

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

ROBERT WATER, 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, deposes and swears that the actual number of full and complete copies of the Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Editions, printed during the month of June, 1902, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Edition and Circulation. Rows include Daily (30,410), Sunday (20,400), Evening (20,400), etc.

Total 889,220. Less unsold and returned copies, 9,052. Net total sales, 880,168. Net daily average, 29,348.

GEO. B. TSCHUCK, Notary Public. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 20th day of June, 1902.

If most of this superfluous rainfall were only being stored in reservoirs until needed.

The Winnebago land grabbers are beginning to feel uncomfortable. They cannot stand the searchlight of publicity.

Chicago is waging relentless war on the smoke nuisance. In Omaha the anti-smoke ordinance remains a dead letter.

The sultan of Zanzibar is dead. Anybody who wants his job must apply without delay to his royal majesty, King Edward VII.

To use a homely expression, the Wisconsin state convention has put Senator Spooner in a position where he will have to fish or cut bait.

Governor Savage and his party of Nebraska colonels are seeing Chinatown. And Chinatown is also seeing the governor of Nebraska and his colonels.

King Edward's coronation has been definitely fixed for August 9. But the postponement to midsummer has already taken all of the starch out of the function.

Germany need not be alarmed over the prospect of a meat famine. Uncle Sam will be glad to honor requisitions accompanied by the market price, whenever Germany relaxes its exclusive regulations.

New regulations and rules are to be promulgated by the Omaha Board of Health, which are said to cover some thirty pages of typewriting. The first rule to observe during all seasons of the year is, keep your head cool and your feet warm.

Mr. Mooncall has taken his revenge. He now declares that the president was absent from Washington when the editor of the Bee was his guest at the temporary White House. Mr. Mooncall is a genius and was by nature designed as chief factotum of a fakery.

Another prince is to invade the United States. This time it is Prince Chen, who was to have represented the great dragon in the coronation midway procession that failed to come off on schedule time in June, owing to the interference of meddlesome British surgeons.

If we are to believe the strike breakers, all is serene at the Union Pacific shops and all along the line from Omaha to Evanston. If we are to believe the strike makers, all is confusion in the shops and everything is out of gear on the line of the road between Omaha and Evanston.

A belated search among his papers has uncovered the Tilden club banquet invitation that was addressed to Colonel Bryan, about which there has been so much dispute. The only regret now is that Mr. Bryan did not receive the document soon enough to send a prompt response, while his ire was at the fever point and he could have done fuller justice to his ruffled feelings.

Consul General Bragg may have been indiscreet in describing the impressions made upon him by the Cubans in a letter to his wife in his blunt and honest way, but that should scarcely furnish sufficient reasons for his recall as consul general of Havana, where he is nothing more nor less than the commercial agent of the United States. But the old commander of the Iron Brigade ought to have known that a woman can't be expected to keep a secret even if she has been married forty years.

TRADE CONDITIONS HEALTHY.

The fact that in the fiscal year just closed our exports declined and imports increased, thereby reducing the trade balance is not to be regarded as a serious reaction from the conditions that have prevailed for several years and given this country an enormous advantage in the international trade account.

Those who carefully study trade statistics find no cause for alarm in the apparent loss to this country of \$185,000,000 as compared with the figures of a year ago.

The falling off in exports was due to a considerable extent to the partial failure of the corn crop last year, there being a decrease of \$62,000,000 in the exports of corn, or about three-fifths of the total decline as compared with the previous year.

On the whole, therefore, it is apparent that foreign trade conditions, notwithstanding the changes as compared with a year ago, continue healthy and there seems to be nothing in the situation at present to disturb confidence.

A LOSING DEAL. The recent purchase for the state school fund on a 3 per cent basis of \$268,000 twenty-year Douglas county bonds, just refunded by the commissioners of this county at 3 1/2 per cent interest, is a losing deal for the taxpayers.

The fact that it is a losing deal has already called forth an alleged explanation printed in the Lincoln Journal, to justify the handsome profit pocketed by the bond brokers who negotiated the transaction.

This arrangement saved the county between \$30,000 and \$40,000. By waiting for the expiration of the five years when the bonds mature the county might not be able to refund at such a low rate as 3 1/2 per cent interest.

The only proper way to characterize this statement is "important if true." A resort to grammar grade mathematics, however, entirely disproves these figures.

The \$268,000 of bonds refunded by the commissioners of Douglas county had five years to run at 5 per cent, when they would have been payable or refundable without any premium to the bondholders.

Under the proposition made by the brokers acting for these bondholders the unexpired five years were waived and new twenty-year bonds bearing 3 1/2 per cent interest were exchanged for them.

Assuming that the state board would have been equally ready to have invested the school money directly with the county on a 3 per cent basis, Douglas county taxpayers in these twenty years will have gained for five years the difference between 5 and 3 1/2 per cent in interest payments and lost for fifteen years the difference between 3 1/2 and 5 per cent in interest payments.

Striking the balance and counting nothing for deferred payments, the gain to the taxpayers of this county is 6 1/2 per cent and the loss 13 1/2 per cent, making a net loss of 5 per cent on \$268,000, or \$13,400. In other words, the transaction will cost the taxpayers of Douglas county \$13,400, although the profit to the brokers and the bondholders whom they represent is still greater because of their advantage in the rate of exchange.

So far as the state school fund is concerned, it is no poorer and no richer than if it had been able to buy 3 per cent bonds directly from the county, and its inability to deal direct is due to the fact that it did not hold the old bonds and was thus in no position to surrender them for refunding.

If the state could have bought the old bonds on a 3 per cent basis and then exchanged them with the county for funding bonds running a longer term, the taxpayers of this county would have been saved their loss, while the school fund would have had the same investment.

The attempt to draw an analogy between this Douglas county bond purchase and the Burt and Cuming county bond deals, however, will not hold water. In neither Burt county nor Cuming county was there any excuse for the state treasurer to deal through brokers at all, as in the one case the middleman used school money to buy the Burt county bonds and then sold them back to the state at a profit, while in the other case the school fund held the Cuming county bonds that were surrendered and replaced with funding bonds, but allowed the middlemen to clip off several thousand dollars of coupons while the new bonds were in transit.

The blame for the present loss to Douglas county will have to be shared by the county commissioners, who have been short-sighted, and the state treasurer, who might by a little extra effort have bought the old bonds from the original holders.

COMING HOME (D) AT LAST. WASHINGTON, July 17.—(Special)—Congressman Dave Mercer of Omaha returned tonight from Atlantic City and will leave for home tomorrow. He will visit the supervising architect in the morning and see what can be done toward hurrying the work of constructing for the new Indian warehouse at Omaha, for which an appropriation of \$75,000 was passed on the last day of the session of congress.

Mr. Mercer says that he will have no difficulty in securing a re-nomination in the Second district and will, he believes, be elected by a large majority this year. He believes the republicans will carry every district in Nebraska in the congressional election.

This piece of news out of the Lincoln Journal should make the Mercers rejoice. Our Dave is coming home (7) at last, not because his presence is of any moment in the impending campaign, since he is already as good as renominated and re-elected for a sixth term, but out of pure habit, just to keep his promise to visit Omaha this summer as he has done once every two years.

The fact that Mercer has returned from Atlantic City contradicts the former reports that he has been detained at Washington in the heated season by important department work that required his personal presence.

There is also a slight inaccuracy in the explanation that Mercer's home run from Atlantic City by way of Washington is for the purpose of visiting the supervising architect to see what can be done toward hurrying the work of constructing the new Indian warehouse for Omaha, for which an appropriation of \$75,000 was passed on the day congress adjourned.

There is to be no new Indian warehouse built in Omaha, but the \$75,000 was appropriated for a quartermaster's warehouse, with the erection of which the supervising architect has nothing whatever to do. Army buildings, including quartermaster's warehouses, are all planned by army officers and constructed under supervision of army officers and under direction of the War department.

Under ordinary usage the chief quartermaster of the Department of the Missouri, who is right here in Omaha, will exercise supervision over the construction after the plans are approved.

This fact is as well known to Mercer as it is to anyone else, so his return from Atlantic City via Washington under pretense that he had to call on the supervising architect to expedite the construction of a new warehouse has the same elements of deception and humbug that has characterized every step in Mercer's sixth-term campaign up to date.

A NEW ANTI-TRUST SUGGESTION. The suggestion reported to have been submitted by the Russian minister of finance to the British government and the powers that signed the Brussels sugar bounty convention, proposing the consideration of means to protect international commerce against the artificial depression of prices, by the processes of trusts, is novel.

Russia, so far as we are aware, has no combinations of the trust kind, but the government has pursued a policy regarding beet sugar by which that article was sold cheaper abroad than at home.

The action of the Brussels conference interferes with the Russian sugar policy and at the same time the manufacturers of Russia, in spite of a considerable tariff protection, are being undersold in their own markets by foreign manufacturers.

This is a situation which is naturally causing the able finance minister of the empire, M. de Witte, a good deal of anxiety. He is of course most desirous to build up the industries of Russia and as he sees in the growth of combinations an increasing menace to those industries he would inaugurate a common movement, embracing the industrial nations of Europe and perhaps the United States, to prevent what he terms the "artificial depression of prices."

That is to say, he would put a stop to the manufacturers of any country selling cheaper abroad than at home. It is needless to say that this is a proposition which, while coming naturally enough from the Russian government, is not likely to receive serious consideration from any other government.

Neither Great Britain nor Germany, for example, would consider a proposition for governmental interference with the business of their manufacturers in foreign markets. If a British or German manufacturer finds it expedient to sell his products for less money in Russia than in his home market, that is an affair of the government. This applies as fully to combinations or trusts as to individual manufacturers. It may be entirely compatible with the Russian system for the government to undertake the regulation of the prices of commodities, but no other European government will attempt to do this.

It is therefore entirely safe to say that if the governments make any response to the Russian suggestion the general answer will be that it is an impossible plan.

A St. Petersburg paper says that if an international agreement, as proposed by the finance minister, cannot be effected, the only remedy is increased customs duties.

This is the course that Russia will be compelled to adopt if she wants to keep out foreign competition and allow her industries to grow, but that might be a serious matter for the masses of the people, who are in no condition to pay higher prices for what they need.

At all events the Russian plan for dealing with trusts will certainly not be adopted.

Governor Cummins of Iowa persists in asking pertinent questions of the railway attorneys, who are pleading for low assessments of railway property in Iowa, using the same bunco stories put forward in Nebraska.

It has been discovered in Iowa that the official returns of the railroads to the assessment board do not tally any better with the official reports of their stockholders than they do in Nebraska, where flagrant discrepancies are admitted.

It does not matter in which state, the railroads are all a unit in trying to get as high rates as possible on their traffic and at the same time to evade as much of their due share of the tax burden as possible.

According to reports from St. Louis, negotiations are in progress for the absorption by the company which owns the present terminal facilities centering in the Union station in that city of the proposed new St. Louis Belt & Terminal Railway company, the consideration amounting to more than \$20,000,000.

Railroad attorneys and tax bureaus, however, will continue to maintain that when it comes to assessment for taxation the valuable terminal facilities enjoyed by the railroads in the great cities are to be counted as a mere bagatelle without any real value except as distributed over the whole mileage.

The City of Venice has decided to tax itself \$200,000 for rebuilding the collapsed Campanile, that stood in the square of St. Mark as a monument of Italian art. It will take several years, however, before the Omaha Board of Education will spend \$50,000 for the lone tower that looms conspicuously on paper over the roof line of the new High school building and was to have been made such a striking object of admiration for all tourists.

Omaha is not ancient enough yet to venture into the Campanile business.

Railroad hold-ups are becoming so frequent that pretty soon every locomotive will have to be converted into an arsenal and every baggage and express car will have to be ornamented with gatling guns, while male passengers will have to wear side-arms and female passengers carry bottles of sulphuric acid to use while the highwaymen button their garters.

The 17th of July has come and gone, but the prodigal has not yet put in an appearance. Evidently he is waiting for the return of Mayor Moores, who will present the manager with the keys of the city and his telephone number in case he should get into trouble during his biennial sojourn between congressional primaries and election day.

Again the managers of the Nebraska state fair promise the greatest agricultural show on earth in their forthcoming exhibition. What is better yet, however, is that with favorable weather conditions, insuring crops already in prospect, the promise will unquestionably be fulfilled.

Cause and Effect. Philadelphia Press. Colonel Bryan, a month afterward, finds that he has an invitation to the Tilden club dinner, and though he could not attend he is still suffering from the indigestion it gave him.

Evening Up the Score. Indianapolis News. Things usually even themselves up. Great Britain is "making a snook" on our markets in Cuba, but, on the other hand, the steel building material needed in the Transvaal is being furnished by American contractors.

Misdirected Sympathy. Philadelphia North American. Sympathy extended to the short speculators caught in the corn squeeze would be misdirected. They sold what they did not have, and their losses do not affect the legitimate business of the country.

Much Method in His Madness. Philadelphia Press. Those who cannot explain the exploits of the outlaw Tracy in any other way are arguing that he is insane. A more reasonable explanation would be that the people along his route of other cities did in many ways making preparations to keep up with the world's progress.

Americans Winning in Africa. English observers who have been saddened by the invasion of Europe by American business men have now another cause for sorrow. The British trade commissioners who went to South Africa to look into the business prospects express their amazement that their fellow countrymen have been so slow to grasp the opportunities for peaceful conquest, so glibly to let the clash of arms pass over, war has been followed by an immediate and energetic return to business.

Coddle Nature and Be Happy. Philadelphia Record. After long and weary waiting the vast corn belt in the west and northwest welcomes a belated hot wave that comes just in time to ripen grain on fertile moisture-laden fields. Only let the Nature continue propitious and all crop records in years past may be broken by the coming American harvest.

Few Denying of the Elect. Atlanta Constitution. Spiritually dominant is the greatest condition to which the mortal man attains on earth. He who can keep his body under, mortify the deeds of the flesh and keep himself unspotted from the world is indeed a freeman among men. And when to this he can add the powers of a clean mind, renewed and regal in its loyalty to righteousness, he is greater than any man who ever took a city or founded an empire!

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OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The renewal of the triple alliance is regarded in Belgium as a decided diplomatic victory for Germany, whose allies have been compelled to subordinate their economic interests to their political necessities.

The independence of Belgium is maintained as no illusion on this point either in Rome or Vienna, and adds that if France is disappointed at her failure to induce Italy to withdraw from the compact, she must have been foolish in thinking that anything of the sort was likely to happen just yet.

There are no indications that Russia is becoming uneasy concerning her naval position in the far east. The review of St. Petersburg publishes a noteworthy article in which it declares that the Russian squadron in the Pacific ocean is completely at the mercy of Japan on account of the difficulty which the Russian ships would have in that part of the world in refueling and replenishing.

Moreover, says, there would be many obstacles even to their carrying out any necessary repairs, inasmuch as the docks at Vladivostok and Port Arthur are insufficiently equipped for the purpose.

The Russian vessels, it remarks, are obliged to winter in Japanese ports, as Vladivostok is almost inaccessible during the cold months, while at Port Arthur there is not sufficient accommodation. Moreover, there is not a sufficient depth of water in the inner basin, and the outer basin, which is somewhat larger, is dangerously exposed to every wind.

The Soviet also foresees the danger of the ships of the Russian fleet being blockaded by the Japanese in Vladivostok and Port Arthur in time of war. The article concludes by saying that, in view of these many and sinister possibilities, it is absolutely necessary that Russia should obtain a fresh port d'appui on the Pacific coast, and for this purpose Ma-san-poo, in Corea, would satisfy all requirements.

It does not seem to have occurred to the writer that this was one of the plans which the Anglo-Japanese treaty was designed to defeat.

It is only a few years ago that England monopolized the eastern commerce, so far, at least, as the carrying was concerned. The vast inroads which Germany has made in the last ten or fifteen years are familiar to all, but Japan's increase has been even more rapid—and as much as Germany's at the expense of England.

In 1870 Japan's forty-six vessels of "foreign" style with a registered tonnage of 17,000 tons had increased by 1882 to 614 and 209,000 respectively, and in 1891 to 7,614 and 664,000 respectively.

As to the increase since then, it is sufficient to say that in 1891 her four lines received state subsidies, their earnings traveling a total distance of \$10,000,000 nautical miles annually.

Now the number of lines subsidized by the government is sixteen and the total number of miles traveled 1,806,000. Eleven years ago, when Japan's foreign trade totaled \$2,000,000, only 14,000,000 tons were carried on Japanese bottoms.

In 1901, when Japan's foreign trade aggregated 600,000,000 yen, Japanese ships carried 148,000,000 yen. To have this remarkable rate of expansion increase because of the treaty is naturally more or less disturbing to British shipping interests.

Certain comments in the German press upon the treatment of the non-Magyar nationalities in Hungary have caused no little ill-feeling in the "twilight monarchy." Not long ago, the host of Berlin remarked that in the projected erection of a new university the Hungarian authorities are not guided solely by educational requirements, but the desire to promote national aims.

It then proceeded to denounce "the ruthless German idea, which the Magyar endeavor to suppress the minorities belonging to other nationalities," of which the "new university scheme" is a fresh illustration.

The Magyar, as an isolated race situated between the great Slav and German masses, should beware, it said, of risking the loss of foreign sympathy through the violent oppression of other nationalities living among them. This and other similar utterances in other journals have not only offended the Magyars, but have also offended the Austrian Slavs a rare opportunity of the Austrians to "quaque" in reference to the policy adopted by Prussia toward the Polish provinces.

The Novoye Vremya of St. Petersburg, returning to the subject, repeats its assertion that the "German idea, which means an empire extending to the Mediterranean, free from all non-German elements, is just as menacing to the Slavs as it is to the Poles, and will precipitate a Slav coalition.

The overwhelming influence of the Emperor Francis Joseph in the affairs of Austria-Hungary has been demonstrated once more, in very striking fashion, by the result of the joint ministerial council held under his presidency a week or ten days ago.

Before it assembled, it was asserted as if the relations between the partners in the double monarchy were strained to the point of open rupture. The two prime ministers were evidently on cool terms, the inspired newspapers of Vienna and Budapest were indulging in mutual recriminations of the bitterest kind, and on both sides there was talk of the establishment of a separate customs frontier at the earliest possible moment.

But now grim-visaged war has smoothed her wrinkles front and put on the smiles of gentle peace. The emperor has declared that the dangerous game of bluff which has been played for so long must be stopped, and henceforth the watchword is to be "reconciliation." Negotiations for the renewal of the Ausgleich and the revision of the autonomic tariff are to be renewed, and nobody seems to doubt that a satisfactory agreement of some kind will be reached, and all predictions of the alarmists falsified.

As the old proverb says, "a watched pot never boils."

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POLITICAL DRIFT.

Democrats of North Carolina have nominated for congress a man who supported McKinley.

Judge Parker, Daniel Lamont and John C. Milburn have in turn declined to consider the democratic nomination for governor of New York.

Having failed to reach the presidential man the peerless leader is about to build a mantle of marble, one place coming from each of the states voting for him.

Senator Thomas C. Platt of New York celebrated his sixty-ninth birthday anniversary last Tuesday. The event drew a large crowd to the "Amen corner."

Hon. J. Ham Lewis, former congressman from the state of Washington, is fondling his burlesque with much fervor. He has just picked up a law fee of \$100,000.

Lightning has shattered the wooden Indian that stood on the roof of the Tribune Hall. That is the only strike the tribune has achieved since Van Wyck hit the road.

Several patriots holding office in Virginia have resigned their jobs as a protest against the provision of the new constitution forbidding the acceptance of railroad passes.

Robert E. Pattison has been the democratic candidate for governor of Pennsylvania in 1882, 1890 and 1902. It is twenty years since his first nomination for that office.

Connecticut has in the present congress four members; in the next it will have five. The new member will be elected at large, a provision equivalent to the addition of one republican member to the delegation.

Dave Hill's presidential goose is perilously close to the bake oven. Someone has dug up a letter written by Dave in 1896, in which he said: "I am a democrat still—very still." Treason's hideous head descends the ax.

A letter from W. J. Bryan to a bunch of "loyal democrats" at Seneca Falls, N. Y., advises the kickers "to put their butt in socks and fight for the Kansas City platform inside the tent. They would be very lonesome outside.

Ex-Senators R. F. Pettigrew of South Dakota and Charles A. Towns of Minnesota have temporarily leased a furnished house in New York City. Both radicals in politics, they have both made successful use of the plutocratic regime to fill their pockets.

A large bunch of fox politicians for years past have enjoyed the fruits of the catch and receive for insolvent corporations in New York state. With a zeal worthy of their calling they received with great regularity, pocketed big fees and merrily chased away every thought of winding up.

The attorney general threatens to make them jar loose.

In Sumner county, Kansas, one Thomas A. Hubbard is a candidate for county treasurer. He has issued a great many cards announcing that he is in the field, but thrifflily makes use of the other side with an advertisement that he is a breeder of fine hogs which he offers for sale cheap. All of which moves an opponent to remark: "Vote for Tom Hubbard and get a hog."

Geauga county, Ohio, is one of the very strong republican counties in the western tier, originally settled by natives of Connecticut. Some of the political views and customs of the land of steady habits still pervades the western tier. Henry K. Smith has been elected continuously at probate judge there for thirty-five years and as an officer of the court for forty-five years.

MISSOURI LIGHTS THE WAY. Night of Self-Defense Defined in Doggone Fine Style. Chicago Tribune.

Once there was a man who used another man because the other man's dog chased his cat. He said his cat had suffered from nervous derangement ever afterwards and that her value as a household pet had been impaired. The attorney for the defendant held that the dog had not chased the cat out of any malicious desire to derange her nervous system, but simply out of good humor and regard for tradition. He was taking advantage of the inherent, inalienable, and immemorial right the dog has always had to chase the cat whenever he pleased.

A similar right has just been established for the dog in Missouri. Mr. Simon owned a thoroughly exemplary dog called Jupiter. Mr. Quinn owned a less exemplary boy called Willie. Jupiter was barking in the sun when Willie found him. To Willie's taste barking was rather slow fun. There were other things that would add more zest to life. Accordingly, he tied a tin can to Jupiter's tail. Now, Jupiter was not a bully, but neither was he a non-resistance. The can annoyed him. He bit Willie. Willie ran home and told his father. His father prosecuted Mr. Simon. Fortunately Judge Siders was a man of discernment. His decision was that Mr. Quinn was to pay the costs of the trial. The dog was not to blame, for, as the decision most admirably says:

"Any dog has a legal and undeniable right to bite any man, woman, or child who purposely and with intent to disturb said dog's tranquility and peace of mind does attach or cause to be attached to said dog's tail a tin can or other weight which will impede, or tend to impede, the progress of said animal. A dog which bites its persecutor in such a cause is acting purely and honestly in self-defense, and is as justly immune from punishment as the man who strikes at a burglar in defense of his own life and welfare."

This seems no more than reasonable, and it is to be hoped that the courts of other states in the union will take the same stand. The tin-can dog has rights which deserve recognition.

REAL OPPONENT OF TRUSTS.

Operation of the Inexorable Law of Supply and Demand. New York Mail and Express.

The enactment of legislation to control "trusts" is a task so formidable that we doubt whether it can be successfully accomplished at this time, when the public mind has yet to regard them in more friendly light than "necessary evils," and the trusts themselves have still to work out their own commercial destiny.

Effort, of course, should be made and undoubtedly will be made in congress next winter, for there are many features of the trust problem that concededly need the restraint of law, but we are also to keep it in mind that "trusts" are after all an industrial evolution and therefore not to be indiscriminately set down and attacked as a menace to the country's welfare.

They have proved a strength rather than a weakness.