

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year \$1.00

DELIVERED BY CARRIER: Daily Bee (without Sunday), per copy... 2c

OFFICES: Omaha—The Bee Building, South Omaha—City Hall Building, Twenty-fifth and M Streets.

CORRESPONDENCE: Communications relating to news and editorial matters should be addressed to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: George B. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, deposes 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:

Table with columns for copies printed during the week (Monday to Sunday) and Total copies printed during the month.

Total 322,910

Less unreturned copies 8,257

Net total sales 314,653

Net average subscription 722,073

GEORGE B. TSCHUCK, Notary Public.

Merry Christmas.

And the same to you.

Christmas is the children's day. See that they get the most out of it.

By the way, Santa Claus, don't forget to leave Omaha that new auditorium.

When it comes to Christmas presents Uncle Sam beats all his European cousins out.

The ably subsidy bill can be put in the class of measures that will not be floated at this session of congress.

It won't be a very efficient war measure hereafter to cut the cables if Marconi's little scheme works out all right.

The way ex-Governor Hogg of Texas is denouncing the spirit that oil has been exhausted at Spindletop indicates that he still has oil well stock to sell.

The luckiest strike in oil in Nebraska to be anticipated in the near future will certainly be that of Governor Mickey's appointee to the state oil inspectorship.

With disastrous earthquakes, famines and other mishaps of nature in so many countries, Americans may well conclude that there is after all a pretty good land to live in.

The news that a violent snowstorm has been raging in and about Constantinople affords little consolation to the people here who see their coal piles melting away, while prices are still at almsbury altitude.

If Mr. Vanderbilt gets daily health bulletins in the papers during his present sickness how often would the physicians have to announce the condition of their patient if J. Pierpont Morgan were under the weather?

The congressional mill has been closed down for the holidays, but the third house consisting of the Washington correspondents is in continuous session, doing even more legislating than when the legislators are there.

Army officers everywhere are, with few exceptions, in favor of the restoration of the canteen. After another experience or two with holiday cheer furnished by the groggeries on the fringe of the posts the verdict will be unanimous.

Notwithstanding Secretary Shaw is a radical gold standard man, he did not let the silver anniversary of his marriage go by without due celebration with his friends. Still his political enemies may make a handle out of the fact that he would permit no presents.

Judge McPherson's decision overruling the Iowa supreme court and holding that express companies can handle liquor packages for Iowa C. O. D. from other states did not come in time for Christmas business in the prohibition counties, but it will answer every exigency connected with New Year's swearing off.

The situation with reference to the statehood bills pending in the senate may be summed up briefly in a few words. All the senators are for the admission of all the territories, but they are not agreed on the time that admission should take place. If a vote were taken on the date statehood should become effective it would vary all the way from next week to next century.

A strong effort is being made to rehabilitate the bicycle trust, which got punctured on the rough road of syndicate finance. The scheme involves practically a heavy assessment of the stock, showing that in the end it is the stockholder that gets the worst of it in such cases. They will have to sacrifice their certainty as to pulling their enterprises through.

CHRISTMAS.

The one day in the year that is always welcome and is welcomed by all.

Neither need we be troubled with considering the past or the various methods of its observance. We need only be concerned with the spirit of the day as we find it and with the influence it exerts, and in these there appears every reason why it should rank first among days in the affection and appreciation of the Christian world.

If the observance of Christmas is getting farther away, with each succeeding generation, from the austerity which once characterized it and becoming more and more a festival of joyous, it is not therefore losing its moral and religious influence. On the contrary, there is reason to believe that in its newer character, in the greater care that is taken in its observance to minister to the happiness of the young, associating with such ministrations easily impressed lessons of the significance of the day, far more is accomplished for moral and religious effect than was possible under the restraints which Puritanism imposed upon the observance of Christmas.

The churches have remitted none of their proper labor on this day, though the sermons may be somewhat shorter; the Sunday schools make the occasion one of such exceptional attraction as to draw into them many children who would not otherwise enter their doors, and Christian benediction takes a broader sweep on this day than on any other of the year, doing it, too, with a warmth and heartiness and genuinity that make it doubly valuable.

So we say that no matter when or where or how Christmas originated, its spirit and influence as we find them are wholesome and elevating and good. The gladness this day brings into millions of homes, brightening the life of childhood and sweeping away the shadows that hang over the pathway of age, the testimonial of love and friendship it calls out, the family gatherings it invites, and the heartfelt greetings it evokes, are all humanizing and Christening in their tendency, creating delightful memories that never fade, but rather become with the advancing years more delightful and more cherished. May no reader of The Bee lack today any of its legitimate pleasures which are our sincere wish, and so we extend to all the greeting of a merry Christmas.

PROPOSED BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

Among the suggestions for legislation which is to be made the Omaha Commercial club will re-enforce is one for the creation of a Bureau of Statistics for Nebraska, with a view to advertising the resources of the state as an attraction for immigrants and investors.

The promoters of the proposed bureau overlook the fact that Nebraska already maintains a bureau or department devoted to a compilation of statistics and that the work of this department, so far as it goes, is highly satisfactory. We refer to the work under the deputy labor commissioner, which has been expanded so as to include the gathering of information with reference not only to labor and labor conditions, but also to the entire industrial activity of the commonwealth.

It is true that in the matter of crop reports Nebraska is behind some other states, notably Kansas, where, under the State Board of Agriculture, a system has been perfected of gathering news of growing crops from the opening of the season to the completion of the harvest, as well as the usual statistics as to acreage, animals and farm products. That such statistics for Nebraska are desirable and would be useful goes without saying. Whether a new and independent bureau of statistics is needed to do this is open to question. What we should do, if more varied industrial statistics are wanted is to strengthen and build up the work of the labor commissioner and place him in position to command the cooperation of county authorities and assessing officers. To duplicate present machinery of government simply out of sentiment, or to give employment to somebody out of a job, would be unnecessary expense without producing any better results.

OUR HISTORIC POLICY VINDICATED.

It is perfectly gratuitous to assert, as some partisan critics of President Roosevelt are asserting, that his administration has backed down from the traditional principles of the Monroe doctrine. The explicit avowals of the British and German governments that they propose no infringement of the Monroe doctrine, that they intend neither to oppress Venezuela nor to seize its territory, establish the exact contrary. It is rather a triumph of the administration to secure recognition of the American doctrine without expatiating assertiveness or unnecessary spread-angels. There is absolutely nothing new in the position that the Monroe doctrine does not protect South American governments in wrongdoing, and that they must, like other governments, respond in damages where the subjects of foreign countries have been injured in person and property.

To assume that the Monroe doctrine was ever intended to suspend in the case of the countries of the new world the principles of international justice and comity which obtain among civilized nations, and which we ourselves both submit to and enforce upon others, is preposterous. Time and again the government of the United States has

paid damages for injuries to subjects of foreign nations, and it is absurd to suppose that the administration of President Roosevelt or any other typical American would establish any different rule for the so-called South American republics, under guise of Monroeism or otherwise. What the Monroe doctrine is in its original intent and subsequent development does do is to interpose to prevent their dismemberment or the appropriation of their territory by European aggression, no matter on what pretense.

The present administration, having enforced this principle, even to the point of securing in advance positive assurances of its observance, the essence of the Monroe doctrine has in fact been vindicated in the most notable manner. The preliminaries to arbitration of the whole subject assume the inviolability of our position on that doctrine, and the suggestion of the chief European governments, interested that President Roosevelt himself shall act as arbitrator is a precedent establishing the substance of our historic policy with the most signal emphasis.

ROOSEVELT AND ARI TRATION.

President Roosevelt has received a formal request from the European governments to act as arbitrator in the Venezuelan dispute. There is no intimation as to what the decision of the president may be, but having already had the matter under consideration and conferred with his cabinet and others in public life in regard to it, and realizing also the desirability of an early determination, it may confidently be expected that a decision will be reached without unnecessary delay.

The president has been strongly urged not to accept the task and some weighty reasons are given why he should decline it, and continue his effort to induce the powers to submit the controversy to The Hague tribunal, which was created for the express purpose of adjudicating such disputes and is ready to do so in this case. One of the objections to Mr. Roosevelt acting as arbitrator is that it would subject him to the criticism certain to follow from the disappointed party to the controversy, but this is not a consideration that is likely to have any great influence with the president. There is no doubt that all the parties have entire and implicit confidence in his integrity, fairness and impartiality and would accept his award without complaint. A more serious objection appears to be that in regard to the position which the United States would be placed in. The request of the European governments that President Roosevelt act as arbitrator is very generally regarded as an exceedingly shrewd piece of diplomacy, the credit for which belongs to the German foreign office, which very likely was prompted by Emperor William. It is felt that the president acting as arbitrator would place the United States under some implied obligation to see that the award is enforced. It is apprehended that the ultimate purpose of the allies is to press this country into some sort of an acknowledgment of responsibility for the conduct of the countries in this hemisphere over which this has extended the protection of the Monroe doctrine. But it would seem that this objection may be removed by an explicit stipulation that our government will assume no responsibility in the matter, that whatever the award of the president it will not in the slightest degree commit the United States. Moreover, it is extremely doubtful if the European governments are actuated by any such motive as some are disposed to ascribe to them. It is more reasonable to think that they want President Roosevelt as arbitrator solely because they have full faith in his wisdom, integrity and sense of justice.

We may be sure that the president will give this matter the careful and deliberate consideration which its very great importance calls for. No one can be more anxious than he for an amicable settlement of the grave trouble and the country may confidently look for a judicious determination of the question before him.

MINISTER BOWEN'S GOOD WORK.

The United States minister at Caracas, Herbert W. Bowen, is receiving merited commendation for the ability and tact he has shown since the beginning of the Venezuelan affair. Immediately upon the severing of diplomatic relations between the European governments and Venezuela, Minister Bowen was entrusted with the task of looking after the interests and welfare of British and German subjects in Venezuela and he discharged this duty most acceptably and satisfactorily to the British and German governments. The subjects of those countries have been fully protected and the valuable service rendered by the American minister has been cordially acknowledged.

Conclusive evidence of the popularity of Mr. Bowen with President Castro was furnished when he was selected to represent the Venezuelan government in proposing arbitration, he having been given practically a free hand in the matter. All that he has done in the difficult and delicate position of sole representative in Venezuela of the United States, Great Britain and Germany has been marked by intelligence, tact and good judgment, giving him high rank among contemporary diplomats. Mr. Bowen entered the consular service twelve years ago, during which time he has had considerable diplomatic experience and throughout has made a most creditable record.

No graver danger exists in our midst than this infamous method of robbing the people by corrupting their trusted representatives. It is a menace to our civic and political life. It is anarchy, it strikes an insidious and deadly blow at government. It substitutes the debauching moneyed power of irresponsible corporations, acting through

their agents and unscrupulous public officers, for the lawfully constituted authority vested by the people in the municipal legislative body to be by it honestly and faithfully administered. The higher the position of the persons who bribe or are bribed, the greater is their moral responsibility, because the more potent for evil is their wicked example.

The Austrian government is not going at it right to check emigration to America. The means it proposes to employ is an elaborate system of restrictive legislation, which has been tried a thousand times by different nations, but has never succeeded in the long run. The only true check to emigration is to make life at home so easy, pleasant and remunerative that people will prefer to stay there. If this cannot be done, emigration should be facilitated rather than hampered.

The younger and more distant children of the republic are turning out to be considerable and rapidly increasing consumers of its products. The official figures indicate a total of exports to Porto Rico, the Philippines and Hawaiian Islands and Alaska of more than \$40,000,000, the purchases representing a great variety of staple, agricultural and manufactured products. How much of this goes to Americans in temporary residence there, however, is not exactly stated.

A St. Louis judge has just settled all the perplexing problems arising out of trusts and combinations by declaring that both labor and capital have an indefeasible right to organize, provided only they keep within the bounds of law. He carefully abstains, however, from defining the bounds of law they must not overstep. Most learned judge!

There are now two announced candidates for the speakership of the house of the next Iowa legislature, to which body the members will not be elected till nearly a year hence. But the question of election cuts practically no figure with republican candidates in that state.

Picketed in Its Own Brain.

Baltimore American. The Salt trust has given up the fight for its existence against government proceedings. Maybe this is the thin edge of the wedge.

Counting Money from Misfortune.

Philadelphia Record. The shortage in the supply of soft coal is almost as grievous as the shortage in anthracite, and the effort of bituminous producers to exact famine prices does not appear to have in the least relaxed. 'Tis the consumer's need.

Giving Fiction a Frost.

Brooklyn Eagle. Publishers say that they have been so overdoing the novel business that they must now print something besides stories. What chilling news to come just as every second young man and young woman to the land was preparing immortal fiction!

Hints Worth Heeding.

Chicago Chronicle. Some life insurance companies appear to entertain the fixed conviction that every policy holder who dies is a suicide who takes his own life in order to beat the company. If this attitude be maintained much longer it is likely seriously to interfere with the writing of life insurance policies.

Instincts of a Great Name.

New York Telegram. The Osage Indians have invested \$5,000,000 in the state bank and own 1,500,000 acres of land. Each brave, squaw and papoose in the tribe possess land to the value of \$4,000, and the interest on their money in the bank affords an annual income of \$300 to each member. That's great. Henceforth better call them the O'Sages.

Lay Them Gently Away.

New York Tribune. The outworn old phrase "high noon" still appears in reports of weddings with tireless frequency. Is it not time to send it to the bin of misused phrases, "the fire bird," "no reason has yet been assigned for his rash act" and "he fell with a dull, sickening thud"? What excuse for the continued existence of such tedious repetitions of words so frayed and ragged, so loathed by the masses of generations? And what is the difference between high noon and low noon anyway?

It Pays to Be Accurate.

Springfield Republican. If a person is writing a history it pays to be accurate, yet it often happens that a historian will make the most egregious little blunders regarding facts that can be ascertained by anyone. A recent instance is that of Woodrow Wilson, in his new history of the union for damages resulting from the writings of his celebrated forerunners who have not been without comfort to many, but the coal wagon of the grandson was "hitched to a star," as Emerson advised; it was hitched to a star of hope for many unconscious of any other species of poetry or philosophy.

It is probable that this is exactly the kind of occupation the sage of Concord would have prescribed for his descendant under such circumstances.

Trade Union Held for Damages.

Philadelphia Ledger. A decision of great possible importance is announced from London in the Taft Vail Railway Company against the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. The verdict is in favor of the company against the union, which is held responsible for "agitation, molestation" and interfering with the business of the railway by picketing, intimidation of employees and other means. This case has been pending for a long time and has now reached a decision in the high court of justice. The act of Parliament permitting the incorporation of trade unions was designed for their benefit, but it is seen that such incorporation carries with it accountability. Though the question of liability is reserved by the court, the liability of the union for damages resulting from the enforcement of a strike is established by the verdict. This is sufficient reason for the objection generally held by labor leaders in this country to the proposition that labor unions should be incorporated.

LIVE TO FIVE SCORE.

Increasing Age-Limit Shown by Census Returns.

The ready reckoner of the bureau of vital statistics in the census department has reared some tall columns of figures on human ages, and in contemplating the finished product with much satisfaction. Everything about life and death which the census takers could gather are piled up on these columns, and furnish an abundance of material for those who thrive on figures and figurative conclusions. A correspondent of the Record-Herald found much meat in them—meat for thought and speculation—and deftly masticated them into prose. One of the most important facts that the ready reckoner has logically deduced from his comprehensive material is that which proves that there are more centenarians accumulating in this country during every decade, and the natural corollary that the average length of life within our boundaries is appreciably increasing.

First of all, we find in this report the statement that there are, or were in 1900, 3,586 persons in the United States who are 100 years of age or upward. This may not seem particularly impressive as an indication of growing vitality when it is placed beside the item that puts our population at 75,000,000, but it means something altogether different when one is told that it gives us twice as many centenarians as there are in Germany, England, France, Scotland and Servia, with a combined population of 235,850,000.

Incidental food for argument is afforded by a further examination of the figures in the cases of the foreign countries mentioned in this connection by the ready reckoner, and in but one instance do they come out as any glory. It shows that Germany, with a population of 55,000,000, has 775 centenarians; that England, with 32,000,000, has 146; that Scotland, with 4,000,000, has 46; that France, with 40,000,000, has 213; that Italy, with 34,000,000, has 123; that the United States, with only 75,000,000 people, has a list of 3,586 who have passed the century mark.

Turning again to our own centenarians, we find that out of the 3,585 almost two-thirds of them are women, the exact roster being 2,241 women and 1,389 men, and that out of the 3,117 that are native born 1,698 are men and 2,098 are women.

There are, it appears, 118 Indian centenarians, two Chinese and one Japanese, and 72.8 per cent of the whole number are negroes—388 males and 1,967 females. The ready reckoner of the census bureau says, however, that a considerable grain of salt should be taken with these figures regarding Ethiopian longevity, as the older a negro grows the more vivid his imagination becomes.

One noticeable oddity in all statistics concerning centenarians is that showing how steadily the proportion of the sexes is maintained among them from one census to the next. More than half of them, too, are always colored.

Of the foreign born centenarians in the United States, the census man sets down 45 per cent as Irish, 18.4 per cent as German, 8.4 per cent as Canadian, 6.6 per cent as English, 2.9 per cent as Japanese and 1.1 per cent as Chinese.

The average length of life in the United States ten years ago was, according to the ready reckoner, only thirty-one years. Now, according to the same authority, it is thirty-two years. This isn't much to be commended as an achievement, but it is a small thing to be proud of. The first rosy beliefs of youth may prove false. A promise of disillusionment may be necessary. But this means simply that untrue values are swept aside and that the person has acquired sufficient experience to see the world as it is. When this process is complete the man, if he be of the right stuff, will have a surer faith in humanity than before, because it is grounded, not on fantasy, but on fact.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Senator Teller is at Denver looking closely after his senatorial interests. Short weight coal dealers in Chicago are getting full weight sentences from the courts.

Booker T. Washington can sleep and wake at will. Few men have such control over their minds.

The center of population of the United States is in Henry Marr's barnyard, near Columbus, Ind.

The Chinese emperor, in his capacity of high priest, has to offer at least forty-six sacrifices to different gods in the course of a year.

Robert E. Peary, the Arctic explorer, is making a technical inspection of the New York navy yard, looking after the civil engineering operations being conducted there.

Miss Anna Hovever, who is in America studying our way of editing newspapers and magazines, is the editor of the largest newspaper in Norway, the Attenpesten, of Christiania.

When Henry Marr of Columbus, Ind., goes to his barn lot and steps upon a neatly carved slab bearing the inscription "1900" he has 18,650,000 people on all four sides of him for he is the center of population man of the whole United States.

Spencer Trask of New York and George Foster Peabody of Brooklyn have a force of workmen employed in remodeling Crosbyshire, a hotel on Lake George, where they will establish a vacation home for the young women tollers of New York City.

"Vanamontan", which is Samoan for the "home of the singing bird," is the name given to her new residence in the Santa

THE CYNIC'S SELF-DECEPTION.

Danger of Overdoing the Doubting Inclination.

Kansas City Star. Phillips Brooks once made the kindly criticism of Harvard university that it turned out men who were more afraid lest they believed something untrue than lest they failed to believe some truth. Perhaps it is as well that some people are inclined to be skeptical on all matters. Buckle used to contend that civilization had its origin in skepticism and that to the critical attitude will be due all the progress that the world can hope to make.

Yet there is danger of overdoing the doubting inclination. Many a man who prides himself on his ability to penetrate shams is the dupe of his own skepticism. He has distorted a view of things as the progress that the world can hope to make.

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