

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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GRASPING AT A STRAW.

A drowning man grasps at a straw. It is given out by the backers and admirers of Congressman Mercer that his visit to Oyster Bay would bring about a change of front on the part of The Bee with regard to his candidacy for a sixth term through the intervention of President Roosevelt. If Mr. Mercer's mission to Oyster Bay had no other object in view, it is destined to prove a dismal failure. President Roosevelt is not in the habit of interfering in local political contests, whoever may be involved. Only Saturday his influence was invoked to bring about an amicable settlement of the factional Delaware senatorial feud, but he has positively declined to mix in, although it involves two senatorships, and Delaware is in the same condition that Nebraska would have been in today if Mercer had succeeded in his desperate effort to prevent the election of any republican senators unless he was one of them. It is not likely therefore that the president will change his policy of non-interference just for the sake of Mr. Mercer.

Up to this time at least President Roosevelt, so far as we know, has not shown the slightest solicitude for the nomination of D. H. Mercer and will doubtless be just as well satisfied with any good republican. The editor of The Bee has had four interviews with the president within the last six months, but at no time was the name of Mr. Mercer even mentioned by the president.

THE SHIPYARD TRUST.

The combination of shipbuilders, known as the United States Shipbuilding company, the organization of which was completed last week, has for its object to put American shipbuilding establishments upon such a basis that ships can be built here for foreigners. In order to do this the American shipbuilders must be able to compete in the matter of cost with European shipbuilders and if the combination can effect this without reducing the price of labor, which now makes the difference in the cost of ship construction between the United States and Europe, it will be a good thing for the shipbuilding industry of this country.

GRASPING AT A STRAW.

According to the statement of an official of the company, it is building the largest cargo carrying steamships in the world and has a fleet in course of construction of the value of \$31,000,000, composed of every known type of vessel, and the total contracts in hand aggregate \$50,000,000. The combination therefore starts under highly favorable conditions. Enlargement of the shipbuilding industry of the United States is certainly to be desired and there appears to be no reason why the so-called Shipyard trust should not be highly successful.

GREAT BRITAIN'S NAVY.

The disclosures regarding the weak features of Great Britain's navy, brought out by the review of the channel fleet, are really not new. For several years English naval officers have been telling the government that many of its vessels would be found almost useless in case of war. The statement of a naval critic in regard to the home fleet, that a majority of the ships "might as well be built of cardboard, as they are mere dummies, too feeble to fight and too slow to run away," has been said in effect many times before.

CRUSADE AGAINST CHILD LABOR.

The movement against child labor in the mills of the south cannot fail to have good results. The facts in regard to the employment of children under 12 years of age and the deplorable consequences have aroused a feeling in the south that must result in remedial action and it is safe to assume that there will be legislation in the southern states for the correction of the wrong that is being done to thousands of children in depriving them of opportunity for schooling and subjecting them to a slavery which ought to be impossible in this country.

FARMERS TO COMBINE.

The Farmers' National Co-operative exchange company was recently incorporated at \$50,000,000. The purpose of the organization is to buy and sell in grain and other farm products and to build elevators and warehouses, storage plants and stockyards. The information is given that the stockholders will largely consist of the farmers of the middle western states and that the company intends to aggressively enter into competition with the companies and corporations which have practically controlled the marketing of western farm products.

Two of a Kind.

Russell Sage now stands shoulder to shoulder with Senator Hanna as a friend of the laboring man. "I feel that the better you treat the employes the better...

Consider the Price, Doc.

Chancellor Andrews must think young men have a lot of nerve when he asks them to plunge into matrimony while meat and provisions are at the present prices.

A Refuge for Crooks.

Springfield Republican. It is a great pity that that precious pair of fugitives from American justice, Gaylor and Greene, should have the Canadian courts on their side in the extradition proceedings.

Gush for Foreign Consumption.

Washington Post. General Joe Wheeler is quite enthusiastic and wants us to send our officers over to see to it that the public we have in general's judgment has been slightly warped by the heroic entertainment he has received on the other side.

Hot Air on the Ocean.

Chicago Chronicle. "By a singular coincidence," John M. Thurston, who is ex-Governor of California and an attorney in her claims against the United States for crown lands, sails for Honolulu with Senators Burton and Mitchell, who are charged with investigating those claims.

Mr. Schwab's Latest Deal in the Game of Bunco.

Philadelphia Press. Mr. Charles M. Schwab has "made" \$18,500,000. He bought the Bethlehem steel works for \$1,500,000, so it is reported. He has "sold" it to the shipbuilding trust for \$26,000,000 in securities.

Dakota Movement to Control and Market Farm Products.

Milwaukee Sentinel. The Farmers' National Co-operative exchange company was recently incorporated at \$50,000,000. The purpose of the organization is to buy and sell in grain and other farm products and to build elevators and warehouses, storage plants and stockyards.

Central Labor Union will Favor Governor Savage's with another communication.

telling him what its members think of his reputation of his promise to them under dictation of Baldwin and Mercer. This will give the governor opportunity to favor the public with another expression of his remarkable views upon the character and claims of organized labor.

Eliza Cook, the oldest 'old lady' of the American stage, is dead at the age of 90.

Although it is some time since she was in active service, she did not pass away until she was nearly 91 years of age. Her disposition was sweet and cheerful to the last and her word of encouragement was never wanting.

St. Louis is in raptures over the promise of President Roosevelt to participate in the dedication exercises of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

Plainly the ill-fated star of the Buffalo show is having no deterrent influence on President Roosevelt.

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Gossip and Incidents Noted at the Deceased Capital. Announced changes in the personnel of the supreme court started a flood of gossip about the august tribunal, and gave Washington correspondents a chance to shake off the midsummer dullness.

SAVAGE AND THE POLICE BOARD.

Kearney Democrat: So far as some of the firemen are concerned, Governor Savage is the biggest and busiest mayor Omaha has ever had.

Relieving Fools of Their Money.

Minneapolis Times. Another get-rich-quick scheme has come to grief in Boston. The concern was known as J. M. Fisher & Co., and it offered marvelous profits to investors.

Attorney General Knox is credited with a desire to leave the cabinet.

He said to a friend at Atlantic City the other day: "I left a law practice of \$70,000 a year in Pittsburg to come to Washington to take a cabinet place that pays me \$8,000 a year. In Pittsburg I had my city house and a little place out in the country where I used to go to romp in my holidays. I have just one place to get out of doors and have some fun. I come to Atlantic City, where I pay \$72 a day for the board of myself and my family. Oh, I am getting rich at it. The joy of being in the cabinet is wonderful."

PERSONAL NOTES.

Messrs. Gaylor and Greene appear to have slumped into the right side of the Canadian scale of justice. J. N. Casanova, proprietor of the Havana Post of Havana, Cuba, is in New York. He was formerly the mayor of Philadelphia, this state.

GRAND ISLAND INDEPENDENT.

The Grand Island Independent: The Omaha labor union makes an excellent point in an answer to Governor Savage's letter to them, in which he gave but little credit to the honest, intelligent manhood, that is associated nearly everywhere with the labor unions.

DAVID CITY PRESS.

For appointing a fire and police board in Omaha, opposed to Roosevelt, Senator Hillard, David B. Marcy and Baldwin of the Union Pacific have agreed to give Governor Savage a good federal job when his term is out. He was turned down for pardoning Bartley, but that was to fool the voters. The state-eman, in Washington, is a man who has already been seen. He came here to see the governor and to see Governor Hillard, and to see the governor's secretary, and to see the governor's chief of staff.

WESTERN CROP MOVEMENT.

Boston Transcript. The western crop movement promises to be the greatest in the history of the country, and the capacity of the railroads to handle the grain of the western states will be severely tested. Even in ordinary seasons there is sometimes difficulty in obtaining cars, and every road will make an effort to press its own equipment into service. There is likely to be considerable complaint about a "car famine" because the crop is moved, but the farmers of the northwest can hardly expect the railroads to maintain an equipment to meet the conditions of some phenomenally productive years.

FLAMES OF FUN.

Philadelphia Press: Her Mamma—You certainly were flirting outrageously, with that young man on the beach. Don't you know you're a married woman, and— Mrs. Gay—Yes, but he didn't. Smart Set: Madge—How is it you're not out yachting with him? Dolly—It took both his hands to manage the boat.

THE STAY-AT-HOME.

Philadelphia Catholic Standard. Let others go. For pump and show. Where ocean beats or mountain towers. To rest in after working hours.

terested, and the unions have fallen into the habit of writing bitter letters and adopting biting resolutions which they take great pleasure in addressing to the governor's office. Grand Island Independent: Governor Savage has penned a letter to the Omaha labor organization in which he tries to explain why he did not appoint a member of that organization or a representative of it on the Omaha fire and police board. Mr. Savage seems to presume that there is not a member of a labor union in Omaha who would be as well fitted as anyone of the four men he had named, and argues that really it doesn't make any difference—all men are laboring men. It doesn't concern the people of the state whether there is a laborer on the Omaha fire and police board. Notwithstanding the governor's angry and intemperate utterances, it is hardly probable that Roosevelt is guilty of a foolhardy attempt to bribe Governor Savage. Mr. Roosevelt in the past has been accurate and straightforward in his dealings with charges against him before investigated. This parade of great virtue on the part of Governor Savage in announcing that he had refused a bribe strikes the funny-bone of the people of the state. Tilden Citizens: The everlasting dicker-Jug connected with the question of the appointment of the Omaha police commission has been given a new lease of life by the recent decision of the supreme court, which places the appointive power in the hands of the governor. The ruling is a slap at home rule with a vengeance. No act of the British Parliament in its dealing with Irish matters could be more arbitrary and unjust. The opinion is, on its face, a plain intimation that the voters of Nebraska's metropolis are incapable of self-government. Why the governor of the state should be considered more competent than the chosen mayor to select a board of management for the municipality's fire and police departments is inexplicable—except upon the uncharitable charge that political bias or prejudice in recognized as of greater importance than representative government. To be perfectly consistent it would seem strictly in order that the governor be accorded the privilege of naming the village marshals of Tilden and all other towns in the state.

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