

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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GEORGE B. TESCHUCK. Notary Public.

Colonel Cody has vindicated his character as an artist by announcing his farewell tour.

If Kansas City wants a few tips on how to run a successful street pageant Ak-Sar-Ben will surely be glad to accommodate.

President Roosevelt found the game in the Mississippi underbrush harder to deal with than when he went after Antracite Baer.

With Buffalo Bill launched in the hotel business, the only thing left for the ambitious hotel man is to branch out into the show business.

It is safe as a general policy for public bodies like school boards and city councils to take action in the open rather than in star chamber.

We may put it down in the safe column that David B. Hill will not be the orator of the occasion for the Jacksonian banquet on next St. Hickory's day.

Whatever happens in the controversy over the alleged illegal fencing of the public lands a goodly number of soldiers' widows will have made a nice financial stake out of it.

In mixing into the fencing business on behalf of the big cattle men who are trying to monopolize the government land, the Commercial club takes chances on being fenced in with the fences.

Unless the South Dakota towns can arbitrate their differences it looks as if about the only way to please all the towns that want the state capital would be to put it on wheels for one-week stands.

All sorts of plans for tariff revision are said to be ready to be laid before congress as soon as it convenes, but it is no violation of confidence to say that there will be no tariff revision at the coming session.

Some scores of cities and towns which have claims under consideration as places for the establishment of public libraries will learn with pleasure that Andrew Carnegie's illness is not likely to prove serious.

Up to date the railroad managers have not said a word about Tax Commissioner Fleming's action in raising the railroad assessment up to within two or three millions of the true value of their property, but they are doing a good deal of thinking all the same.

With one bank president and one millionaire convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for bribery and corruption of public officials and a lot more of the same kind of criminals well along on the same road, there is a general disposition to point with pride toward Missouri.

Druggists and liquor dealers should not permit themselves to be harassed or dragged by the Brouch police board into submitting to double taxation in following the plain provision of the law that requires them to advertise in the paper of largest bona fide circulation in the county, which always has been and still is The Omaha Evening Bee.

If the faith cure is good to keep the fire department intact on a promise that the council will provide in next year's appropriations for any overlap in the fire fund, why should it not have been applied equally to the police department? Why such eagerness to dismiss sixteen patrolmen on the flimsy excuse of a faked-up exhibit of police fund shortage?

THE TALK OF TARIFF REVISION.

Not until President Roosevelt's annual message is made public will the country know definitely what his position is in regard to tariff revision. What the president has publicly said respecting the tariff shows that he is opposed to changes that might be detrimental to labor and injurious to the independent industries. In one of his speeches he said 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. He declared that "at all hazards and no matter what else is sought for by changes of the tariff, the American workman must be protected in his standard of wages and secured the fullest opportunity of employment. It may be inferred from this that Mr. Roosevelt is not unfavorable to some modification of the tariff, at least as to certain schedules, but he is unmistakably for the maintenance of the principle of protection.

What can be very confidently predicted is that the president will not attempt to force tariff legislation, so that the report that a special session of the Fifty-eighth congress will be called to consider tariff revision may be dismissed as groundless. This is a matter which it is entirely safe to say Mr. Roosevelt will leave wholly to the determination of the republicans in congress, with only such suggestions as may be necessary to acquaint congress and the country with the position of the administration. There are many republicans who believe that the tariff should be revised, all these, however, favoring the maintenance of protection. There are many more who are opposed to revision and the late elections appear to have demonstrated that these are in the majority. At all events, the president is not likely to assume to decide which of these elements represents the sentiment regarding tariff revision of a majority of the republican party and least of all to attempt to force action on the question.

What seems assured is that President Roosevelt will recommend the appointment by the present congress of a commission of experts to investigate the operation of the tariff and report to congress, with suggestions of such changes as may be deemed advisable. It is thought probable that congress will authorize such a commission and if it should the investigation that would be required of the commission would extend over a year and perhaps longer. The question which the president is understood to regard as most pressing is that of the supervision and regulation of the great combinations. In the event of there being no legislation in regard to this at the coming session it is possible that the Fifty-eighth congress might be called in special session to take action on the question. At all events, there is not the slightest probability of a special session of the next congress to consider tariff revision.

SOUTH AMERICAN COMPETITION.

American meat exporters are said to be meeting with a formidable competition from Argentine in the British market. For several years the cattle raisers of that southern country have been sending more or less meat to the United Kingdom, but much of it reached its destination in a condition to be altogether outclassed by the beef from the United States. It appears that now the Argentine shippers have found a way to preserve their meat that renders it almost if not quite as good when it reaches England as the American beef and sells only a shade below it.

A late London dispatch says that in the opinion of many experts this means that the strength of the American beef ring there has been broken; that having found a way to ship dead meat with the care and regulation of temperature which enables the Chicago houses to bring their goods to the British market in such first-class condition, the big South American companies are expected now to be able to ship unlimited supplies. It is stated that great curiosity is felt as to the way the Beef trust will meet this competition. The situation is a most welcome one to the British consumer, as it promises cheaper beef and if that shall be the result there it is possible that the American consumer may also be benefited, since if our exports to the United Kingdom should be materially reduced there will be a better supply for the home market. However, this South American competition may not prove so formidable as it now threatens to be and the promise of much cheaper meat is nowhere particularly favorable, at least for the immediate future.

PACIFIC COAST COMMERCE. There has been a very notable growth in the commerce of the Pacific coast, particularly from Puget sound, within the past year, as shown by official statistics. It is surprising to find that in the shipments of oats to foreign ports Puget sound is second only to New York, that in the shipments of wheat for the nine months ending with September it was fourth among the ocean ports of the country and that in the shipments of wheat flour Puget sound occupies fifth place among American ocean ports.

Several circumstances have contributed to the growth of this commerce. The failure of the Australasian wheat crop and the restoration of peace in South Africa have brought about a largely increased demand for Pacific coast wheat and flour in South Africa. At the same time the shipments of wheat to England and flour to China, while not so large as in former years, have still been liberal. The rise of Puget sound as a wheat exporting port has been phenomenal, following the rapid development of the great fertile plains of eastern Washington, brought about by the large homeseeker movement from the east. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer remarks that while in

grain shipments Puget sound is taking rank with the very first ports in the country, this is itself insignificant beside the fact that the breadstuffs thus shipped are grown and in the case of flour ground in the state of Washington.

The Pacific coast states are in a highly prosperous condition and there is no apparent reason why their commerce should not continue to increase and their resources be more rapidly developed in the future than in the past.

CANAL RIGHT OF WAY.

The latest information in regard to the negotiations with Colombia is encouraging. At the close of last week there was a conference between Secretary Hay and the legal representative of the Panama Canal company, at which the secretary of state is said to have told the attorney that there was really small ground for solicitude, that he was making substantial progress and was sanguine of a satisfactory conclusion of negotiations for right of way soon.

It is also stated and doubtless upon good authority that the administration is not disposed to allow any undue delay through attempts on the part of Colombia to secure concessions materially beyond what this country has proposed. If Colombia is persistent in her extraordinary demands it is said the administration will ask congress to amend the Spooner act that the agreement with Colombia should not be required to precede the purchase of the property and franchise of the new Panama Canal company. With the purchase of the canal company's property consummated the United States would proceed to construct the canal regardless of Colombia if that country should insist upon demands believed by our government to be unfair and unreasonable.

The terms which our government has offered Colombia are fair and generous. There is no disposition to take any advantage of the southern republic. The United States can afford to be liberal in this matter and is willing to be. The offer of \$7,000,000 for the concessions asked of Colombia is generous, especially when it is considered that the construction of the canal would be of immense benefit to that country. It would immediately put a vast amount of money in circulation there and it would be a permanent advantage, aiding incalculably in the development of Colombia. In view of this the obstructive course of that country is remarkable, but it will doubtless be made to see the un wisdom and futility of any attempt to exact terms which the government of the United States regards as unfair and unreasonable.

PLAYING A HIGH-HANDED GAME.

It was to have been expected that the Brouch police commission would exert all its influence to carry out the revenge of its maker, Governor Savage, who feels very much aggrieved over the position taken by The Bee on the Bartley parole and pardon. There is, however, no warrant nor excuse for the attempt of the board to harass and damage the druggists and liquor dealers of Omaha, who are compelled by the plain provision of the law to publish their applications for licenses in the paper of largest circulation in the county, which for more than twenty years has been The Omaha Evening Bee.

Under the decisions of the supreme court the police board has no right to designate any newspaper as the medium for advertising applications for licenses. Its authority in the premises is purely judicial and limited to hearing testimony in cases of remonstrance and determining whether the protest is sustained by the proofs. But under the lead of Brouch the board seems to be bent upon law breaking instead of law enforcement, judging from the order issued at its last meeting, which commands the applicant for license, who had filed a certified notice of publication in The Evening Bee, to furnish the proofs that he has published in the paper of largest circulation. This is an unheard of proceeding, absolutely unwarranted in law and contrary to its letter and spirit. The statute relative to applications for licenses reads as follows:

No action shall be taken upon such application until at least two weeks' notice of the filing of the same has been given by publication in a newspaper published in said county having the largest circulation therein, when if there be no objection in writing made and filed to the issuance of said license and the county board is in session, and all other provisions of this chapter have been fully complied with, it may be granted.

The only difference between the ordinance under which the board is acting and this section of the statute is that the fire and police commission is substituted for the county board. With this specific direction before it, what right has the board to require the applicant to furnish proofs of circulation in the absence of a written protest, and how can the board go into a judicial investigation of relative circulation when there is no remonstrance to act upon and no right to subpoena witnesses or enforce an order to produce circulation records? If the police board has a right, to ask for proofs on this score it would have a right to ask druggists and liquor dealers to furnish proofs that they had not sold liquor to minors or Indians or violated the Slocumb law in other respects.

Is not the board in duty bound to recognize the good faith of the applicant so long as no remonstrance has been filed? Is not the action of the board a palpable attempt to coerce druggists and liquor dealers into submitting to an audacious holder?

What does the Omaha delegation to the legislature propose to do about charter amendments? That question is asked by business men and taxpayers every day, but no member of the delegation has yet ventured to enlighten the public as to his intentions or disposition with reference to the charter. It is doubtful

whether any two members of the delegation have ever discussed charter amendments or have come to any agreement on any proposed change in the charter. Unless a conference between the delegation is held soon with a view to arriving at an understanding before the legislature meets the delegation is liable to be torn up over charter amendments during the entire session, and Omaha will, as usual, have a patched quilt charter for two years longer.

South Omaha will ask the Douglas delegation to the legislature to devise and support a bill that will prevent boodling in the school board. What kind of a stockade the delegation is to invent to fence out men who keep their hands behind their cottails has not been suggested. Up to date the most ingenious inventors and patent rights men have been unable to devise a machine or a law that will make men in public life absolutely boodle proof. The nearest that anybody has ever come to it has been through unpurchasable prosecuting attorneys and juries and courageous judges on the criminal bench.

The heads of great educational institutions ought to beware of hasty and intemperate expressions in discussing economic and industrial questions. Science and education ought to be receptive to progressive movements. President Eliot's inconsiderate denunciation of organized labor has aroused quick and heated response, as it is inevitable that all such expressions will. Nothing could be more unfortunate than to have the feeling grow up that there is a line of antagonism between higher education and interests of labor under modern conditions.

The experiments of the Navy department in submarine navigation have already demonstrated that hereafter naval warfare must take this method into serious account. It is certain that if the two submarine boats now being tested had been in Santiago bay it would have been extremely perilous for the United States fleet to attempt to maintain the close blockade that it did. The destruction of a single warship along the coast, apparently unconscious of his surroundings. He expects, as though by chance, on the well-polished shoe of a passerby. Before the man has time to protest the medicant drops on his knees and, with the remnants of a well-worn handkerchief, rubs away at the soiled shoe, meanwhile pouring forth profuse apologies. Nine out of ten he gets a dime for his politeness.

The tremendous amount of business transacted in the course of a year on the floor of the New York Stock exchange, says a New York letter, can be understood only on an examination of the figures for a recent financial publication. Making a condensed use of his figures we find these facts: During 1879 the sales of shares of stock recorded amounted to \$1,166,652, and in both 1881 and 1882 they exceeded \$1,000,000. But in the next year they dropped to \$6,000,000, and, with the exception of the year 1888, suffered a steady decline to 1890, when they were only \$6,000,000.

In the three years following there was a slight reaction, but in 1895 the sales reached the lowest point they have known in a quarter of a century—\$9,000,000. From that year they increased steadily up to 1899, when they reached the hitherto unprecedented figure of 173,970,943. In 1900 they declined to 140,000,000, but this was greater than in any year in the history of the exchange except 1899, and in 1901 they amounted to the tremendous total of 251,786,341. "This last year was an exceedingly lively one on the exchange, both in the wide range and rapid fluctuations in prices and in the number of times the previous record of sales in a single session was broken. The year opened well, with transactions averaging over 1,500,000 a day and on January 7, for the first time in the history of the exchange the sales recorded on the ticker passed the 2,000,000 mark, reaching a total of 2,645,000. The contest for the control of Northern Pacific began early in the year and so lively did the trading become that on April 4 the 2,000,000 mark was again passed. Fifteen days later the record was again broken by a total of 2,200,000 sales. For two days following this the sales exceeded 2,000,000 daily, the total for the week ending May 4 being 15,626,852. Twice in this week the daily sales exceeded 3,000,000; on Tuesday, April 30, the highest mark ever attained on the New York Stock exchange was reached, with a record of 3,285,000 shares sold, and on May 9, the day of the crisis, the sales amounted to 3,300,500. It is worth noting that in this period the record in sales of a single stock was also made, the sales of Union Pacific reaching 660,930 on April 24.

END OF BRYANISM.

A Premature Gob of Joy from the Political Bureaucracy. New York Sun. From an unseen and remote crevice in the democratic wreck comes a voice that falters out: "The election returns indicate a divided victory. They will be analyzed and discussed in next week's issue. Who cares? Who will read the Commoner now? There is no interest in the Bryan post-mortem. The patient tired everybody out in dying, and even his friends will clamor that he stay dead. The voice borne to us now comes from the limbo of the politically departed. Limbo is defined as "an indefinite border region in the intermediate state, nearer hell or heaven according to the class of souls there awaiting judgment." Democratic tradition will not consign Mr. Bryan to heaven—the party has suffered too much from his fidelity.

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Springfield Republican. Never before probably in the history of railroading has there been so extensive an advancing of wages by the voluntary action of the companies as is now going on. The example of the Pennsylvania is being followed in whole or part by the New York Central, the Reading, the Union Pacific, and, as reported, by the Lake Shore, the Wheeling & Lake Erie, "Big Four" and "Nickel Plate" roads, all closely related to the coal business. Interest in something like 300,000 men will be affected by wage increases either already granted within a few days or practically determined upon. This is the way to broaden the foundation of a property which has been in great danger of becoming top heavy.

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ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Hipples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

A notable exhibition of up-to-date fire fighting apparatus was given in New York last Sunday. Ever since tall buildings became a feature of cities the problem of fire protection has been a serious one to municipal authorities and fire insurance companies. Fireproof construction does not remove the anxiety, for fireproof buildings do burn. Besides, the height of skyscrapers places them to a large extent beyond the range of fire hose and fire engines. The skyscraper chosen for the test of the standpipe system was the Flatiron, so named because of its shape, located at the intersection of Broadway and Twenty-third street. The building is equipped with the best known system of standpipes, by means of which any floor may be flooded. The main question was whether water could be forced to the top of the building, 304 feet from the sidewalk. Two of the most powerful engines in the fire service were used, and nine streams of water were poured out of the windows of the top floor. "When the connection was made," says the World, "the water pressure at the hydrant on engine 1 was twenty-four pounds, and on engine 14 twenty-one pounds. Engine 1 is the most powerful steam engine in the department, being capable of pumping 1,900 gallons a minute. Engine 14's capacity is 900 gallons.

"Engine 1 was first used in getting a single stream to the roof. This was accomplished without difficulty, and in a few minutes the gauge at the nozzle, which was one and one-eighth inches in diameter, showed a working pressure of 120 pounds. Similar results were obtained when a one-and-one-half-inch nozzle was used.

"Next nine simultaneous streams were thrown across Broadway from windows on each floor, beginning at the thirteenth story and ending at the roof. The nozzles used for these streams each measured three-quarters of an inch. The water for this display was furnished by engine 1 working at its full capacity. The steam gauge registered 142 pounds pressure to the square inch and the water pressure at the engine's pump was 300 pounds. The pressure at the nozzle on the roof was forty-seven pounds.

Ideas count for success, even in street begging. Old tricks become tiresome through familiarity. The mendicant of the present day, if he would live well, must get something new. One of the latest dodges of the New York mendicant is to be heard. It first arouses the indignation of the victim, then pacifies him, and finally wins his sympathy and his money. It is worked in this way: A shabbily attired man hurries along the street, apparently unconscious of his surroundings. He expects, as though by chance, on the well-polished shoe of a passerby. Before the man has time to protest the mendicant drops on his knees and, with the remnants of a well-worn handkerchief, rubs away at the soiled shoe, meanwhile pouring forth profuse apologies. Nine out of ten he gets a dime for his politeness.

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AYER'S PILLS. Take Ayer's Sarsaparilla. We say it, and the doctors say it, too. Ask your own doctor about it. He can tell you just how it lifts up the depressed, gives courage to the despondent, brings rest to the overworked. If your liver is sluggish, bowels constipated, tongue coated, better take one of Ayer's Pills at bedtime. These pills greatly aid the Sarsaparilla, and cure all liver troubles. Two grand family medicines. J. C. AYER & CO., Lowell, Mass.

Philadelphia Press: "The idea of calling a figure of whisky the life preserver. 'What's the matter with that?' 'Well, usually it's the cork in it that makes the life preserver effective, but your flask's no good until you take the cork out.'"

New York Weekly: "Profligate means 'rotten,' don't it, pal? I thought the literary man's little son. What made you think that?" "Why, our teacher said today that you were a 'profligate poet.'"

Philadelphia Press: Klubman—Why do you object to your wife taking up golf? I thought you approved of it. Outlaw—So I did until I heard her remark that the umbrella stand in the hall would be a good place for her to keep sticks.

Romerville Journal: Tom—She says she is 19 years old. Jack—Does she? Well, you must remember that she was 7 years old before she learned to count.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Yes, he and his partner are doing very well. They are hand-writing experts, you know." "And can they find enough to do?" "Oh, yes, the other calmly, 'in case you will find Jim engaged on one side and his partner on the other.'"