of evidence has been found to warrant the charges made by Captain Christmas in connection with the negotiations for the sale of the Danish West Indies and it appears entirely safe to say that none can be found. All the witnesses examined by the congressional committee have testified that they had only a casual acquaintance with Christmas and had never talked with him in regard to the negotiations, or received any sort of proposition from him.

To further discredit the alleged negotiator for the sale of the islands comes an official announcement from the capital of Denmark that the Danish ministry has had no connection with Christmas; that the premier refused to see him when he asked for an audience and also refused to receive a copy of a report by Christmas on the subject of negotiations. This statement ought to be sufficient to satisfy any reasonable person that the fellow Christmas is a fraud and his allegations totally unworthy of serious consideration by a committee of congress. Probably Mr. Richardson, the democratic house leader, who called for the investigation, believed there was something in the charges, but he must now see that he was misled, not to say duped, and that he made a great mistake in not sifting the matter himself instead of rushing it upon the attention of congress upon inadequate authority. But the expectation of making a little political capital was irresistible.

THE PRESIDENT AND IRRIGATION.

No one is more earnestly in favor of the reclamation of the arid lands than President Roosevelt. This was clearly shown in his extended treatment of the subject in his first message to congress. He pointed out the benefits that would result to the whole country from the reclamation and settlement of the arid lands and showed a comprehensive familiarity with the question of irrigation. It was reported recently that the president disapproved of the irrigation bill that passed the senate and is now in the house. He was said to have told friends of the measure who called upon him that he fully believed in the value and necessity of the great undertaking which the bill proposed, that he thought any money judiciously expended in the creation and operation of a system of irrigation such as the supporters of the pending measure had in view would be well invested, and that he approved the general purpose of the bill and only criticized some of its provisions which he considered ill-advised. He was reported to have especially disapproved of that section of the bill which places the local government of the state where irrigation is intended to be instituted in control of its operation. His argument was stated to be that works constructed at the expense of the United States government should be under the exclusive control of that government and that every arrangement for the distribution of the water furnished by means of the irrigation canals should be made and executed under the supervision of the federal authorities. Later information is to the effect that the previously reported attitude of the president toward the pending bill was exaggerated and that in a conference with him of friends of the measure it was ascertained that it will not be necessary to strike out the section of the bill relating to state control and distribution of water, but simply to change the phraseology. In his message Mr. Roosevelt said: "These irrigation works should be built by the national government. The lands reclaimed by them should be reserved by the government for actual settlers and the cost of construction should so far as possible be repaid by the land reclaimed. The distribution of the water, the division of the streams among irrigators, should be left to the settlers themselves in conformity with state laws and without interference with those laws or with vested rights. The policy of the national

government should be to aid irrigation in the several states and territories in such manner as will enable the people in the local communities to help themselves, and as will stimulate needed reforms in the state laws and regulations governing irrigation." This doubtless is the present position of the president—that water distribution among irrigators should be left to the settlers themselves in conformity with state laws—and consequently he would not require the striking out of the section he is reported to have especially objected to, though recommending its modification, which it is said will be done.

The very strong argument presented by President Roosevelt for the reclamation of the arid lands warrants the belief that there will be no obstruction on his part to irrigation legislation. MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP SENTIMENT. The trend of public sentiment in American cities is steadily growing in favor of the municipal ownership of public utilities. At last Tuesday's election in Chicago two propositions as to municipal ownership were submitted to the voters. One of these was for an expression for or against the ownership by the city of Chicago of all street railroads within the corporate limits; the second for the ownership by the city of Chicago of the gas and electric lighting plants, said plants to furnish light, heat and power for both public and private use.

While neither of these propositions carried anything more with it than a test of public sentiment, the vote that registered the popular opinion was overwhelmingly in favor of the municipal ownership idea in spite of the declaration of the most widely circulated newspaper that it was impossible for the city to acquire and operate the plants of the franchised corporations, and furthermore, that, even if it could do so, it would be against public policy to attempt it. Out of a total vote of 168,000 cast in the Chicago election nearly 125,000 were cast in favor of municipal ownership and less than 25,000 against it, the remaining ballots being left blank. The prime cause of this popular demand is not so much because its inauguration is expected to effect a material reduction in taxation or saving to private consumers as it is because of the general dissatisfaction with the service and the corrupt influence exerted by the franchised corporations upon municipal officials and lawmakers. The street railways of Chicago have for years been wretchedly inadequate to the public need and the tampering with legislators and city councils by the street car magnates and their agents has intensified public resentment. In many parts of Chicago the horse car still traverses the street and people are subjected to intense discomfort in overcrowded slow-coach cars, when they have a right to demand modern transit with subway trolleys.

What is true of Chicago is true only in lesser degree of other cities. Such unsatisfactory conditions naturally stimulate agitation for municipal ownership, which simply voices popular discontent and offers the only hope of tangible relief and redress. The minority report in the house of representatives on the proposed pure food legislation raises the old point of states rights, denying to the national government any constitutional right to exercise such powers of regulation. This was once a much-disputed question, but the courts have passed on it repeatedly, upholding the federal authority under the interstate commerce clause of the constitution. The states unquestionably have the right to enforce regulation of food products within their jurisdictions, but under present industrial conditions are unable to cope with the problem in its entirety. Pending congressional pure food bills may have objectionable features, but the states rights plea will hardly make any impression against them at this stage of the proceedings.

The night before the South Omaha election Constantine J. Spynth declared that in his opinion an indictment by the late grand jury was a badge of honor and a recommendation for popular favor. But the court of public opinion, sitting in judgment on the ballot box, reversed the champion of true reform by a most decisive majority. Once more we have another striking proof that the voice of the people is the voice of God.

And now a famine in whisky is predicted because there are only 17,000,000 gallons in sight, whereas the annual consumption is estimated at 25,000,000 gallons. Such conditions would favor a corner on whisky, but there is no call for any one man to try to get a corner on it all in himself. Greatest Show on Earth. Philadelphia Ledger. A debate between Henry Watterson and Benjamin F. Tillman on almost any subject would interest a large portion of the population. A Strange Franking. Chicago Record-Herald. In one of his recent speeches Colonel Henry Watterson referred to "the multitudinous waves of the Pacific sea." Can it be possible that the colonel is turning to water for inspiration? Same Old Story. Indianapolis Journal. The statement that the democrats in Iowa are carrying municipal elections recalls the remark of a democrat who declared that the party had a capacity for carrying elections that were of no use to them. Coolness Under Fire. Philadelphia Ledger. That was a remarkably cool-headed audience which escaped uninjured from a burning theater in Cincinnati on Sunday. The place was crowded, standing room and all, the fire was a sensational one, filling the theater with smoke, and especially terrifying since the auditorium was on the second floor and there were stairs to descend; yet the whole assemblage dispersed in so orderly a manner that no one was hurt and

Election of Senators

Portland Oregonian (rep.). The legislature of the great state of Iowa, the Massachusetts of the middle west in stock and political traditions, has passed a joint resolution asking congress to submit an amendment to the constitution so as to permit the election of United States senators by popular vote. This is the answer of the greatest state of the transmississippi west to United States Senator Hoar's announcement that he will do his best to prevent the submission to the states of a constitutional amendment providing for the election of senators by the people. Senator Hoar is an old man, in his seventy-sixth year, but he may, and probably will, live to see this political reform he opposes enacted. Outside of the United States senate it meets with no opposition of any influential faction of either party, and it means its enactment within ten days. The popular movement for changing the mode of election to the United States senate is due to the fact that men are sent to the senate by venal legislatures whose ability and standing do not warrant any such elevation. The legislatures in a number of states have elected senators whose sole claim to the honor lies in their wealth and their willingness to use it, directly or indirectly, to purchase the senatorship. A popular election would not entirely redeem this disgraceful situation, but it would certainly greatly reform it. In fact, it is a measure that may be used in popular elections, as well as in legislative elections, but it cannot be so easily and so economically employed to obtain a sure venal result. A nomination can be bought by money in a number of states, but nomination does not always mean an election. A man may buy a nomination and yet be completely beaten at the polls. If a legislator is venal, a man like Senator Clark of Montana can get the senatorship, but it is impossible to buy up an entire people. Further action for changing the present mode of electing United States senators is urged by the Philadelphia Press, a stiff radical republican administration organ, in its popular election of independent voices of the New York Evening Post, the Boston Herald, the Springfield Republican and the Brooklyn Eagle. The unanimity of the popular demand is attested by the fact that the Philadelphia Press, a stiff radical republican administration organ, in its popular election of independent voices of the New York Evening Post, the Boston Herald, the Springfield Republican and the Brooklyn Eagle.

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot. Four women who are prominent in official life in Washington went to a reception recently, each wearing a brand new Paris hat policy, but the one who was certain was an original creation without a duplicate on this side of the Atlantic. Each on arriving at the reception was surprised to find that there were three other women present dressed in gown identical in material, trimming, ornament and design with the one she wore. The four women were Mrs. Hitchcock, wife of the secretary of the interior; Mrs. Keam, mother of the senator from New Jersey; and Mrs. Foraker and Mrs. Hanna, the wives of the Ohio senators. Mrs. Hitchcock purchased her gown in St. Louis, Mrs. Keam got hers in New York, Mrs. Hanna's came from Cleveland, and Mrs. Foraker's from Cincinnati. Concerning the Corn Crop. Cincinnati Enquirer. The idea that the corn crop is not a true practical one, if the captains of capital conclude to bunch their resources for the purpose. The modus operandi was pointed out in the Enquirer more than two years ago. A trust for the control of all the cereal and agricultural products of the country, not by the agricultural producers, but by the trust, is a proposition that is probable. When it is brought about the farmers will know more about trusts.

THE ARMY AND GOOD MORALS.

Secretary Root's Explicit Orders to the Men in the Tropics. Philadelphia Press. Secretary Root has struck a high and effective note in his frank and explicit order upon the moral sanitation of the army. The tropics bring to soldiers two evils, vice and liquor. Both are deadly in hot climates to the white man of the temperate zone. The general order is an apology for the first of these evils is that nothing better can be expected of officers or soldiers where temptation is as ripe as in the tropics. The Anglo-Indian army shows the working of this ignoble view. From 1861, when the cases of disease from vice were 165.3 per 1,000 per year among English regiments in India, they rose steadily for thirty years, until in 1890 they were 603.6 per 1,000 per year, and in 1895 reached 522. It is no unknown thing for half an English regiment in India contingents to be incapacitated for duty. Out of 70,442 British soldiers serving in India, 28,247 men, or 37 per cent, had never suffered from this scourge. Our own hospitals in the winter of 1898-9 bore terrible testimony to the effect of gathering a quarter of a million men—most of them camped on our own soil—without precaution or prevention against this danger. Two courses are open. Legislation and regulation may seek by lifeless medical precautions to make vice safe. This has always failed. It always will fail. It never can succeed. The evidence on this head is overwhelming. The other course is an honest, honorable, open, well-planned attempt to make men better. The former plan has been tried and failed in all European armies. Secretary Root boldly, frankly and with open-minded candor, addresses himself to the second course. The experience of our colleges has proved that nothing so protects the young man against temptation as rigorous, systematic exercise. There is evidence that at one institution systematic and competitive athletics have reduced cases of this loathsome character to one-sixth of the number twenty-five years ago. Secretary Root urges on officers a sound and continuous effort to interest and occupy their men with constant exercise and harmless amusements. His appeal is full of moral conviction, rare in the official treatment of this subject. His order will never be issued save in an army whose officers could be moved by this ringing appeal to the higher and better nature of men. The American public will respond with earnest and unstinted approval.

PERSONAL NOTES.

D. B. Hill has to live in a house. He has no farm. C. M. Depew has quit talking entirely since his marriage. Hermann Bergmann, said to be a distant relative of the emperor of Germany, is in the Cincinnati household. A French pianist played for twenty-seven hours and four minutes and then went insane. The poor fellow got an overdose of his own music. Napoleon crowned himself and it looks as if Edward VII would have to do the same, if he wishes to have the ceremony performed to suit him. A young man named Bell worked for \$17 a week at a New York bank. Then all at once he collected several years' salary in advance and the police were notified. President Harris of Amherst college points with pride to the fact that there are proportionately more college professors who are graduates of that institution than can be found among the graduates of any other college in the country. Dr. William J. Tucker is about finishing the first decade of his presidency of Dartmouth college. When he took charge there were 458 students and at present the number is over 1,400. Over \$1,500,000 has been received in endowments. Mayor Seth Low of New York City has chosen for his summer home a house on the north shore of Long Island sound, at Milton Point, near Rye. Last week he purchased a steam yacht to carry him back and forth daily between the city and his summer residence.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla advertisement. You feel old. Hour after hour you slowly drag yourself through your work. You are tired out all the time. Night brings no rest. What is the cause of all this? Impure blood. Get rid of these impurities. Put your blood in better condition. Build up your nerves. The doctors report to us the best of success with Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It's the only Compound Concentrated Extract of Sarsaparilla. I have used Ayer's Sarsaparilla in order to make my blood pure and improve my general health. It gave me the best satisfaction of any medicine I ever took. F. B. McCray, Tipton, Ill. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

THE TURNING DOWN OF JONES.

Boston Transcript: Jones of Arkansas appears to have been the victim of an octopus boomerang. Washington Post: We have a notion that the election news from Arkansas stirred up the blooded heifer and the other occupants of a certain Nebraska farm. Indianapolis Journal: Evidently the democrats in Arkansas do not accept Mr. Bryan's assurance that Senator Jones' cotton baling combination is not a monopoly. Philadelphia Record: The defeat of Senator James K. Jones in his effort to have himself re-elected to the senate from Arkansas further knocks away the underpinning from the Kansas City platform. Senator Jones is an old campaigner and has seen long service in congress, but his party is evidently no longer willing to follow him in forbidden paths. Baltimore American: That he was a drag about Bryan's neck and a halter upon the party is undeniable. Had he given way to a more energetic, sympathetic and capable man the democracy would certainly have fared better. That it will profit immensely by his foredoomed retirement, that it will have more astute leadership in the senate and that, taken all in all, the country will do better for his elimination, are truths which need no argument for substantiation. New York Sun: Unless the returns have been twisted, the Hon. James P. Clarke will succeed the Hon. James K. Jones as a senator in congress from Arkansas. As a political manager and weaver of rosy bulletins, Mr. Jones has been a treasure and a joy; and he is an amiable sort of chap and well liked in the senate. But it takes a "slicker" man than he to be an octopus and an octopoidicide, the slayer and the slain. As the bard of the Ozarks sings: Wall, Arkansas, wall Over the bustle bust; Bury him in a bale "Of the round bale trust!"

SMILING LINES.

Judge: Nervous Lady has a large bird flies before the vices of the captain, is that an omen? Matter-of-fact Captain—No, madame; that is a seagull. Chicago Tribune: "That fat man," complained the scales, "simply knocked me all out of kilter." "Well," replied the candy machine, "now you can be in weight for the next one that comes along." Cleveland Plain Dealer: "She expects to marry in June." "Who is the man?" "She'll get the man after she has made all the other arrangements." Yonkers Statesman: The Mother-in-law Charles asked the baby what kind of eyes it had. "The Father—Just as if the dear little thing could tell him." "Well, she did. She said 'goo, goo.'" New York Sun: Violinist—The critics say I'm only a tenth-rate player. Manager—Why, man, if you're getting the money, and the women everywhere make a bargain-counter rush to kiss you. Brooklyn Life: "What you are actually wearing is no business of the inspectors." "Perhaps not. But the last time I came across I wore an air of disdain through the custom house, and they didn't do a thing but make me pay about double duty." New York Sun: Juggles—What earthly good resulted from the bicycle craze? "Waggles—Why, man, if they hadn't taught us to dodge while crossing the street there would be hundreds of auto accidents every day." Chicago Post: "Did you call that trust magnate to the stand?" "I did," answered the man who was conducting the investigation. "I suppose he gave a great deal to the interest in the case?" "He did. It is now more mysterious than ever."

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PATH.

President Roosevelt's Action Against Corporate Lawlessness. Minneapolis Times (ind.). It was to have been expected that the great railway millionaires would bring strong pressure to bear upon President Roosevelt to change or modify his announced decision to prevent discrimination in rates and restraint of trade and commerce. These millionaires are now carrying millions upon millions of dollars' worth of stocks that they do not want and bought only for the purpose of gaining control of great properties and then unloading a large share of the securities upon the public at advanced figures. The course of the department of justice, under directions from the president, has made it impossible for them to sell their securities and at the same time has cast the shadow of strong doubt upon their title to despotic control of the transportation service of the country. It is stated that the merger magnates have thrown, or soon will throw, down the gauntlet to the president, the challenge being "Withdraw your opposition to our plans for control and enrichment or we will defeat your ambitions to succeed yourself as president." President Roosevelt can afford to let the gauntlet rest where it falls. He is not required to pick it up nor accept the challenge. His path lies in the direction of the duty pointed out to him by the laws of the land. Involved in that duty is another, which is to obtain a final decision as to what the laws affecting transportation companies mean. Should President Roosevelt yield to the millionaires he would sign the death warrant of his hopes to be elected president of the United States—and we believe that the present incumbent of the White House desires more an instrument at the hands of the people, a specific election to the office

Browning-King & Co. advertisement. An Early Spring. It seems to be here already, but we are ready. So is the new Spring Suit that you'll want. The Popular price is \$15.00. See what we have at that figure. Exclusive Clothiers and Furnishers. R. S. Wilcox, Manager.