

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George H. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company...

As an entertainer of mimic royalty Mayor Moores holds the record. To our out-of-town visitors—Make yourselves perfectly at home...

Does General Alger's success in Michigan indicate that the "embalmed beef" issue is to be added to other complications? No meddling medical men are permitted to interfere with the engagements of his royal highness, King Ak-Sar-Ben.

The law that requires candidates to make sworn statements of expenses incurred in securing their nominations and elections should be either enforced or repealed. In the conviction of its bribe-taking chief of police Minneapolis has set an example for St. Louis in its prosecution of its bribe-taking aldermen.

From the results, David B. Hill is just as much of a party boss in New York as William J. Bryan is in Nebraska. Each dominates the democracy of his state with equal potency. It is safe to say that the hard-headed bankers of Germany are not accepting the lately issued merger stocks as col-laterals for the gold which they are advancing to New York banks.

The new ship combine has filed its articles of incorporation in the state of New Jersey, the mother of trusts. It is a wise combine that would know its own father, but they all seem to know their mother. It's altogether too early in the play to say whether the Stratton will case will be in the same class with the famous Fair will litigation. The size of the jackpot and the number of lawyers anxious to break into the game augurs well for it.

The Iowa rate equalization board at its June meeting raised the assessment of railroads almost \$4,000,000. Now it has decided to raise the assessment on real estate and other forms of property, and as soon as this is done to give the railroad assessment another boost. Omaha still continues to hold second place among the great pork packing centers of America. The output of South Omaha packing houses since the 1st of March exceeds 11 per cent of the total output of packing houses in the twelve leading meat packing cities.

If President Roosevelt succeeds in patching up a peace between the coal operators and the coal miners in the time that would otherwise have been devoted to his western trip, the disappointment cloud produced by the abandonment of his tour will indeed have a silver lining. Nebraska has been allotted its place and space in the St. Louis exposition grounds, but if the next legislature should make the same appropriation for the St. Louis exposition that was made by the Missouri legislature for the Transmississippi exposition the proposed Nebraska building would not be viable through the most powerful microscope.

The board of women managers for the St. Louis exposition has already filed its protest against the suggestive features of a midway that gave Chicago so much valuable free advertising. If the managers of the St. Louis enterprise can only start a vigorous and widespread contention over the character of the midway displays the publicity department can take a rest while the battle rages.

THE COAL CONFERENCE.

President Roosevelt's great interest in the anthracite coal situation will be fully appreciated by the public, whether or not the conference to be held at Washington today shall have any practical result. It is an unprecedented circumstance, this of the president of the United States inviting to a conference with him the parties to a labor conflict, with a view to reaching a settlement; and there is reason at least to hope that it will have a good result. All the railroad presidents who were invited to the conference will attend, and from those and the leader of the miners Mr. Roosevelt will obtain personal statements of their respective positions. It is understood that his aim will be to induce both sides to make some concessions.

A Wilkesbarre dispatch says that all interested are of the opinion that the conference will bring about a settlement of the strike. If this shall be realized the country will owe a great debt of gratitude to President Roosevelt, whose action is prompted entirely by regard for the public interests. If he shall succeed in convincing those who attend the conference that it is their duty to make such concessions as will bring about a settlement he will have performed a service of inestimable value to the country, for prolongation of the struggle will mean not only more or less suffering to a great many people and injury to numerous industries, but probably grave and deplorable trouble in the anthracite region. The outcome of the conference will be awaited with general and profound interest.

THE TOBACCO COMBINATION.

The combination of American and British tobacco interests having been fully consummated, it remains to be seen what the effect will be upon the trade. According to the statement of the representative of the American Tobacco company who effected the amalgamation with the British company, the arrangement leaves the field open in England to the latter on condition that it does not interfere with the American company on this side. The rest of the world is left open to both and they may work together or separately as they choose.

A London dispatch of a few days ago stated that the amalgamation of British and American tobacco interests was received with mixed feelings, though unbounded satisfaction was expressed at the defeat of the American attempt to capture the British market. At the same time there was expressed an apprehension that the consumer will have to pay enhanced prices. One London paper pointed out that the new monopoly will almost inevitably send prices up, saying that as the Imperial company has no rival to fear in the British market it will be able to dictate fresh terms and therefore dealers regard the new amalgamation with considerable alarm. It is to be presumed that the American company will also send up prices, though it may not be able to pursue this course quite as arbitrarily as its foreign ally. While the latter has by this combination rid itself of a formidable competitor, it is probable that the American company will have to face growing competition at home, although it is undoubtedly in better position now to break down home competition than it was before the amalgamation. The working of this international combination will be watched with no little interest. Its immediate lesson is that such combinations are practicable, but whether they can be made to operate satisfactorily and advantageously to those who enter into them is yet to be demonstrated. The effect upon the market of the combination will doubtless speedily be shown and it is safe to say that it will not be in the interest of the consumers.

PROTECTING AMERICAN LABOR.

Judge Birdsall, republican candidate for congress in the Third district of Iowa, says in his letter of acceptance that whatever tariff revision or readjustment may be made by the republic party "will be made upon the lines of protection to American labor." There is no more important consideration than that of protecting the interests of labor, of maintaining the highest scale of American wages and the supremacy of the American workshop. This was strongly presented in the speech of President Roosevelt at Logansport, Ind., immediately before giving up his western trip. He declared that the tariff rate must never fall below that which will protect the American workman by allowing for the difference between the general labor cost here and abroad, so as to at least equalize the conditions arising from the difference in the standards of labor here and abroad—a difference which it should be our aim to foster insofar as it represents the needs of better educated, better paid, better fed and better clothed workmen of a higher class than any to be found in a foreign country. "At all hazards," said the president, "and no matter what else is sought for by changes of the tariff, the American workman must be protected in his standard of wages—that is, in his standard of living—and he must be secured the fullest opportunity of employment."

How vital this is to our material and social well being all intelligent people understand. Well employed and well paid labor is the foundation of prosperity. It is absolutely essential to working classes are much of the time idle and are poorly paid is decadent. A distinguished statesman has said: "To insure our growth in civilization and wealth we must not only have wages as high as they are now but constantly and steadily increasing. In my judgment, upon wages and the consequent distribution of consumable wealth is based all our hopes of the future and all the possible increase of our civilization. The progress of this nation is dependent upon the progress of all. Our civilization is not the civilization of Rome, a civilization of nobles and slaves, but a civilization which tends to destroy distinction of classes and to lift all to a common and a higher level." The republican party proposes to maintain the policy which has been so fruitful of benefits to labor. It proposes that the standard of living of the American workman shall not be lowered and that he shall be secured the fullest opportunity of employment. The democratic party assails this policy and demands that it be overturned. The issue is plain and it appeals to no class of the people more strongly than to the wage earners—the men who are employed in the various industries and are dependent upon those industries for subsistence for themselves and families. It is for them to determine which of the political parties offers what is best for their interests and welfare, and therefore for the good of all the people—the party that stands for the protection of labor, or the party that antagonizes the policy that gives such protection.

A CORRECTION CHEERFULLY MADE.

In The Bee's computation of the aggregate amount of city taxes paid for 1902 by the various railroads that center in Omaha the Omaha Bridge & Terminal railway was credited with a payment of \$1,827.75. The attention of The Bee has been called to the discrepancy between the tax receipts of the bridge company, which aggregate \$2,474.74, and the amount credited to them, viz.: \$1,827.75, and we cheerfully make the correction.

The original figures of The Bee were procured from the city treasurer and were absolutely correct at the time they were given, but the terminal company has within the past few days paid an additional \$646.99 that was not embodied in the original computation of the treasurer's report. The relative tax payments of the various railroads that center in Omaha as revised and credited this day by the city treasurer are therefore as follows:

Union Pacific.....\$13,994 85
Burlington.....3,423 99
Missouri Pacific.....2,627 55
Omaha Bridge & Terminal.....2,474 74
Rock Island.....653 10
Minnesota & Omaha.....622 50
Elkhorn.....447 75
Northwestern.....39 00
Milwaukee.....10 30
Total.....\$27,196 59

These figures represent the taxes paid on all the terminal facilities, including the main lines, side tracks, rights-of-way, depot grounds, freight and passenger depot buildings, headquarters buildings, machine shops, roundhouses, warehouses and other property outside of the rights-of-way, furniture, fixtures and all personal property of every description owned by the railroads, and in addition thereto it also represents the west half of the Union Pacific bridge and the Nebraska half of the East Omaha bridge. These properties at the very lowest estimate are capitalized at \$15,000,000, and had they been taxed in proportion to all other property in Omaha should have paid \$180,000 in city taxes into the city treasury to defray the expenses of maintaining municipal government. Crediting the discrepancy in the insertion of the Terminal Bridge company into the aggregate, the total amount of taxes which the railroads centering in Omaha have unloaded for the year 1902 upon all other taxpayers is, therefore, reduced from \$154,559.30 to \$153,803.41.

These figures are significant and instructive. They still show that for every \$6 in taxes paid by Omaha taxpayers \$1 represents a donation to the railroads.

A MAN OF VERACITY.

David H. Mercer's sworn certificate of expenses incurred before and during the late republican primaries in securing his nomination for congress aggregates \$335. In other words, Mr. Mercer has certified under oath that each and all the sums and other things of value directly or indirectly contributed, distributed or promised by him, and to the best of his knowledge and belief, by any and all friends in his behalf, or in any way in connection with his nomination to the office of representative in congress amounts all in all to the sum of \$335. It is an open secret that more than \$2,000 was expended in the First and Second wards of Omaha during the recent primaries in the interest of Mercer, and the aggregate of money paid out in his behalf in Douglas county will not fall much short of \$10,000. But Mr. Mercer swears, to his best knowledge and belief, that only \$335 was expended directly or indirectly, or in any way in connection with his nomination, and that the sum of \$335 represents in full every penny which to his knowledge has been expended or contributed toward the expense of his primary election campaign. Mercer's estimate of the sacredness of an oath may be inferred from his sworn statement of two years ago, on file in the office of the secretary of state, when he placed the total amount expended for securing his election at \$125. When it is borne in mind that the postmaster of South Omaha advanced \$300 toward Mercer's campaign expenses two years ago, of which amount Mercer repaid only \$100 and still owes \$700, the only conclusion to be reached is that his memory is almost as frail as that of his campaign manager.

People will be puzzled just how to account for Chancellor Andrews' refusal to accept an increase of salary from \$5,000 to \$5,000 voted him by the university regents. Dr. Andrews' income is of course more than the larger sum, because his \$5,000 salary as chancellor is supplemented by earnings from lectures and literary work outside of the university, and it may be that he prefers not to give occasion for a restriction of this activity. It will be remembered also that two years ago the regents, with his approval, voted to ask for a legislative appropriation of \$20,000 for a chancellor's residence, whose free occupation would have been equivalent to the present increase of salary. Under all the circumstances, the more rational explanation is that Dr. Andrews' attitude is prompted by a sincere desire to get bigger appropriations for the university from the coming legislature and he believes that this bit of self-sacrifice will help to get them.

Prosperity as the Issue

Every patriotic American citizen rejoices at the satisfactory reports daily made concerning the physical health of President Roosevelt. While there has been no disposition to take undue alarm over the fact that he has been in the surgeon's hands, news of steady improvement is gratifying to the popular mind as well as helpful to public stability.

The Vermont legislature has come to the rescue of the republican candidate for governor, who failed to get a certification of election because he had only a plurality instead of a majority of the votes cast. Unfortunately, legislatures in other states are not always so prompt to carry out the expressed wishes of the rank and file of the citizens.

It is noteworthy that the west is not in its knees before Secretary Shaw pleading for money. It is Wall street speculators who are crying out: "The west needs money." Would it not be a good plan for the secretary to require them to show a power of attorney when pretending to speak for the west?

Colonel Bryan has been engaged to go over into "the enemy's country" and make a speech at Cedar Rapids. But it is to be remarked that he does not go under the auspices of the Iowa democracy, but at the invitation of a non-partisan committee as a street carnival attraction.

There is a superabundance of money in the west for moving the crops, but there is not enough money in the west, nor in the east, for moving the stocks. Secretary Shaw's efforts to relieve the stock jobbers have been partially successful. The stock raisers did not need any relief.

Where Mercy Awaits.

Perhaps the best thing the next democratic national convention can do is to resolve that the party is without an issue or a man and throw itself on the mercy of the court.

Has Pierpont Lost His Wit?

If J. Pierpont Morgan is as shrewd as some of his devotees allege he is, he would never have permitted it to be known that he is opposed to the nomination of Mr. Roosevelt for the presidency.

Sample of Many Cases.

When there was a rampant anti-railroad sentiment in this state the Railroad commission was established. As the president of the greatest railroad in the United States wrote the law establishing it, the railroads have managed to survive.

What to Do in a Pinch.

We find the statement in the columns of a staid eastern contemporary that a Brooklyn firm has been experimenting with rosewood as a fuel for firing its engines. It is nearly as satisfactory as hard coal and considerably cheaper. Don't trade your pianos for soft coal. Burn them.

Beating of a Bad Boy.

Wall street is treated very much like the bad boy who is always getting into mischief—except for one thing. Uncle Sam is more indulgent than the average father, for the latter, after getting his bad boy out of his scrape, not infrequently takes him to the woodshed to impress upon him the necessity for being less reckless in the future.

Coming Fire Fighting Methods.

Fire department experts and insurance men are inclined to believe that before this generation passes off the stage the number of movable engines will be greatly reduced, because every big building will be furnished with standpipes and hose, with huge water tanks and distributing tubes and sprinklers, and a carefully drilled force of employees ready for battle against flames. This expectation has a fund of good sense behind it.

Marvelous Development.

The manufacture of electrical apparatus and supplies is developing in this country a capital, exclusive of capital stock, of over \$33,000,000. The value of the product was over \$91,000,000. This is a good showing for a comparatively new business and it will show a wonderful increase by the time of the next census. It does not include data as to operating companies in electric lighting, telephone, street railway or other corporations of that kind.

Pinched Coming and Going.

The public is between two fires in the matter of the coal strike, even if it is likely to be denied a fire for itself. It is asked to send money to Pennsylvania to continue the strike of the coal miners and to prepare to contribute heavily here to alleviate the suffering resulting from the strike if it is to be maintained in the coal regions. Meanwhile the coal dealers levy contributions upon it to support themselves during the depression in their business.

Distinguished Courage of a Woman.

An army nurse in the Philippines relinquished her leave of absence in order to tend two small-pox patients. Her devotion to what she considered her duty was exhibited the more clearly by the fact that she had never had small-pox herself. Had this nurse been a soldier and shown as distinguished courage in the face of the enemy, she might have received a medal of honor. As it is, General Chaffee has done all that can be done for her in the way of recognizing her service, by reporting it to the War department with a commendation of her courage.

An Overdone Business.

Overcrowding is the motto of the day. The factories are overcrowded, the tenements are overcrowded. The only reason why one does not say that the street cars are overcrowded is that they are something worse. All such overcrowdings, however, are sparseness and loneliness compared with the overcrowding of the bar. In 1901 there were fifty-eight law schools with 6,973 students. Now, according to an estimate made by Prof. Hufferd of Cornell, there are 120 schools with 14,000 students. Meanwhile the number of full-fledged lawyers in the United States is said by the last census to have been 114,000. No other profession, with the exception of teaching and of medicine, is so populous.

Centralization of Wealth.

A bulletin just issued by the Treasury department shows that the aggregate of all bank deposits in the United States is \$8,345,053,126, or \$108 per capita. In ten years' time this aggregate has increased \$3,904,562,580, the amount on deposit in 1892 being but \$4,440,490,546. Those who read the figures quoted will very naturally leap to the conclusion that the people of the country are nearly twice as rich in 1902 as they were in 1892. Such a conclusion will be found entirely erroneous when the figures are studied in detail. They will, in fact, prove that proportionately the people—speaking of the great mass of the population—are not as rich today as they were ten years ago.

The figures in detail show the national bank deposits to aggregate \$2,937,753,233; those of state banks, \$1,616,502,246; of loan and trust companies, \$1,771,081,174, and of private banks the sum of \$2,997,604,589 is shown to be on deposit. Now, it is well known that comparatively few of that great class whom Lincoln designated as "the plain people" keep their money in other than savings banks. Their accounts are uniformly small and the national, state and private banks dislike to bother with depositors whose accounts, deposits and balances are insignificant. Hence it is that "the plain people," the brain and brawn of the nation, who lay by a little each week and deposit it for safe keeping, go to the savings bank for their accommodations. From time immemorial deposits in banks of this class have been recognized as the standard by which to measure the wealth of the great bulk of our population.

What do the comparative statistics of savings banks show? We know that deposits in our population in the last ten years, this slight increase in savings bank deposits mean that the per capita of such deposits is smaller today than it was in 1892.

Stronger proof of the oft-repeated assertion that the wealth of the country is, with ever-increasing steadiness, being centralized in the hands of comparatively few people could not be asked for than is offered by these figures. The deposits of the people are growing proportionately smaller, while the deposits of the rich, of corporations and of trusts are growing constantly larger, and that at a rate of increase so rapid as to give rise to the gravest apprehensions.

EX-SENATOR ALLEN AND HIS ALLIES.

His Lagrarious Forecast of Democracy Causes Comment in the East. Brooklyn Eagle (ind. dem.). The Madison Mail does not take an encouraging view of democratic prospects. It declares that the outlook was never more discouraging, summing up the situation by saying: "A strange political blindness seems to have fallen on many democratic leaders just at the time when by the exercise of the highest standard of American wages and the Standard Oil trust, while both coal and iron are on the free list. These inconceivable trifles do not freeze him. His one purpose is to convince the wage earner of the country that the republican party is no longer his friend, and that the republican

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