THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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2	30,930	18	31,450
3	31,190	19	30,400
4	30,970	20	32,240
5	29,350	21	32,330
6	31,290	22	31,570
7	30,910	23	31,740
8	31,070	24	32,150
9	31,000	25	31,140
10	31,160	26	29,255
11	32,090	27	31,070
12	29,920	28	31,090
13	31,350	29	31,630
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GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK.

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

The first cold wave of the season is announced by the weather bureau. Get out your winter overcoats.

President Roosevelt is loaded for bear, and bruin might as well get out of his way if he wants to keep his fur intact.

Nobody knows what Tom Johnson will do with his circus tent, but it is dead sure he will not need it as a presidential candidate in 1904.

Although slightly disfigured, the vice chairman of the democratic state committee proclaims that he and his party are still in the ring.

No wonder Governor Savage takes Mercer's defeat so to heart. Mercer may want for himself that federal appointment he promised to the governor.

Our late lamented, on his way to Washington, by way of Minneapolis, has charged up his fall by the wayside to those "bats in the belfry."

While David B. Hill is beaten in New York it still looks as if the democratic party would have to consult with him before taking any important steps.

The Nebraska Woman's Suffrage association will celebrate its twenty-second anniversary early next month. At the age of 22 it should be ripe for marriage—to a man.

Having inspected the Chicago stock yards, the crown prince of Siam ought to be prepared to advise his royal father to insist on having none but American dressed meats on the royal table.

The retail lumber dealers' combine has been smashed by the decision of the state supreme court, but the wholesale lumber dealers have a community-of-interest understanding that will not be seriously disturbed by the decision.

The anthracite arbitrators are having so tough a time squeezing themselves through narrow holes in the ground and crawling on all fours around deep shafts and galleries that they could hardly be blamed if they should go on a strike.

Before the newspaper yarns and stories to the effect that Speaker Henderson is an aspirant for next year's republican nomination for governor of Iowa are accepted, it might be well to wait and hear from Mr. Henderson himself.

Signor Mascagni has discovered that the American gold mine has been tapped too often already by European musical prodigies to yield good returns on prospecting in merely conducting grand operas. Then, too, he is no longer young nor unmarried.

The recent enormous increase of the earnings and of the value of the Nebraska railroad properties every day accentuates the flagrant disparity of their assessment with reference to that of other kinds of property and raises a practical issue that must be met.

The Treasury department has discontined accepting municipal and state securities for government deposits. This is a parallel to the case of the frightened bank depositor who after vehemently demanding his savings exclaimed, "Can I really get my money? Well, then, I don't want it."

Now that South Omaha has voted a franchise to the Interstate Independent Telephone company, negotiations for swallowing that infant talkie-talkie may be looked for by the omniverous telephone octopus, which never loses a chance to gulp down competitive infants before they have cut their eye teeth.

A PROPOSITION FOR RAILROADS.

The railroad corporations in Nebraska could take no wiser course than to consent to a rational and equitable basis for the taxation of their properties. It must be apparent to those who control their affairs that they cannot hope long to maintain the present status, so unjust to the great body of the taxpayers of the state. The utmost within the bounds of possibility for them to accomplish would be to postpone for a very little time the payment of the just share of the tax burden which they have so long succeeded in escaping.

The Bee puts this proposition to the railroad corporations on the ground of their own interest. For them at this juncture to precipitate a desperate struggle to beat the tax roll, to maintain an army of lobbyists, agents and attorneys, to plunge into litigation and an elaborate system of manipulation of the state government, will be enormously expensive to the railroads themselves. The cost of such a campaign would go far toward paying the proportion of taxes which is fairly due, and which in spite of anything the roads can do will ultimately have to be paid anyhow.

Resistance on the part of the companies will certainly exasperate the people. The facts demonstrating the tax discriminations against them are too glaring and patent to be longer concealed or glossed over or obscured by false issues, no matter how cunningly trumped up or to be explained away. It is utterly impossible to break down the force of the truth. To attempt to seduce and manipulate the government under these conditions would require means so gross and obnoxious that popular agitation would spread like wildfire. It would be moonstruck madness for the railroad corporations of Nebraska now to provoke such a situation.

The railroads can richly afford to pay the same ratio of taxes that other property pays. They receive a lavish share of the benefit of the government in police protection and in other ways—no other property in the state so large a share. But they cannot so well afford to have the people of Nebraska lay a rough hand on the rate-making power, as has been done under far less provocation in Iowa, Texas and some other states. It is easier to excite than to regulate a popular agitation, and the carrier corporations should beware how they exasperate the people of Nebraska into a movement which, once under way, will not stop merely with a reform of assessment, but will inevitably go the full length of overhauling transportation rates—a most serious fact for the companies if they will stop to think of it.

The people would be only too glad to meet the railroad corporations more than half way for a reasonable accommodation. Such an adjustment, while relieving the roads of the vast expense involved in continuous political manipulations, would secure permanent comfort to both parties and go far to elevate the plane of Nebraska politics.

IOWA DEMOCRACY.

In some respects the chief importance of the late election consists in its relation to the interior politics of the democratic party with reference to 1904, and Colonel Bryan of Nebraska will find abundant food for reflection in the result in the adjacent state of Iowa, a state which is essential to the Bryan wing of the democracy. In 1896 and again in 1900 the Iowa delegation occupied a commanding position in the democratic national convention. From top to bottom of the party organization the conservative element either abdicated or was ousted from authority, and Colonel Bryan's will was party law.

This is now all suddenly reversed. The result of the election is to leave the party machinery in the control of the democratic opponents of Mr. Bryan. At the outset he distinctly lost in the state convention the battle for reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform, though by a small margin. But the conservatives instantly followed up their advantage by nominating gold democrats in nearly all the congressional districts and organizing in harmony with the candidates all the committees and other campaign agencies. Both sides are looking forward to and are already preparing for the crucial struggle for mastery of the party in the next national convention. Mr. Bryan's leadership is at stake. He has obviously committed a grave and not unlikely a fatal tactical error in permitting his antagonists at this time to get possession of party machinery in the great state of Iowa. If its delegation in 1904 shall line up with the anti-Bryan forces it seems impossible that they should win.

Yet had Mr. Bryan bestirred himself in May and June when the contest was being fought out, it is not unlikely that he could have turned the scale in Iowa. He did nothing of the kind, he permitted things to drift, and his followers, so long in complete control in that state, now find themselves as in the enemy's country.

THE COAL STRIKE COMMISSION.

It is the evident purpose of the anthracite strike commission to spare no effort to get at the bottom facts of the case and to give both parties to the memorable contest the fullest opportunity to present their views as to conditions and what may or should be done. The earnest interest and zeal which the members of the commission have thus far shown in the matter merits the warmest commendation. They have gone into the mines and investigated carefully and thoroughly the character of the labor performed there. They have made themselves acquainted by personal inspection and observation with the toil performed in mining coal far below the surface of the earth and the hardships and danger incident thereto. It is an exceptional duty, one certainly not expected, that the commission imposed upon itself in this respect, and it very forcibly indicates the determination to neglect no source of information, so that when the decision shall have been given there can be no reasonable or just complaint on either side that the facts and conditions have not been fully inquired into.

There has been submitted to the commission a statement of the demands of the mine workers and the reasons for them. These are the same that were presented to the operators and on which the strike was based. They ask for increase of wages, a reduction in hours of labor and changes in several respects from existing methods. They also ask for recognition of the organization of mine workers. It is expected that the answer of the operators to the statement of the miners will be received by the commission before its meeting next week, when the taking of testimony will begin. How long this will continue it is impossible to say with any degree of certainty, but doubtless the hearing of testimony will consume at least a month and very likely a longer time. The commission will probably place no arbitrary limit upon this, but as long as there is anything relevant and material to be submitted will hear it. Equal opportunity, it is assured, will be given to both sides, so that neither shall have reason to complain that it did not receive fair and impartial treatment.

The high character of the commission, its unquestionable ability, its manifest sense of the great responsibility resting upon it and the course it has thus far pursued, justify the belief that the decision it shall reach will be such as to command public confidence and be received without demur by all concerned in the controversy. What is hoped for as the result of the commission's work is not only a satisfactory settlement of the present issues between the miners and operators, but also that its findings will tend to prevent future controversies of this nature, and there is reason to think that this will be realized.

MERCENARY ADVICE.

A newspaper published for revenue only by nonresident owners, who are democrats in Kansas City, independents in Des Moines and St. Paul and half breed republicans in Omaha, has served notice upon the republican party of Omaha and Douglas county that it must keep up its factional fight regardless of consequences. This advice is not entirely disinterested. If the republicans of Omaha and Douglas county should harmonize their differences and agree to drop personal politics, the newspaper hybrid would soon be without an issue, its political advertising space at so much per line would not be marketable at any price and its patent political blood purifiers and purgatives would cease to find gullible purchasers.

The election returns have completely exploded the assertion that the opposition to Mr. Mercer came only from the vicious and criminal elements and their beneficiaries. They show that Mercer was beaten in the wards inhabited by the most substantial and respectable class of citizens, who usually have the courage of their convictions and may be depended on to support good government, national, state and local, whenever that issue is really involved.

In the Fourth and Sixth wards, which are ordinarily good for 1,000 republican majority, Mercer received only 300 majority.

The Eighth ward, which is republican by 200, was carried by Hitchcock by 62 majority.

The Fifth ward, which is 150 republican, went against Mercer by 150.

In the eminently respectable Ninth ward, in which the registration showed 560 republican majority, Mercer got only 100 majority.

The Seventh ward, which he claimed as his home, and which has no saloon element to speak of, was carried for Mercer only by trading off Mickey, so that although its republican majority should have been over 300, it gave a small majority for Thompson, the democratic candidate for governor.

In the face of these facts the appeal of the hybrid nonresident sheet for the continuance of the factional strife on the plea that the bad elements which caused the defeat of Mercer must be exterminated will scarcely strike a responsive chord with sensible republicans who want to have the party united instead of divided.

Third Vice President Bird of the Milwaukee road is a bird, in slang parlance. He declared before the Interstate Commerce commission that live stock rates, and, for that matter, all other freight rates, are unreasonable today because they are entirely too low to compensate for the service rendered. Inasmuch as every school boy knows that railroads do not look to their passenger traffic for dividends, the Milwaukee Bird must surely know that the granger roads and all the big trunk lines west of the Mississippi would be in the hands of receivers if it were not for the reasonable, if not excessive, freight rates. Possibly Mr. Bird had in view the beef packers' rebates and drawbacks allowed to other favored shippers when he expressed the conviction that freight rates were altogether too low today to be considered reasonable.

Fusion statisticians have figured it out that the defeat of Thompson, Stark, Robinson, Shallenberger and the rest must be charged up to the stay-at-homes rather than to popular satisfaction with republican prosperity. There is, however, a suspicion abroad that the majority of the stay-at-homes might have voted the republican ticket if they had ventured to leave their corn bins and cattle pens.

The right of a new Chicago-Omaha railroad to use the Union Pacific terminals for an entrance into Omaha is to be the subject of litigation in the federal court. Before the judge it will be made to appear by the Union Pacific that these terminals are of incalculable value and to be shared with other roads only at the pleasure of the company. Before the tax assessment boards, however, the Union Pacific will continue to argue that the terminals in Omaha are worth no more than any other part of the road of corresponding mileage and should be taxed only on a mileage basis.

If the members-elect to the school board are ambitious to improve the public schools of Omaha they have a fine opportunity to make enviable records for themselves. They will have to go about it in a way, however, different from that pursued by the controlling majority of the board during the past few years.

A Prussian bank has discovered that its trusted cashier has made away with $57,500 of the institution's money and securities. Unfortunately the cable advices fail to state whether the embezzling officer had first visited in the United States to see how it is done in this country by experts.

Why Should They Butt In?

Washington Post.

So far no organization of surgeons has been so magnanimous as to condemn the game of foot ball as it is played in this country.

Letting In the Light.

New York Mail and Express.

It needed no supreme court decision to tell us that silver dollars are a full legal tender, but a skeptical Michigan man seems to have required a revelation from that quarter to satisfy him.

An Ugly Job Finished.

Chicago Post.

The strike commission has ended its examination of the premises and will now straighten its aching back, take a deep breath of fresh air and settle back in its leather-cushioned chair to discuss the matter in physical comfort.

Tax the Surplus Water.

Indianapolis Sentinel.

If trusts will persist in overcapitalization, let taxes be assessed on the property at the valuation placed upon it by the trust. If the property of a trust is worth $1,000,000 for bonding and stocking it ought to be worth $1,000,000 for the purpose of taxation.

No Unseemly Haste.

Baltimore American.

The motorman and conductor of the trolley car in Pittsfield which ran into the president's carriage and killed his guard have been held for the grand jury on a charge of manslaughter. No one can accuse the authorities of the town of undue haste in the matter, whatever other charges may be made against them.

Frequent Elections a Good Thing.

Hartford Courant.

In addition to the necessity for political education which these frequent elections in America impose, they also avert all incentive to physical revolutions by keeping a direct and close political correspondence between the people and their representatives in the national and the state capitals and by giving the dominant sentiment a chance at all times to express itself in the statutes.

The Man with a Hobby.

New York Times.

There is a disposition to decry hobby riding as an occupation unworthy of a man with a full intellectual equipment. The man of one idea may be a bore at times and is commonly so voted by people with no ideas and no paramount issues, but, after all, he is the man who accomplishes most, and without his insistent purpose and continuous industry in the particular propaganda to which he devotes himself many of the influences which make for progress and from which the human race derives an immeasurable aggregate benefit wolud cease to be operative.

Vices that Kill.

Boston Transcript.

The Alaska native tribes are rapidly dying from the effect of the diseases and vices of civilization. Officers of ships recently arrived at San Francisco report that about 25 per cent of the coast Indians have died from measles. As one sea captain remarked: "When the natives began to wear civilized man's clothing and drink white man's whisky, then began their decline." The effects of new diseases upon any race is always very fatal, but the effects of vice are much more so, for disregard of the laws of nature is responsible for much of the severity of contagious diseases. This lesson has not yet been well learned by white men, however, and it is not strange that the Alaska Indian disregards it.

LOCALIZATION OF INDUSTRIES.

One of the Fascinating Features of the Census Bulletins.

Saturday Evening Post.

One of the most fascinating numbers of the delightful series of novelettes issued by Director Merriam under the general title of Census Bulletins has just appeared. It is called "The Localization of Industries," and it deals with the tendency of particular occupations to gather in particular neighborhoods. It shows, for instance, how over 85 per cent of all the collars and cuffs turned out in the United States are made in Troy, how over 64 per cent of the canned oysters are imprisoned in Baltimore, and how over 54 per cent of all American gloves are created in the adjoining cities of Gloversville and Johnstown, N. Y.

But all this, while interesting, is not the most interesting part of the story. That is found in the figures revealing the state of society in the towns themselves. Pause for a moment and reflect upon the meaning of this one fact: Nine-tenths of all the wage-earners in South Omaha, Neb., are engaged in slaughtering animals and packing meat. Imagine existence in such a town as Balzac or Zola or Tolstoi would have described it. Thirty thousand souls with but a single thought—all your neighbors, like yourself, working all day in blood, hides and tallow, talking about them all the evening, and dreaming about them all night. If you don't cut the throats of steers in South Omaha you make sausages. The literary and artistic circles of the town are represented by the poets who compose verses about beef extract and the artists who design labels for lard cans.

If you find the atmosphere of dead animals cloying you can obtain contrast by leaping from South Omaha to North Attleboro, Mass. Seventy-two workers out of every 100 in North Attleboro are making jewelry, and of course there is no chance for the twenty-eight to think or talk of anything else.

Fancy that for a gilded existence. Life in North Attleboro must be even more refined than in Gloversville, where three-quarters of the working population are making gloves, and certainly far more so than in Troy, where nearly seven-tenths of the wage workers are turning out collars and cuffs, or in Bethel, Conn., where all but fourteen out of 100 are producing fur hats.

The evident tendency is toward the division of the country into cells, each inhabited almost exclusively by the people engaged in a single industry. Such a state of things, long continued, must develop one-sided, distorted types of life unless forces strong enough to counteract it can be set in motion. From this point of view schools, libraries, newspapers, periodicals and all other broadening influences take on a new importance. Even politics can play a useful part here.

AMONG THE FALLEN.

Philadelphia Press: Probably this will break Mr. Pattison of the habit of running for governor in this state.

Washington Post: At any rate, Hod Bates has demonstrated again that he is a finish fighter and not a quitter.

Chicago Inter Ocean: David Bennett Hill as a presidential possibility also went down with the crowd on the temporary grandstand.

Atlanta Constitution: At the same time the country need not add to its other election sorrows the dread that Tom Johnson will not continue to do improved turns on the flying trapeze.

Kansas City Journal: Grover condescended to make only one speech in the late campaign, and the candidate for congress in whose interest it was delivered was snowed under. So much for "tariff reform."

Chicago Post: Think of David Bennett Hill's arising from political desuetude and starting again on the long, long road to Washington. What persistence! He would certainly arrive if he could only live long enough.

Chicago News: Chairman Griggs of the democratic congressional committee doubtless will give up in a day or two, but he should be allowed to get all the amusement he can out of believing that the new house will have a democratic majority.

Minneapolis Times: It is our unpleasant duty to announce that Swager Shirley, who ran for congress in Kentucky, is defeated, but there is some comfort in the fact that South Trimble pulled through all right, and Dan Linn Gooch was an easy winner.

Chicago Chronicle: Mr. Johnson borrowed a silver trumpet from Nebraska. His candidate for secretary of state, Bigelow, was not a democrat at all. He was a populist of the wild-eyed variety, with a brain full of visionary populistic projects of one kind and another. The favored candidate of the eccentric mayor of Cleveland was snowed under by a plurality of 100,000 or such a matter. This result is a condemnation of Tom Johnson and what he stands for.

POLITICAL DRIFT.

After all, the silent vote caused a thunderous sound the night after.

Weather prophets have eleven months in which to catch up to the political prophets.

Pennsylvania supplies an answer to the famous question, "Who struck Robert Pattison?"

Horace Boies is 75 years of age and is vigorous enough to lead a few more forlorn hopes.

In several notable instances General Apathy came up to the scratch in fine shape.

For the first time in a generation a republican governor has been re-elected in New York.

Mr. Coler came so near carrying New York that his admirers think he was rightly christened Bird.

There is no adequate reason given for the Wolfert's rooster's crowing. Perhaps the early returns from Manhattan deceived the old bird.

Mayor Rose of Milwaukee will not bloom in the governor's mansion for some years to come. A majority of 50,000 votes invited Milwaukee to keep its posies at home.

The re-election of Governor Van Sant of Minnesota breaks the plurality record in that state. The vote is a significant endorsement of the governor's fight against the railroad merger.

A Kansas political manager is of the opinion that the rural mail delivery system with its daily newspaper is largely responsible for the political apathy in that state. He points out that the political rally has heretofore given the farmer an opportunity to drive to town and meet his neighbors; it has been one of the remedies for the loneliness of farm life, but the daily newspaper now delivered at his door removes this feeling of loneliness and serves to occupy agreeably his leisure hour.

FLASHES OF FUN.

Chicago Post: "What is an egotist?"
"An egotist is a man who minds his own business with such persistent earnestness that it annoys you."

Washington Star: "On whose side is that expert witness supposed to be testifying?" asked one juror.
"I don't know," answered another; "I forgot to notice which lawyer called him to the stand."

Philadelphia Press: "Wow! Ugh!" grunted the unfortunate old man. He had walked into the square to hear the band play, but he trod upon a banana skin, and came down hard.
"Say! Grandpap," cried Muggsy, the newsboy, "ain't you got no more patriotism than ter set down w'en de band's playin 'America?'"

Somerville Journal: Governess—How many feet make a yard?
Ethel—I don't know, but I heard Mr. Johnson say last night that there were 5,000 square feet in his.

Philadelphia Record: "Kin any one make a motion?" asked one of the audience.
"Gents," said Alkali Bill, chairman of the meeting, as he laid his revolvers on the table, "owin' to the general custom of wearin' weapons in these parts I trust no one will make a motion."

Baltimore American: "What do you regard," asks the interviewer, "as the period of greatest development in American humor?"
Here the person who is being interviewed waxes thoughtful. At last he answers:
"Well, I have been writing jokes for the last five years."

Boston Transcript: Prender—This is a great country, and we still have our patriots, thank heaven!
Snyders—Right you are! Just think of the money that men are willing to give in order to serve the country in any capacity, no matter how insignificant!

THE MELANCHOLY DAYS.

Baltimore American.

One more unfortunate
Weary of breath,
Wife too importunate,
House-cleaned to death,
Carpet wet with his blood,
Flesh full of tacks,
Stovepipes all crushing him,
Giving him whacks.

Look at his garments,
See his mashed foot!
Look at the face of him,
Frescoed with soot;
Treat him not scornfully,
Think of him mournfully,
Unmarried man!
Watch one day's house cleaning—
Volcanic plan meaning—
Sneer at him, jeer at him,
Then—if you can.

Alas for the rarity
Of wifely charity
Under the sun!
Oh, it was pitiful!
In a whole cityfull,
Feed had he none,
Breakfastless, dinnerless—
Supperless, hopelessness—
This was his lot.
Chilled steel sandwiches,
With bites full of hitches,
Face powder in coffee—
Rage of the hungry man
Only thing hot.

Battle, bang, din and dash,
Shrieks, scolds and crash and smash,
Rattle and roar—
Wife's tongue twelve knots an hour,
Children of demon power,
Pipes in a pour—
Mad from his cup's full brim,
Glad would fate but his glim
Thoroughly douse,
In misery's corner curled,
Quick, frantic, to be hurled,
Like a dead mouse,
Anywhere—anywhere—
Out of the house!