

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

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

1.....	29,600
2.....	29,420
3.....	29,520
4.....	29,650
5.....	29,280
6.....	29,300
7.....	29,700
8.....	29,840
9.....	29,700
10.....	29,480
11.....	29,585
12.....	29,650
13.....	29,530
14.....	29,630
15.....	29,570
16.....	29,560
Total.....	519,485
Less unsold and returned copies.....	10,790
Net total sales.....	508,695
Net daily average.....	29,510

GEO. B. TSCHUCK,
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to
before me this 31st day of May, A.D. 1902.
(Seal) M. B. HUNGATE,
Notary Public.

Pennsylvania republicans evidently have a surplus of Browns.

Forecaster Welsh says the weather is much warmer. Does anyone disagree with him?

Senator Quay is getting along even better than usual and thrives on uncompromising opposition.

Nebraska has had deadlocks enough without beginning to experiment now with convention deadlocks.

The mean temperature now is the high temperature that makes people yearn for the cool breezes of Alaska.

Here is where Nebraska's high grade of literacy comes into play. Everyone can read the thermometer for himself.

Plans for the \$15,000 market house need not be very elaborate. Four plain walls covered by a roof will answer the purpose.

Having participated in the celebration of every great national anniversary, the West Point cadets are celebrating a little anniversary of their own.

In overriding the mayor's vetoes of ordinances that will create an overlap, the council may compel the taxpayers to appeal to the courts for protection.

A Chicago preacher has had the audacity to stand up and assert that he never told a lie. Wonder where that preacher expects to go in the after world?

For goodness sake, let the council vote S. L. Gordon's back pay for his alleged service as police judge so that we may have a rest for a few months at least from the perpetual claimant.

Tax reform is not a political issue. Every man, woman and child regardless of political creed is interested in the equitable distribution of the tax burdens among all classes of property owners.

It was eminently appropriate for the Nebraska funeral directors to hold their session in the Creighton Medical college. It is perfectly natural and proper for them to patronize institutions which give them the most patronage.

Those German warships will do well to act with precaution when they feel like demonstrating for the benefit of Venezuela. While Uncle Sam has no sympathy for international deadbeats, he has interests in South America not to be trifled with lightly.

Convictions for bribery in St. Louis, Grand Rapids and Minneapolis indicate that American public sentiment is alert against corruption in municipal government wherever it is unearthed. A succession of such convictions will make boodling too risky a luxury for the ordinary city official to indulge.

Nebraska republicans are not hostile to the railroad corporations. They have never shown any disposition to treat them unfairly, but the railroad managers should desist from trying to foist upon the republicans of Nebraska candidates who have forfeited the confidence of the people by their conduct and shown themselves unworthy of a public trust.

Pennsylvania is not to be outdone by Kansas in professions of loyalty to President Roosevelt. Kansas in its republican state convention endorsed him for standard-bearer in 1904, but Pennsylvania makes the specific pledge of its support for his renomination. If this keeps up, the next national convention will be as much of a ratification meeting as was the last.

AN EXPLANATION IS IN ORDER.

On the 28th day of May, 1902, Attorney General Prout filed in the supreme court of Nebraska a reply to the alternative writ of mandamus issued against Governor Ezra P. Savage, Auditor Charles Weston and Treasurer William Stuefer, members of the State Board of Equalization, which embodied the following admissions:

1. That the auditor had collected the information touching the property of the several railroad and telegraph companies doing business in the state by reports furnished by part of said companies and from other sources as to those companies which had neglected to furnish such reports, and that the board completed the work of assessment of such railroads and telegraphs and sleeping car companies on May 16, 1902, and assessed all of the tangible property of these corporations.

2. That on May 14, when the demand was made that the board assess in addition to the tangible property, which had by the board already been assessed, the franchises of these corporations, the board refused to do so for the reason that under the statute creating the board and defining its powers it doubted its right to do so.

3. That at the time the auditor appeared before the board and requested and demanded the assessment of the franchises of the corporations the members of the board had, and still have, doubts whether they had the legal authority to assess the franchises and therefore declined to comply with the request and ask the court to place a construction upon the constitutional provisions and statutes and instruct the board whether it has the power to value and assess the franchises of the corporations and to announce some equitable rule by which the value of such franchises may be ascertained.

This answer was discussed, considered and agreed upon without dissent by all the members of the board before it was filed and to all intents and purposes was equal to a sworn affidavit to the facts set forth.

On the 6th day of June the board directed the attorney general to withdraw the answer he had filed in its behalf and substitute for it an answer prepared for it by the attorneys of the corporations directly affected by the demand for re-assessment. In this document Governor Ezra P. Savage, Auditor Charles Weston and Treasurer Stuefer positively contradict their first statement by declaring:

That all the railroads listed and turned over to the auditor for assessment and taxation the property of every description belonging to those corporations and that on May 16 the board made the assessment of their properties and in so doing considered the revenue and earnings of the companies and included in their valuation the value of all assets, and that although the board did not believe that it had authority to assess franchises apart from the tangible property, the value of the franchises was taken into consideration by the board in the performance of its duty.

In conclusion, the board insists that it had performed its full duty in the hearing, consideration and assessment of the properties of the several companies and therefore is not subject to judicial interference.

The people of Nebraska who are now sitting in judgment over their public servants have a right to demand that they come into the court of public opinion and explain the marked discrepancies between the answer they made to the people of Nebraska and the Bryanites.

Mr. Bryan displays sound political sense in refusing to make a candidate for governor in November, and the Bryanites ought occasionally to have in them a representative or two of the people.

PENNSYLVANIA REPUBLICANS.

Senator Quay has again demonstrated his skill and power as a political leader in Pennsylvania, the republican state convention having been completely under his domination, and this time his course appears to have been dictated more with reference to the interests and welfare of the party and not so much with regard to his own political interests. The administration of state affairs during the last two years has not been altogether creditable to the party in power and there was a very earnest demand for reform, only to be attained under new men. A member of the present administration, Mr. Elkins, was early in the field as a candidate for governor and developed a great deal of strength. Indeed, he seemed to have the field to himself until Senator Quay discerned that the nomination of Elkins would be inexpedient and that the candidate must be a man of different type and record. He found such a candidate in Judge Pennington, who was nominated yesterday on the first ballot.

Of course the republicans will carry Pennsylvania. The factional contest has created some bitterness, but this will to a large extent die out as the campaign progresses and while it is not to be expected that the republican majority will be nearly as large as two years ago, since the labor trouble is likely to have an unfavorable effect, the success of the party is not at all doubtful. The ticket nominated yesterday promises a better administration of state affairs and therefore the strengthening of the party for future contests. As to the platform declarations, they are unqualifiedly for republican principles and policies and will have very general republican approval.

NATIONAL ARBITRATION BOARD.

Ex-President Cleveland has suggested the creation by congress of a permanent national board of arbitration, to which labor disputes might be referred. He does not favor compulsory arbitration for the reason that it "would be apt to increase the number of industrial disputes by awakening expectations of favorable decisions from the board of arbitrators," but he appears to have no doubt that if there was a permanent national board most controversies arising between employers and employees would be submitted to it for arbitration, because "if such a commission were fairly organized, the risk of a loss of popular support and sympathy, resulting from refusal to submit to so peaceful an instrumentality, would constrain both parties to such disputes to invoke its interference and abide by its decisions."

Mr. Cleveland thinks that the very existence of such an agency would invite application to it for advice and counsel, frequently resulting in the avoidance of contentious and misunderstanding.

IRRIGATION LEGISLATION.

Washington advises say it is now accepted as certain that this congress will provide a general system of irrigation for the arid lands. The house committee on irrigation has amended the senate bill so as to make it conform to the views of the president, particularly in the matter of making the arid lands a part of the public domain, open to settlement by small farmers for homesteads. The proceeds of the sale of public land anywhere in the United States are to constitute an irrigation fund to be used for surveys and construction in such sections of the country as offer the best prospect for the immediate reclamation of arid lands.

The suggestion is certainly worthy of consideration, though recent experience with the efforts of the Civic federation, of which Mr. Cleveland is a member, is not calculated to encourage absolute faith in his view of what might be accomplished by a national board of arbitration. It is true that the federation has done some good. It has succeeded in bringing about the settlement of a few labor controversies and no one will be disposed to disparage its work in the interest of industrial peace. But it has thus far been unable to accomplish anything in connection with the dispute between the coal miners and operators, beyond securing a futile conference of the representatives of the warring interests. The federation sought to have the matters in controversy submitted to arbitration, which was earnestly desired by the miners, but the operators absolutely refused to arbitrate. Is it probable that a national board on Mr. Cleveland's plan would have been able to induce the coal operators, who are manifestly indifferent to popular opinion and public interests, to submit the controversy to arbitration? The membership of the Civic federation includes some of the most prominent and influential men in the country—representative men who stand high in public respect and confidence. When such men fail to do anything for the settlement of so formidable and far-reaching a struggle as the coal strike, in which the whole country is deeply interested, it is most unlikely that a national board of arbitration, such as Mr. Cleveland recommends, could have accomplished anything. It is not contended, of course, that such a board would be entirely worthless, but simply that with voluntary arbitration it could probably do no more than has been done by the

Civic federation—that is, bring about a settlement of disputes when both parties are willing to submit them to arbitration.

Both capital and labor in this country are opposed to compulsory arbitration and perhaps will always be. Therefore boards of arbitration can be useful to only a limited extent in preserving or promoting industrial peace. That they can be valuable to any extent, however, will justify their creation, for the principle of arbitration should be earnestly encouraged.

TWO CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS.

Two republican candidates for congress have just been nominated by conventions in the Third and Fifth districts, which ought to be redeemed from the fusionists for the Fifty-eighth congress.

In the Third district the nominal is John J. McCarthy of Dixon county, who has been one of the leaders of the house for two successive state legislatures. While the contest for the nomination was more protracted than usual, the result seems to have been brought about without engendering factional strife, and the republicans of the Third district may be expected to mass themselves solidly behind their standard-bearer. Mr. McCarthy's superior ability for leadership has been demonstrated on more than one occasion, and when elected he may be relied upon to represent his constituency creditably at Washington.

The choice of the Fifth district has fallen upon Judge G. W. Norris of Red Willow county. Judge Norris is completing his second term on the district bench, to which he has been twice elected in a judicial district ordinarily safely in control of the fusionists. As a judge, he has won the esteem and respect of all who have come in contact with him without regard to party affiliations, and if his personal popularity proves as strong in the congressional race as it has in his judicial district, he will be elected by an overwhelming majority.

We believe the people of these two districts are tired of returning fusion representatives to congress, and that they will not let pass the opportunity to be presented to them in November by coming into line with the party of prosperity and rallying to the support of these congressional nominees.

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CROAKERS TO THE REAR.

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HONORS RIGHTLY BESTOWED.

Baltimore American.

The degree of doctor of letters conferred upon Miss Helen Gould has more significance than is generally attached to that honor, for every time she has written a letter about public matters it has been to the

success of the party or for the welfare of the nation. The public has been won over to her by her frankness and directness, and she has been a valuable asset to the party.

PROSPERITY KICKS WHINING PESSIMISTS TO A BACK SEAT.

Baltimore American.

Recitals of this country's commercial triumphs are so often given that the public is growing weary of reading them. However, a constant accentuating of the facts is needed to keep down the clamors of the pessimists. The press has done its best to keep the public informed of the progress of the country, but this has not been done in a way that will be believed. The public has been won over to her by her frankness and directness, and she has been a valuable asset to the party.

IN RAILROAD TAX BUREAU.

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reformists.

According to the railroad tax bureau, the valuation of Council Bluffs is nearly four times as high per capita of population as is the assessment of Omaha. A comparison of per capita