

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

**E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.**  
**PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.**

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**THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.**

**STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.**  
 State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:  
 George B. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of November, 1902, was as follows:

No.	Copies	Total
1.	29,450	29,450
2.	31,090	31,090
3.	31,250	31,250
4.	31,088	31,088
5.	31,550	31,550
6.	31,210	31,210
7.	30,340	30,340
8.	29,375	29,375
9.	31,300	31,300
10.	30,970	30,970
11.	30,700	30,700
12.	30,820	30,820
13.	30,720	30,720
14.	31,310	31,310
15.		
Total	323,910	323,910
Less unsold and returned copies	8,237	
Net total sales	323,910	323,910
Net average sales	30,755	

GEORGE B. TSCHUCK.  
 Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 6th day of November, A. D. 1902.  
 M. B. HUNGATE,  
 Notary Public.

**RAILROAD PROFITS AND CHARGES.**

The only ground alleged on behalf of the transportation companies in justification of a general advance of rates is what a prominent railroad president describes as "the increased cost of living for railways." No doubt wages and the price of materials have advanced, but the officially verified facts regarding railroad earnings do not give warrant for a general advance of charges. The following figures taken from the reports to the Interstate Commerce commission show the gross and net earnings and net income of the railroads of the United States for five years preceding and including 1901:

	Gross Earnings.	Net Earnings.	Net Income.
1897....	\$1,122,662,773	\$660,565,600	\$412,257,409
1898....	1,247,325,421	429,352,345	140,319,421
1899....	1,213,619,118	456,641,119	164,154,813
1900....	1,487,944,814	525,616,303	227,280,447
1901....	1,585,526,937	568,128,747	241,511,318

Thus the net income over and above fixed charges and taxes has increased within five years almost exactly 300 per cent. It is nowhere claimed that the average advance of wages to railroad employes during the same time has exceeded 15 per cent, including the advances that have recently been made. But whatever the increase may have been, and whatever the advance of prices in all the elements comprising "cost of living for railways," they have not prevented the corporations from actually trebling their net income—certainly a rate of profit so magnificent that it ought to satisfy every legitimate demand.

This statement, however, does not comprehend the entire profits on transportation, for in a very important sense the amount of earnings invested in permanent improvements may be considered as profits since their effect is to increase profits for a long future period. The amount of earnings devoted to maintenance of way grew from \$115,000,000 in 1895, to \$220,000,000 in 1901, and for maintenance of equipment from \$108,000,000 in 1895 to \$184,000,000 in 1901. Notwithstanding these and many other appropriations, the companies were able to declare dividends in 1901 \$29,834,000 greater than in the preceding year.

The enormous profits demonstrated by the reports of the roads come from general property, from the increased tonnage which active industry has produced, and there should be a fair apportionment of the benefits. Certainly the employes of the roads should have their share in increased wages, which upon the whole they have not yet secured. But they are not more entitled to such advance than the general public is entitled to its share in decrease of rates. The astonishing result of a 300 per cent increase of net income in five years is sufficient to provide both for increase in wages and decrease in charges, and yet leave a remainder of benefit to stockholders many times greater than that of either the employes or the patrons.

**NOT ACCEPTABLE TO GERMANY.**

The proposition submitted to the German government by President Castro of Venezuela not proving acceptable, it is stated that steps will be immediately taken by Germany to collect the debt claimed to be due German citizens by the southern republic. It is understood that Castro represented that it is impossible for Venezuela to pay the debt now, no matter how much she may desire to satisfy immediately the claims against her, and suggested an agreement providing for deferred payments. The proposition, it appears, the German government regards as inadequate and being especially designed to gain further time. There is no doubt that Venezuela is not in a financial condition to at once pay this debt, said to be about \$2,000,000. That country is practically bankrupt and its revenues are less than its expenditures. This is undoubtedly well known to the German government, which there is reason to believe would be disposed to be lenient were the Venezuelan government to fully acknowledge the obligation and show an honest intention to settle it. This, however, is not President Castro's way, though perhaps he will change his tactics when he receives an ultimatum and finds German warships at the ports of Venezuela for the purpose of collecting customs if satisfactory arrangements are not made for the payment of the debt within a reasonable time.

The coercive measures which Germany threatens to take will not be interfered with, it is safe to say, by the United States. President Roosevelt evidently had this matter in mind when he said in his message regarding the independent countries in this hemisphere: "It behooves each one to maintain order within its own borders and to discharge its just obligations to foreigners. When this is done they can rest assured that, be they strong or weak, they have nothing to dread from outside interference." There have recently from expressions of opinion abroad, elicited by the German and British claims against Venezuela, that in regard to the conduct of the various American republics the United States should accept the responsibility. It is argued that this country cannot properly enforce the command to European nations of hands off in regard to affairs in this hemisphere without holding itself ready to answer for the good conduct of its wards—the other republics. The United States, however, has never interposed any obstacles to the collection of a just debt from any of its sister republics which were disposed to repudiate their obligations to the citizens of foreign powers. Our protection to the independent countries of this hemisphere applies to their territory, but does not assume to shield them from the payment of their just obligations.

If Venezuela persists in her attitude regarding the German and British claims she must take the consequences, her only guaranty so far as the United States is concerned being that her territory shall remain intact. The probability is, however, that President Cas-

tro will conclude that the wiser and better way is to come to terms and effect an amicable settlement.

**EXEMPTION LAWS IN NEBRASKA.**

The retail dealers of Omaha and throughout the various Nebraska cities and towns will endeavor to secure from the coming legislature a modification of the present exemption laws in those provisions which they think unfair to them. The exemption laws are designed to protect the wage worker and salaried clerk upon whose earnings a family depends for support, but not to stimulate and encourage deadbeatism and imposture. The safeguards of the law should be thrown around extreme cases on both sides—the merchant who has been imposed upon should be considered equally with the unfortunate customer who by stress of circumstances is unable to pay his bills promptly. The honest man should not force a merchant to take recourse to legal enforcement of a just and undisputed claim any more than an honest merchant should be compelled to suffer by dishonesty hiding behind legal exemptions.

It is to be hoped that whatever changes may be made in the law as it now stands will look to both parties to the contention and that a solution fair to all may be arrived at.

**MERIT SYSTEM FOR CONSULS.**

The president said that it is much to be desired that our consular system be established by law on a basis providing for appointment and promotion only in consequence of proved fitness. Two bills are now in congress providing for reform in the consular service and it is reported that the State department is engaged in drafting a new bill that will probably be presented during the present session. The measure now in the senate was framed by Senator Lodge and is based largely on civil service regulations. It is apprehended that this would prevent its acceptance by the house of representatives, in which there is considerable opposition to the classified service. Another consular reform bill was introduced in the house at the last session which its author, Representative Adams of Pennsylvania, believes will be more acceptable to that body than the senate measure.

The civil service commission, in its last report, urged the application of the merit system to the consular service. It pointed out the importance which that service has attained and said that in order to maintain and increase our industrial pre-eminence we ought to have by far the best consular service in the world. "We should have the quickest and most reliable information as to our opportunities, as well as business representatives who are able to improve them. This can only be done by a consular service which is uniformly instructed and alert." After indicating some of the defects in the service as at present constituted and which are inevitable under the existing system, the report says: "Good men can be secured even for the smaller places when faithful service in those places becomes the appropriate portal for entrance to higher positions. The service will then be more uniformly filled by men of intelligence, while the further qualifications of integrity, fidelity and energy will be enhanced by the prospect of promotion for good service. It is to the competitive system, which has so greatly improved the other parts of the service, that we must look for the permanent betterment of the consular branch."

Unquestionably the consular service of the United States is now more efficient than ever before in our history. There are in it many capable and faithful men, as the consular reports attest. Our manufacturers and merchants are kept well informed as to commercial conditions abroad and very generally the consular officials are attentive to their duties. There are some defects, however, that need to be corrected and it is especially desirable that the efficiency which has been reached shall be maintained. The country wants a consular service as nearly perfect as it is possible to make such a service and in order to attain this it must be divorced from politics and proved fitness be made the basis and only test for appointment and promotion. That is the principle observed by European countries in regard to their consular service and there is no sound reason why it should not be applied here.

Opponents of the power canal project are trying to confuse the public mind by setting up contesting claims to the water rights. This game is so transparent that anyone can see through it, its object being by delay to prevent any action on the franchise ordinance. The people of Omaha have been discussing a power canal so long that they will have no patience with mere obstructionists. If Omaha is to have cheap power the sooner it comes the sooner will it be in position to build up its manufacturing enterprises and expand in every direction.

The hotel catastrophe at Chicago was obviously due to criminal disregard of the simplest principles of safety in construction. The hotel was built of highly inflammable materials, the escapes defective and the general arrangement that of a fire trap. The responsible authorities utterly failed in their duty. It was a building in which fire was likely to occur and in which, if it did occur, there was certain to be terrible loss of life. Such carelessness is a high crime in fact, and it ought to be made so in law.

Druggists and liquor dealers are discovering that the holdup practices of piratical newspapers have no limits when once encouraged. The Bee's circulation in Douglas county, entitled under the law to the publication of notices of liquor license applications, has been repeatedly upheld by the courts against all

competitors, but that does not stop other newspapers from trying to shake down license applicants by threats, savoring closely of blackmail. Instead of one holdup, liquor dealers are now threatened with two holdups. The only thing for them to do is to advertise in The Bee and refuse to be bled by the pretenders. Let them remember that no applicant for a license who has advertised in The Bee has ever been refused a license on account of defective application.

If the object of President Stickney is to sell to competing companies his new Chicago-Omaha line, it looks as if he might secure a handsome price. However, it is due him to say that he declares that the object is not to sell.

**One Wise Kicker.**  
**Philadelphia Press.**  
 The Pennsylvania railroad management is wise in opposing a general advance in freight rates. There has been no good reason presented for any such general increase and it is to be hoped that it will not take place.

**The Slogan of Optimists.**  
**Indianapolis Journal.**  
 When President Roosevelt wrote of Americans as "men with iron in their blood" he could not have intended to include those little Americans who distrust the ability of the people to solve great and difficult problems. He did not refer to calamities and pessimists.

**Labour Wants a Dividend.**  
**Indianapolis News.**  
 The representatives of 170,000 railroad men, who are in session in Chicago, evidently believe that the prosperity resulting from increased freight rates should not be restricted in its beneficial effect and who who pay this tax, perform, are rather inclined to agree with them.

**Looking for Trouble.**  
**Buffalo Express.**  
 The sultan of Backool, who calls the American "hogs who eat hogs" and challenges them to fight, is a great man of the island of Negros. Formerly he was a friend of the American, but just now he has turned the light of his countenance away from them and is a postoffice and a money order office at Backool, and it is easy to imagine the sultan going to the office within a few days and writing a new letter to the Americans, telling them that the last one was all a mistake.

**May Become a Lost Art.**  
**Kansas City Star.**  
 One of the things in this changing world that ought to be preserved inviolate against the touch of innovation is apple pie. Properly constructed, with an ingenious regard for hygiene and for pleasing taste, an apple pie is the very apotheosis of cookery and no token of modern degeneracy is more mournfully apparent than the great scarcity of the sort of intelligence and discrimination necessary to the production of apple pie, pure and undefiled and divested of all adjuncts and appendages which vitiate the palate and impair the digestion.

**Overhauling as a Business.**  
**Detroit Free Press.**  
 As a rule the overhauler works more hours for less money than almost any other private in the great army of the employed. For every hour that he spends in the performance of his public duties he must spend at least an hour in keeping his fence in repair. If he is elected for a re-nomination as soon as he is elected, if he holds a subordinate position he must retain his influence in his precinct or his services will not be in demand at the city hall. It is hard work and expensive work and the glory of it all is sadly tarnished.

**Hands Off a Good Policy.**  
**Detroit Free Press.**  
 President Roosevelt is right in refusing to recommend this government mix up in any way with Venezuela and its English, German and other foreign creditors. If the moneyed men of Wall street want to discharge the obligations and accept pledges of future payment from Venezuela they will be doing a favor to the country, and probably a greater one to themselves, for it is disturbing to have foreign warships in western waters and foreign officials in charge of western customs offices. There is a slight chance for permanent harm, but it has a perceptible effect upon timid capital, which is absolutely essential to speculative operations, particularly when they are carried on at the present stupendous scale.

**ONE FOR THE BEEF TRUST.**  
**Washington Post.**  
 Probably no man who pays so much for his beefsteak that he feels he is guilty of extravagance every time he buys a porterhouse will admit that the beef trust can give any good reason for existing, except that it persists in doing so. We are inclined to view every doughty "trust buster" as a champion of the plain people and an enemy of the state. We could view the aggressions of the vast combinations of capital with equanimity so long as they confined their operations to making steel rails, or carried terror to the other side of the Atlantic by the "American invasion."

**Downfall of Populism Traced to the Packers.**  
**Washington Post.**  
 Here is where the beef trust came to the front. Three or four years ago the Armoires and their brethren in business offered to sell cattle on credit to farmers who gave evidence of having sufficient ability to feed them. A mortgage was taken on the cattle, which were to be delivered at the stock yards at Omaha and Kansas City when fattened. The farmer ran no risk, and his investment was merely the corn he could not sell. The beef trust likewise ran no risk, barring exceptional dishonesty on the part of the farmer.

**POLITICAL DRIFT.**  
 The prize puzzle in Chicago is to tell whether Mayor Harrison or Bob Burke runs the city machine. Perry Belmont is willing to make another run for congress in a New York district two years hence. Perry needs the exercise and the district needs the money.

**CONGRESSMAN GROSVENOR OF OHIO.**  
 The eminent political prophet, is exercising his prophetic talents on the ship subsidy bill. The weather bureau looks with cautious eyes on the Ohioan's marvelous prescience.

**NEW YORK SON: JINKS—WHO WAS WALT WHITMAN?**  
 Jinks—I think he was the fellow that said, "I'll write it out in this line if it takes all the paper."

**PHILADELPHIA PRESS:** "I was thinking of having my father offer my picture for sale at \$2.00 each," said the conected actor. "Why not sell them at their face value?" suggested Mr. Crittisk. "Make it 25 cents."

**WASHINGTON STAR:** "Dar is two kin's o' friends," said Uncle Eben; "dem dat wants to do you favors and dem dat expects you to do favors for dem. I kin tell you in one guess which kin' you has de mos' of."

**NEGROES OF ALABAMA** have called a meeting, to be held in Selma, December 11, to organize, it is declared, a new republican party, into which they hope to attract some of the white men of the state. The negro leaders say that the 5,000 registered negroes in the state will be the nucleus, and white



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**PRICE BAKING POWDER, CHICAGO, U. S. A.**

**THE TOP OF THE MORNING.**  
 Chicago Tribune.  
 Oh, Gentle Reader, kind and good,  
 The while you munch your breakfast  
 Food—  
 Just when the sun comes to begin  
 The world with joy, lo, the sun,  
 While you beguile your appetite  
 By reading who was killed last night,  
 This bard of alabaster oar  
 And streaming locks—he makes his bow  
 And bids you  
 "The top o' the mornin'!"  
 He takes the strap from off his grip  
 And shows his line of jest and quip,  
 And bids you beguile your appetite  
 By reading who was killed last night,  
 This bard of alabaster oar  
 And streaming locks—he makes his bow  
 And bids you  
 "The top o' the mornin'!"  
 The morning has a top, you know—  
 'Tis where the best breakfast grows—  
 Where goldenest of sunbeams gleam  
 Across the gorgeous good-luck plant;  
 And if you're at the morning's top  
 Then you may pluck that lucky crop,  
 Or, first of all, and from the heart,  
 Permit him, at the very start,  
 To wish you  
 "The top o' the mornin'!"  
 Oh, Gentle Reader, good and kind,  
 To have an out-breakfast mind—  
 That mind cold, calm, dispassionate,  
 With which you view your cup and plate—  
 Requires a courage without slip:  
 Requires an unceasing finger tip,  
 To humiliate the servant hasn't that,  
 But begs you'll note his lifted hat,  
 And bids you  
 "The top o' the mornin'!"