

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$4.00...

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

OFFICES. Omaha—The Bee Building, South Omaha—City Hall Building, Twelfth and M Streets...

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George B. Trenchard, Secretary of The Bee Publishing Company...

Table with 2 columns: Circulation figures for various months and years, including 1902 and 1901 data.

At last accounts the Kansas tax bill endorsed by John N. Baldwin as the best thing for Nebraska had tripped up on the threshold.

From the numerous wrecks reported, railroad consolidation has evidently had no appreciable effect in the direction of making railroad travel safer.

If our supreme court commission has as much trouble hanging on to life as it did originally in coming into being it has a rough road in front of it.

The pretender to the throne of Morocco seems to be getting the worst of it. Anyone pretending to such a pretended throne ought to get the worst of it.

Pugilist Jeffries has given a generous contribution to the Union Pacific strikers' fund. When it comes to strikers, big Jeff wants to be recognized as one of them.

The resolution of the Nebraska house of representatives to exclude professional lobbyists from the floor and cloak rooms was laid on the table, which goes to show that the subject is not debatable.

The state senate has decided to subject the state printing board and state printing methods to the searchlight of publicity. But the alleged public printing graft is by no means the only scandal that needs ventilation at the hands of the legislature.

It is in accord with the eternal fitness of things for Billee Saunders to enter the arena as champion of municipal ownership. As member of the city council Billee achieved unenviable notoriety as a most pliant tool of the franchised corporations.

Nebraska senators have another land office vacancy to fill, caused this time by the death of the late incumbent. There need be no apprehension, however, that a godly supply of willing patriots will speedily present themselves to be drafted into the service.

Complaint is made of a dearth of refrigerator cars for the transportation of meat packing products out of South Omaha. If the weather man's cold wave only stays with us, the ordinary car ought to be refrigerator enough for the present needs of the packing house men.

The Chadron gushers have discovered the most promising prospect for suckers on No Man's Land, which is said to be located somewhere between the boundaries of South Dakota and Nebraska. People who have money to burn will have no difficulty in finding the spot.

The Associated Press has deemed it of sufficient importance to wire all over the country that the Kansas day banquet at Topeka is to cost the guests \$3 a plate. A three-dollar banquet would be nothing extraordinary in any other state, but in prohibition Kansas it may require an explanation.

The new Omaha charter which is undergoing preparation by the Douglas delegation in star chamber session will soon make its appearance and we shall presently know whether it is being framed up in the interest of better and more economic municipal government or merely to promote the political ambitions of the members of the delegation.

According to the World-Herald, which tries to emulate the New York Journal and Chicago American, a glorious victory has been won by Omaha coal consumers over the local coal dealers' combine. The coal dealers' monopoly has capitulated and the exchange has agreed to change its constitution. This was a stupendous achievement. A few more such victories will give us free coal and the cheap power problem is as good as solved already.

BALDWIN'S THREE POINTS.

With sublime audacity John N. Baldwin of Iowa, champion of railroad tax evasion in Nebraska, has pranced into the arena with the declaration that he is prepared to maintain for the Union Pacific and all other railroads these three propositions:

First—That the railroads in Nebraska pay their full share of all taxes. Second—That if Omaha be permitted to tax a greater proportion of the railroad properties than is allotted to it under the existing method of distribution of values, it must certainly to that extent reduce the revenues of the cities, villages and school districts outside of Omaha, along the full length of the railroad mileage in the state.

Third—That there are no provisions in the existing statutes of this state discriminating in favor of railroad property in the matter of any kind of taxation.

The basic principle of our constitution is that corporations and individuals shall share the burdens of taxation in just proportion to the value of their property and franchises. The relative proportion of property values is to be ascertained by the property returned for taxation and not by the estimated value of property not returned or omitted by assessors.

The grand assessment roll of all property in Nebraska for the year 1902 is \$180,091,192 and the aggregate proportion of railroad assessment at one-fourth that amount would be \$45,022,798, whereas the assessment of 1901 for 1902 is only \$26,580,552, or \$18,443,246 less than it should be under the most liberal concession.

Baldwin's second proposition, that the railroads distribute among the school districts along their lines the municipal taxes which they shirk, is on a par with his claim that the railroads pay their full share of all taxes. During the past ten years the railroads have beaten Omaha out of more than a million dollars in taxes and they have beaten Lincoln out of more than a quarter of a million during the same period, but not a penny of the money thus filched from the taxpayers of Omaha and Lincoln has found its way into a solitary school district.

Municipal taxes are just as much separated from city and county taxes as would be a federal corporation tax. Suppose Uncle Sam should levy a million a year on the Union Pacific as a license tax. In what way would that affect the counties along its lines and where would the counties lose a penny if the road paid such a tax or gain a dollar if the attorneys of the railroad could persuade Uncle Sam to cancel it?

Does the spirit and letter of the constitution contemplate that the property owners in cities shall bear all the burdens of municipal government and pay out of their own pockets hundreds of thousands of dollars a year for fire protection, police protection, public lighting, street repairs, sewerage and drainage, which the property of the railroads enjoys equally with them?

Baldwin's third point, that there are no provisions in the existing statutes that discriminate in favor of railroad property in the matter of any kind of taxation, is contradicted flatly by the city charter of Omaha, which at the instance of the railroads was doctored to fix one standard of valuation for assessing railroad property and another standard for other corporations and individual property owners.

The agricultural appropriation bill as it passed the house of representatives cut down by more than half the amount allowed last year for irrigation investigations by the Department of Agriculture. Secretary Wilson had asked for an increase, taking the view that his department should do more of this work now that the government has entered upon an irrigation policy, but the house committee on agriculture took the ground that there was no need of the work that has been done by the department along this line.

Nebraska is fast forging ahead of Kansas. From now on men afflicted with chronic catarrh, men who chew tobacco and women who chew gum will have to carry a cuspidor when walking the streets of Fremont. Otherwise they are liable to prosecution and imprisonment under the new anti-spitting ordinance.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

In his New York letter to the Boston Globe, Joe Howard, the dean of newspaper correspondents, points out the inconsistent action of New York authorities in assailing professional gambling, while gambling underground and social gambling is undisturbed. The morality of both is the same.

Not out of the Running. The appointment of Judge Day to the supreme court serves as a reminder that Ohio is not out of the running, to say nothing of the appropriateness of the selection.

Doblin in Dirt. Philip Doblin seems to be a "gent" who has been deeply wronged by somebody, but being in his conflicting confession, it is hard to find out where the guilt lies.

Giddy Old Girl Gushes. Helen M. Gougar told Agulnaldo in Manila this week that the American people greatly admire him. Mrs. Gougar's summers have been sufficient in number to warrant her not to gush.

Jingoes Shout in Vain. The administration at Washington is giving proof of a high sense of responsibility and duty to the country in refusing to listen to the insistent incitements of jingoism to causeless war.

Who Can Tell? Maybe the New York democrats are right in thinking that the democracy of the country imperiously demands the nomination of Judge Parker. Who can tell until the democracy of the country finds out who he is?

Cruel and Unusual Punishment. Wisdom in South Dakota follows wisdom in Missouri. A bill has been introduced into the South Dakota legislature providing that a man—perhaps we ought to say, a fiend—convicted of playing foot ball shall pay a fine of \$1,000 and be imprisoned for five years. Too mild and pigeon-livered.

Baronial Dilemma of Meddlers. "If the press and the public will stop meddling and allow coal men to run the coal business," says a local baron with great heat and indignation, "the fuel situation will eventually become normal."

Let Justice Be Done First. While crowds of citizens throng about the grave of Mr. Gonzales, the murdered South Carolina editor, it is suggested that a monument be reared to his memory. It will be time to talk of such a memorial when South Carolina has vindicated her name and her laws by hanging the assassin.

Union of Business and Politics. The chief objection to trusts and combinations is the demoralizing and corrupting influence that they exert in politics—an influence which is felt no matter what party is in control of the government. Of course, it is said in their behalf that they have to go into politics in order to protect themselves against spoliation under the form of law.

A Proper Rebuke. Just before the close of a performance in Hartford, Conn., last week Mr. E. S. Willard, the English actor now touring this country, stepped to the footlights and said to the audience: "I have stopped the play in order that those who are desirous of leaving may do so, and leave the others to that which is their right—undisturbed attention."

Dispassionate Estimate of McKinley's Official Career. President Roosevelt's address on the personal character and official career of President McKinley, delivered on the occasion of the celebration at Canton of the anniversary of the death of McKinley, was an incidental eulogy in the accepted understanding of that term.

The New Man. Marconi has perfected the receiver for a pocket wireless telegraph system. The transmitter is not perfected, but is promised at an early day. At last the poet's prediction of sending the earth in forty minutes is in danger of realization, the globe being the vibration of human hearts in continuous consciousness through contact with earth vibrations.

In a Sorry Fix. A Congressman from Minnesota seems to be in a very sorry fix. His bribery charges boomerang began to make him look like that New York buller who carried out a bogus burglary in order to make a hit with his employer as the faithful servant who put a band of burglars to flight.

NEGLIGENCE AFFECTING THE TERRITORY.

The house of representatives has passed a bill providing for the representation of the territory of Alaska by a delegate. This will not be much of a gift. A delegate has little influence. Congress has so much to do that it is reluctant to give time to territorial legislation, even where a delegate has eloquently set forth the pressing necessity for it.

There are many things which will be more useful to Alaska than a delegate. There is need of a land law with proper provisions for securing homesteads. Laws should be enacted for the preservation of the forests and the salmon. These are important practical questions which congress is slow to take hold of.

The extent of the mineral wealth of Alaska is gradually being learned. The territory is rich in copper and in gold, and doubtless other minerals will be found there. Mining camps will grow up into large and permanent towns. Railroads will penetrate the territory and open it up to the miner, the farmer and the cattle raiser.

Millions of money are ready for a moving sidewalk from Hanover square, New York, across the new Brooklyn bridge to its terminus. It is believed this is going to solve the problem of rapid transit in that part of New York. Cars of every sort and description have become inadequate in New York, where 10,000,000 trips must be made by nearly 5,000,000 people every day.

Assuming that the republicans' large majorities of 1896 and 1900 will vanish in 1904 with the disappearance of the silver issue, it is reasonably certain that the swing of any large section of New York's 3,000,000 negro voters to the democrats, and the change in the same direction of New Jersey's 2,000,000, Rhode Island's 3,000, Delaware's 800, Maryland's 60,000, West Virginia's 100,000, Louisiana's 18,000 and Kansas' 14,000 would give the democracy the president in that year.

It is reasonable to expect that the present year will see the transfer of these close states from the republican to the democratic column in 1904 would add 98 electoral votes to the 154 which they will get in any event. This would mean a total of 252, or 15 more votes than the republic which will be a majority of the electoral college.

PERSONAL NOTES.

In announcing his defeat in Colorado, Mr. Wolcott is good enough to ask the country to endure the blow as gracefully as possible. "An striking coal miners have vindicated their position on the wage question by voluntarily increasing the salary of President Mitchell."

A professor in the University of Wisconsin has been dismissed for gambling. It is reported that when he asked if he might inquire the reason the trustees answered: "You bet!"

Count Boni de Castellane has been re-elected to the Chamber of Deputies. His indifferent success in other directions inspires a belief that he may develop into a statesman.

Thomas Lowry, the millionaire steel car magnate of Minneapolis and St. Paul, announces that he is a candidate for the seat in the United States senate now occupied by Moses C. Clapp.

There seems to be no limit to the power of a monarch. Emperor William has interdicted the translation of Kipling's poetry, and the shah of Persia has prohibited the importation of automobiles.

Because it was stated that John D. Rockefeller had offered a million dollars for a new stomach, he has received hundreds of "cures" by mail. If he tried to follow all the advice offered he would soon be relieved.

Heinrich Berlin, formerly a college professor in Berlin who speaks five languages, is now employed as a motorman on a Chester trolley line. Which goes to show that a man with a college education is always sure of employment.

Although Edmond Rostand, the author of "Cyrano de Bergerac," was elected a member of the French academy several months ago, he has not yet been officially received by that body. The reception has been repeatedly postponed until it has been jocularly suggested that the youngest academician would be the oldest before he could sit at the institute.

It is reported from Copenhagen that on the eighty-fifth birthday of King Christian, which occurs on April 8 next, there will be no less than three emperors in the Danish capital—King Edward, the czar and the Kaiser. It is added that preparations for the birthday festivities are being kept from the king as much as possible and that the celebrations will be of the most splendid kind.

Ex-governor Samuel J. Crawford of Kansas has printed an urgent plea for the enactment of a bird protecting law, the birds of every land and variety, except the hawk and the English sparrow, are useful, and many of them are invaluable. They should be protected by a rigid, stringent law with a severe penalty attached thereto. One quail will destroy a thousand insects in a single day, and many other birds will do as much.

Toward the end of the illness which terminated the earthly career of Abraham S. Hewitt the doctors endeavored to keep him alive by the use of oxygen. Those nearest and dearest to the dying man assembled about his bed. The venerable patient slowly raised his hand, grasped the tube and removed it from his mouth. "And now," he whispered, with a flickering smile, "I am officially dead." His eye lighted up with his last flash and in a moment he was no more.

WILL THE ELEPHANT BE SAVED?

The African elephant, according to H. A. Bryden's survey of his condition in the current Forthrightly Review, has almost gone the way of the American bison. There are two or three herds in Cape Colony, where they have been protected since 1830. There was a year or two ago, one troop in North Bechuanaland. One or two small troops may be found in northern Mashonaland. A few maintain a precarious existence between the Zambezi mouth and the Pungwe river.

Except for these poor remnants, the wild elephant has practically ceased to exist south of the Zambezi and the Cuneene rivers. Even beyond those streams he has been and is vigorously pursued. It is doubtful, however, if he exists in great numbers in the dense forests of central Africa. While more or less known all over the continent, the region in which the elephant flourished best appears to be that whose map has recently been painted all British red.

The exterminating pursuit of the African elephant began 250 years ago. The great pachyderms were then abundant about Table bay. They have not been easily vanquished, but the rate of the extermination of the elephant would, as Mr. Bryden says, "even with the most severe effort, in two or three volumes of the most stirring epics of adventure." Even as early as 1772-75 Thunberg and Sparrman, the Swedish travelers and scientists, found among the Boers elephant hunters whose foats rivaled and surpassed, considering the arms they had, those of Gordon, Cumming and Oswell and Selous. The elephant has died game. Many a grave upon the veldt testifies to the ferocity with which he has turned upon the eager sportsman and the pitiless ivory hunter.

His tusks have been the elephant's destruction. From the time white men came to South Africa ivory has been demanded unceasingly. That demand still exists, and is never likely to fall. For certain uses and pleasures of the world there is really no satisfactory substitute. The elephant is not like the bison—able to furnish nothing but food and leather, neither superior to the flesh and hide of the familiar ox. He has something that no other animal can supply in equal quantity.

Furthermore, he is a useful beast of burden. For many centuries he has served man in India. While his working power, weight for weight, is not equal to that of the horse, he can do some things that the horse cannot do so well. He can be set at work and to a certain extent left to do it by himself, as the horse cannot. While it is often said that the African elephant is untamable, it cannot be affirmed that any such patient effort has been made with him as the ancient Hindoos must have expended in domesticating their elephants.

The ostrich has been reduced to practical domestication. Woman will never lack the ornament of his plumes. Because of the usefulness of ivory and of its producer, it would seem that the preservation and domestication of the African elephant might well be a commercial enterprise, whose profits would be slow but absolutely certain. Mr. Bryden expresses the opinion that "if, fifty years ago, Great Britain had suddenly extended its sway to the Zambezi, the elephant might have been saved."

SMILING REMARKS.

"I believe," said the young physician, "that had cooks supply us with half our patients." "That's right," rejoined the old doctor. "And good cooks supply us with the other half."—Modern Society.

"Look at that shining yellow gown Mrs. Nutch is wearing in Baltimore, ever since she was a child, and she never changes anything so impossible?" "Just—impossible, but not inappropriate. That's a perfect match for her blue and yellow wrappers, you know."—Philadelphia Press.

"Do you know Mr. Kildor of Boston?" asked the stranger in Baltimore. "No," replied the extremely stout young woman. "Why?" "He told me he had a wide acquaintance in Baltimore, and I thought—" "Sir!"—Chicago Tribune.

"I want to speak to the spirit of my dead sister," said the tall woman in black to the medium. "Talking now," absently replied the latter, "but had once seen a 'hello' girl."—Kansas City Journal.

Clerk—Yes, sir; we'll send the coal up today. Mr. Milledollar—Any' how I've got it put in with my iron chutes. If I've got to pay your price for coal I want the neighborhood to know when I get the stuff in. Sassy?—Judge.

"Doctor," she said, archly, "some physicians say kissing isn't healthy, you know. What do you think of it?" "Well, really, I don't think the handsome young doctor, if I don't think you or I should attempt to kiss that off-hand. Let's put our heads together and consider."—Philadelphia Press.

"Oh, isn't this the same girl whose picture we used the other day? It isn't the same girl, but it isn't the same picture." "Why not?" "Why using the other picture in the second part of the paper as a portrait of that Montana desperado?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Say," exclaimed the haggard-looking man as he dashed into the drug store, "got any soothing syrup?" "Sure," answered the druggist. "What size bottle, please?" "Rejoined he of the haggard look. "Give me a two-gallon jug full of the stuff. It's twins."—Chicago News.

BEANS AND BROWNING.

Tom Mason. Boston is on the verge of a bean famine.—Daily Times. Only three beans are left, mother, only three shriveled beans left. My brain is getting woozy, mother, oh, I think of what this means. My Browning class is on today, whatever shall I do. With only three small beans with which to see my reading through?

"Twas yesterday I scurried round, and at the corner store I begged and pleaded with the clerk; he said there were no more. My spectacles hang limbo, mother, my words are growing thin. I dream of beans the following night, oh can this be a sin?" Oh, mother, where's that empty pot? I'd gash upon its shape. And let me have a dozed, sharp spoon—the bottom I will scrape. Some inspiration there may be within its classic form. Or else into that Browning class, oh mother, I can't creep!

Only three beans are left, mother, only three beans are left. I've tried to beg and borrow, I've even tried to steal. Oh, mother, and Theocritus! Oh, Plato! I must get beans to fill me or else I'll surely die!

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