

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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

Table with 3 columns: Issue, Circulation, Total. Rows include Daily Bee, Sunday Bee, Saturday Bee, Evening Bee, and Total.

Net total sales, \$70,838. Net daily average, \$22,227. GEORGE B. TSCHUCK, Secretary.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 30th day of April, A. D. 1902. M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

Omaha needs more advertising to be sure, but not on billboards.

Mont Pelée will hereafter have its name printed in bigger letters on the map.

It is to be hoped Omaha workmen will not be carried away by the strike epidemic.

Senator McLaurin is following in the footsteps of the pugacious senator from Mississippi.

Our theatrical season closes this week. But our base ball bunch will stay with us all summer.

It looks as if the beef combine might be up against the real thing, unless it can prove an alibi.

A volcano whose business end is engaged in active operations is a good thing to steer clear of.

If the Chinese revolts continue to spread, the emperor may wish that the foreign armies had not evacuated so soon.

While there has been a shower of fire and dust in the West Indian French colonies, a shower of snowflakes has fallen in Paris.

Now that the discovery has been made by an American chemist to make smoke harmless, American chimneys will breathe more freely.

Talking about advertising Omaha and Nebraska, the best advertisement the city could have would be a reduced tax rate inviting investment.

We will next be told what Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson would have done had they issued the orders under which the army was to operate in the Philippines.

When we read about the frightful calamities overtaking the volcanic regions of the tropics we take more kindly than ever to the conclusion that Nebraska is the best place to live in.

It might be well to remember that the deficiencies of Christian Science treatment of the sick are not to be made good by overzeal of medical practitioners to perform an autopsy after the patient is dead.

One county has already held its convention and selected its delegates to the coming republican state convention, but the county committee for Douglas county has not even been called together yet to fix the time for our primaries.

Another ship is ready for trial in Paris, but the price of staterooms on the Atlantic liners from New York to Southampton and Liverpool will not be reduced by reason of the threatened competition of the Twentieth century ballon air line.

A rival to Marconi's wireless telegraphic syndicate has opened an office in London. We presume, however, that it will take something more than an office in London to open up communication between London and New York by wireless telegraphy.

The republicans will be first in the field in Nebraska with their state ticket, the fusion convention having been called to meet a week later in order to take advantage of any mistakes the republicans may make. The safe thing for the republicans to do is to be sure no mistakes are made.

Emperor William has added a few dozen volumes to his library containing American newspaper comment on the visit of Prince Henry to this country. If any newspaper published in the United States is unrepresented, it is the fault of the compilers of the clippings collection and not of the newspaper.

THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE.

The bill filed by the federal authorities in the case against the meat packers is comprehensive, showing that careful and thorough investigation has been made respecting the business and methods of the packing companies which are named as defendants. The fact that these companies are engaged in interstate commerce is clearly set forth and it is charged that they have violated the anti-trust law of 1890 by engaging in a combination and conspiracy between themselves to refrain from bidding against each other in the purchase of live stock and also to control the prices of live stock by such suppression of competition among themselves. It is further alleged that the defendants have combined and conspired to raise, lower, fix and maintain prices on meats, in violation of the anti-trust law. It is declared that the packers have for years been in conspiracy with the railroad companies to obtain a monopoly of the supply and distribution of fresh meats throughout the United States and shipments to foreign countries, receiving by rebates and other devices unlawful rates for transportation much less than the lawful rates, thereby obtaining an unlawful advantage to the exclusion of competitors and would-be competitors and the general public.

These things the bill declares to be in restraint of interstate commerce, an injury to the people of the United States and in defiance of law, and the court is asked to grant a writ of injunction perpetually enjoining the defendants and all persons acting for them from continuing the unlawful proceedings charged. It is stated that the packers will not make a fight when the case comes up for hearing on May 20, but will submit to an order temporarily enjoining them and at a later date, or when the hearing for a perpetual injunction is had, will file a demurrer alleging the insufficiency of the government's petition. The probability is that the contest in the courts will be prolonged, but in the meanwhile the public may obtain some benefit from the action of the government. Those who have professed to doubt whether the federal authorities were in earnest in this matter may now be assured that their intention to have judicially determined the question whether the packers have been violating the anti-trust law is serious and there is every reason to expect that the proceedings which have been instituted will be pushed by the government with all possible energy. It has been no small task to collect the information upon which the bill for an injunction is based and the Department of Justice is to be commended for its prompt action. It has performed its duty in the case thus far in a way that ought to be entirely satisfactory to the people.

LIVE NEBRASKA TOWNS.

The series of short articles which have been appearing in The Bee under the heading, "Live Nebraska Towns," reveals gratifying conditions throughout the state. These articles are contributed in each case by men familiar with their subject. They tell of the achievements accomplished by each bustling community and outline its needs and prospects for future growth and development. That all of these articles tell the story of prosperity goes without saying. Nebraska towns naturally depend directly upon their agricultural surroundings and the prosperity of the farmer is reflected in the prosperity of the country merchant and country banker. While Nebraska has few cities of even moderately large population, it is dotted all over with energetic and enterprising towns of a few thousand inhabitants, devoting themselves steadily to its industrial upbuilding and commercial expansion. All these towns contain within themselves the varied activities that go to make an enlightened and progressive people. We feel sure that in bringing before the public the advantages and attractions of our live Nebraska towns and advertising their resources and possibilities, we are doing a work that will assist materially in keeping them to the front, and whatever promotes the prosperity of Nebraska's towns inures to the benefit of the whole state.

THE BRITISH STILL ALARMED.

The effort made by Mr. Carnegie to dissipate British apprehension regarding the steamship merger appears not to have had the desired effect. The British public, it is said, is still alarmed over the matter and there is an urgent demand upon the government for some sort of drastic measure to break up the combine. Undoubtedly the government is giving very earnest attention to the extraordinary situation, but the problem is an extremely difficult one, as members of the ministry have already pointed out. How great British apprehension is was shown in the reported declaration of Lord Berosford that "in three years we shall be nowhere," that "every one of these steamers will be under the American flag and officered and manned by Americans." He suggested that the only chance of checking the American advance is for British ship owners to form an opposing combine and for the government to give a large subsidy in support of it. Berosford is a respected authority in matters of this character, but he probably overestimates the danger to British maritime interests from the steamship combine. The agreement that startled the British certainly does contemplate American domination of some English steamship lines in the transatlantic trade, so far as the traffic is concerned, but it does not necessarily mean that the British steamships are to come under the American flag or that they will be officered and manned by Americans. In order to be under the flag they must have an American register, which would require legislation not likely to be secured, or at any rate not soon. Besides, there is no reason to suppose that those in the combine

have any desire for a change except in regard to traffic arrangements. As was said by Mr. Carnegie, the combine is purely a matter of money making. Its object is dividends and it does not care a fig for a flag.

Perhaps British supremacy in the transatlantic trade is at an end. That appears to be very probable. But there appears to be no very substantial ground for the profound alarm which is said to prevail in England.

A QUESTIONABLE POLICY.

Under the act of the last legislature notoriously passed in the interest of the sureties of Ex-State Treasurer Bartley, the so-called State Board of Compromise has decided to accept \$5,000 on behalf of the state in lieu of \$13,378.45 as payment in full from the bondsmen of the defaulting county treasurer of Platte county. Incidentally the bondsmen are to pay the costs of the suit instituted by the state which has been pending in Platte county and the county is also released by the board from further liability to the state.

This compromise is not only of questionable policy, but also of doubtful validity. In the first place, it establishes a dangerous precedent that will afford an excuse for the scaling of deficits due to the state in counties where treasury defaultations or shortages may occur from year to year. Once let it be understood that the state will compromise for less than what the county treasurer has collected and no bondsman will ever think of paying up in full. In the next place, it is questionable whether the state board has the right to compromise with the bondsmen of a county treasurer. The bond does not run to the state, but to the county and the county is responsible to the state whether its treasurer turns over the money or not.

Lastly, there is certainly no warrant for such compromise under the constitution, but on the contrary the constitution expressly prohibits the legislature from entering into or authorizing such deals. Section 4 of article IV of the constitution of Nebraska reads:

The legislature shall have no power to release or discharge any county, city, township, town or district whatever, or the inhabitants thereof, or any corporation, or the property thereof, from their or its proportionate share of taxes to be levied for state purposes, or due any municipal corporation, nor shall commutation for such taxes be authorized in any form whatever.

If this means anything it means that no law that contemplates the remission of state taxes either directly or indirectly is valid. It is exceedingly doubtful whether the bill providing for settlements of pending suits for outstanding claims of the state would have passed had it been known that it was to be applied to settlements with counties for taxes collected by defaulting treasurers.

Independent of the section cited, the constitution in another clause prohibiting special legislation declares that the legislature shall pass no local or special laws "remitting fines, penalties or forfeitures." A suit against the bondsmen of a defaulting treasurer is a suit to recover a forfeiture of the amount they have agreed to make good and a compromise would be simply an evasion of the constitutional prohibition.

There is really no necessity for an inspection of the gas company's books in order to ascertain the value of the assets of that corporation. It is immaterial how much the company has earned in the year 1901, or any other year. The supreme court has instructed the board in plain language that the market value of the stocks, and the bonded debt must be added together, and after subtracting from that amount the value of the property listed as real estate and the presumed value of its property outside of the city limits, the residue represents the actual value of the property and franchises for taxation purposes. After these figures have been cast up the only other question the board has to determine is what is the tax ratio. If all other property in this city is assessed at 40 per cent, then it is 40 per cent. If less, it must correspond in ratio to all the property returned to the tax commissioner. The personal property that has not been disclosed cuts no figure whatever in the appraisal of the property of the corporations any more than it would in the property of the home owner or owners of business blocks.

AN EASTERN REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Whatever Iowa, especially Iowa officialdom, does in these days when Iowa is running so many departments, in one way and another, in Washington, of a national interest. The Iowa legislature is one of the dull jet. This may be true in one respect or ludicrous, as one happens to look at it, but it is certainly unutilized.

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cannot count on the populist enthusiasm unless the nominee is a populist. If Edgar Howard does not at once trump this card with a democratic ultimatum he will deserve to lose the jackpot.

FOR THE STATE TICKET.

Minden Gazette: The strong candidate for the gubernatorial nomination at the present time is J. P. Black, and the probabilities are that he will have the Fifth district behind him in the convention.

Take a Back Seat.

Philadelphia Ledger: Judging from the illustrations of her toilettes in the fashion papers, we should say that Solomon in all his glory would have to take to the back streets when this year's summer girl is on "promenade."

Opportunities of a Free Country.

Cleveland Leader: The son of an Irish immigrant and a day laborer became an admiral in the United States navy and was celebrated throughout the world as a master in his profession. Almost anything is possible in a free country.

Fairness Impossible.

Detroit Free Press (dem.): It is simply impossible to have the revelations from the Philippines dealt with under that judicial directness which puts aside all ulterior considerations. Politics intervenes because the minority in congress is subject to the prospect of making capital for its party and has double cause for its most aggressive treatment of the situation. The majority has the task of vindicating the administration policy.

A National Humiliation.

Indianapolis News: South Carolina has done anything more obnoxious to the country, and that is saying a good deal, than sending Tillman to the senate. No one objects to any views he may have on a public question, or to how he may cast his vote. Nor does any one object to his speaking for his own pride to the name of a nation, and to have a senator of the United States delivering himself of such billingsgate as Senator Tillman does every time he opens his mouth is becoming a national humiliation.

The Disaster at St. Pierre.

Kansas City Star: It is to be hoped that the catastrophe that has befallen the town of St. Pierre, Island of Martinique, may have been less sweeping than the first reports indicate. However, the commander of a French war ship, who says that he approached near enough to the overwhelmed city to pick up thirty survivors, gives out the statement that practically the whole population of the city, numbering 25,000, must have perished.

Such a disaster would rival the ancient ones which compelled the Hebrews, a form of calamity that science has promised would never again be repeated with such grave results.

Remedy Rests With Congress.

Philadelphia Ledger: The great decision of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, that the postmaster general exceeded his power in denying second class mailing privileges to certain publications, is sustained, all that burdensome mass of matter will probably have to be restored to the second class and carried at the old rate of duty to rectify this abuse of the mails. It is a duty to do so falls upon congress. That body has shown singular indifference on the subject heretofore, but with this object lesson before it, it must be very remiss if it fails to enact the needed legislation.

Tyranny of Trivial Things.

Margaret DeLand in Harper's Bazar: The great decision of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, that the postmaster general exceeded his power in denying second class mailing privileges to certain publications, is sustained, all that burdensome mass of matter will probably have to be restored to the second class and carried at the old rate of duty to rectify this abuse of the mails. It is a duty to do so falls upon congress. That body has shown singular indifference on the subject heretofore, but with this object lesson before it, it must be very remiss if it fails to enact the needed legislation.

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BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot. The wife of a United States senator who figured conspicuously in society during the McKinley administration and who is now a widow, has made herself a laughing stock by the eccentricities of her mourning. She had prepared and published a memorial volume on the life and work of her husband, and copies have been presented to a number of the senator's friends. On the fly leaf of the copy of the memoirs that was sent to one senator, the widow wrote the following inscription: "For Senator So-and-so, from the woman whom Senator So-and-so loved."

At the close of the first session of the Fifty-sixth congress, in June, 1900, the late Congressman Cummings was one of the conferees on the naval appropriation bill. There had been a tremendous fight between the house and senate over the armor plate provision. Cummings had held out until the very last moment. Uncle Joe Cannon was one of the conferees for the house also. The conferees wrestled all night over the proposition, and finally about an hour before the time set for adjournment Cannon gave in to the senate and so reported in the floor of the house.

Cummings got up, trembling with rage, and in a five minutes' speech told of his efforts to keep the house proposition in the bill. He accused Cannon of weakening, after saying he would fight to the death, and then, turning to Cannon, shook his fist at him, saying: "You're only a toy musket." Cannon heard of that speech until this day.

The great influx of multi-millionaires from the west has had a marked effect on the real estate values, as well as upon the social season at the national capitol. Nearly all the social families have plenty of money, and they come here for the purpose of letting the world know of their possessions. They give elaborate receptions, give dinners, and in a very short time after arriving are in the whirl of the social swim—or at least that part of it composed of what is known as the rich set.

So easy has the path into society become that it is now remarked that any family with plenty of money and a willingness to spend it can come to Washington and "get to society" without delay or difficulty. Of course, there is an old residential set that keeps to itself and whose portals are closed to the new comers. The names of these families seldom appear in print, and when they give a function the fact is not advertised in the daily papers.

Any report of Senator Tillman's speeches, says the Washington Post, must be incomplete unless it is accompanied by a kinetoscope picture to show the Senator's face and gestures, and a phonograph to repeat the tones of his voice. A recent speech was no exception to the rule. It abounded in all sorts of exclamations very original and expressive, but also very explosive. It is a curious fact about Tillman that in the middle of a sentence he will blurt, apparently at a loss for a word or a simile. At the end of this pause the word is uttered or the simile expressed with such appropriateness and emphasis as to almost lead to the belief that he had the card up his sleeve all the time and only waited a moment in impressive silence so that he could play it in triumph.

United States Senator Burton of Kansas once had a bill to collect from an impeccable Irish friend who had kissed the Blarney stone to some purpose. After many notices the "captain" designed to appear in Mr. Burton's law office. A half hour of complimentary palaver availed him nothing and he agreed to sign a note covering the claim and furnish "the best man in town" as endorser. When the Irishman had affixed his name, Mr. Burton, straightening his face, sternly demanded: "Now, captain, who's going to be your endorser?"

The "captain" indulged in another passage of the most ungodly flattery, then leaned over Mr. Burton's shoulder, turned the note on its face and said to appear in Mr. Burton's law office. A half hour of complimentary palaver availed him nothing and he agreed to sign a note covering the claim and furnish "the best man in town" as endorser.

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LAUGHING REMARKS.

Chicago Tribune: "Now that I've found what I want," muttered the burglar, softly raising the lid of the family icebox and shaking the contents into the contents. "I think I'll pull up stakes and go."

Brooklyn Life: Agent—I have a book you should buy for your son, telling how to become a politician. He's a member of the United States senate, banker, broker—Mr. Hennessy—G'wan, did yer mother buy wan for you?

Philadelphia Press: "It must be hard for you people to smile without whisky sometimes," remarked the tourist in a prohibition country. "I'll make the best of it," replied the settler, with a twinkle in his eye.

Washington Star: "My husband often says that his disposition might be worse," said the patient looking at her doctor. "That sounds gentle and conciliatory," said the doctor, always insisting on going ahead and proving it.

Detroit Free Press: Holack-Well, old Mr. Scudda has finally given his permission to the marriage of his daughter to Cholly Wood.

Tomkins—That is the first time he has ever known to give something for nothing.

MARY MACLANE.

Oh, Mary MacLane, you are wonderfully fair. Wid the rose in your cheeks and you cut soft heart's hairs as the heavenly dew. And me heart's high brakin', me darlin', for you. There's love in your kisses and light in your eyes. And a wealth of affection in all of your sighs. And I'm glad that I should be longin' in vain. For a heart so deservin' as Mary MacLane. Oh, Mary MacLane, I am wastin' away. Wid grevin' and pluin' for you every day. Me heart's full of sighs and me brain's all a-burnin'. And all for the love of swate Mary MacLane. Oh, Mary MacLane, quiet foolin', I pray. And wastin' your time in a needless way. Pursin' throt to love me, then court fickle. And you will be happy, swate Mary MacLane. JAMES HOLLEY LANGRIN. Neola, Ia., May 6, 1902.

due to great expectations. The crux of the whole matter is found on the farm. While there are many who believe that property moves in waves or cycles coterminously with the rise and fall in the prices for iron, even that theory is affected by the conditions on the farm.

A moment's reflection will convince anyone that the chief producer of property is great activity in domestic trade. This trade is directly dependent upon the farm. Abundant crops, with good prices, never all to swell enormously the consumption power of the American people. The greater the power of consumption, the greater, in proportion, is the volume of general business. That explains the direct connection between the farm and the degree of activity of our domestic trade.

In exports farm products represent a large percentage that nothing else approaches it for comparison. Our immense shipments of grain and other agricultural products not only help to preserve the balance of trade in our favor, but they also regulate the freight market, and make possible the securing of satisfactory rates for the exports of a general cargo. This balance of trade in our favor, which is due primarily to what the farm and plantation send out, is what has gradually shifted the world's financial center from Europe to this country.

As to the prices of iron and their bearing on panics and prosperity, it is not difficult to remember that the low prices of iron five years ago were attributable to the depression among the great farming elements. Low prices for farm products and a series of unsatisfactory crops had crippled the purchasing power of the country so that the general demands for iron were enormously reduced, and prices of iron fell accordingly.

Proposed Statue to the Memory of John C. Fremont.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: It is understood that the bill is especially anxious for the passage of the bill just introduced in congress for the appropriation of \$50,000 for the erection of a statue to the memory of John C. Fremont in Washington. The monument project has been talked about for several years and most of the newspapers of the country at one time or another have expressed themselves in favor of it. At this Louisiana centennial season, when expansionist ideals appeal with particular force to the country, the time would seem to be opportune for the erection of memorials in honor of the men who figured prominently in the great days of our nation's history. John C. Fremont was one of these.

Other men explored part of the vast territory between the Mississippi and the Pacific long before Fremont. Lewis and Clark and Pike were through a large part of this region before Fremont was born, the first and second of them going from St. Louis to the Pacific and back by way of the Missouri and the Columbia, and the third one tracing out the western line of the Louisiana region through part of its length and going down into New Mexico forty years before that territory came finally under the Stars and Stripes. Long was in the Rocky mountain region about a dozen years after Pike, and like Pike, is remembered by the name attached to one of the summits of that range. This was when Fremont was a school boy and when neither he nor anybody else was going to be a soldier. He would have lived in after years with pathfinders in the great west.

It was Fremont's distinction that he was active at a time when men's thoughts were directed to the region between the Mississippi and the Pacific with greatest interest than ever before. His explorations to the Rocky mountains in 1842, his account of which was made public immediately afterward, made the route between the Missouri and the mountains better known than it had been along its time, marked out the best spots for camps on the trail, and pointed out the advantages of the South pass as an avenue through the mountains. His exploration of 1843-44 gave the world a better knowledge of the Salt Lake basin and much of the Pacific coast than it had previously possessed. Fremont's report of the first of these explorations abolished the American desert myth propagated by the hasty generalizations of Pike and Long, and, with the report of the second exploration, immensely swelled the tide of the immigration across the plains. His life's work, which gained him the name of the United States in the controversy with England which ensued in 1846. His story about the Salt Lake region sent Brigham Young and the Mormons to that quarter. His third expedition brought him to the Pacific coast, where he met Zachary Taylor, who reached the Rio Grande, and gave him the chance to raise the American flag in California at the beginning of the war with Mexico. The Washington monument bill ought to pass and probably will pass. Fremont is one of the great men of the United States in the history of its history.

LAUGHING REMARKS.

Chicago Tribune: "Now that I've found what I want," muttered the burglar, softly raising the lid of the family