

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROBEWATER, EDITOR.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: George B. Tschuck, Secretary of the Bee Publishing Company...

Table with 3 columns: Circulation figures for various months and years, including 1902 and 1901.

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Get up early and welcome the ground hog.

Marconi should set to work next devising a system of wireless heat distribution that will help us get around the coal barons.

The present Nebraska legislature is already distinguished in one thing—it has had no contests for seats in either house to wrestle with.

Members of the Council Bluffs Commercial club have made the editor of a daily newspaper president of their organization. Think of it.

The South Omaha charter bill has duly made its appearance in the legislature, but the Omaha charter bill is still being patched up in the dark of star chamber meetings.

It would hardly do for the arbitration commission to finish up on its work until the appropriation made by congress for its expenses, is reduced below the temptation point.

Uncle Joe Cannon will hardly enjoy the next session of congress as much as he is enjoying this one. The man in the speaker's chair does not have half the fun of the man on the floor.

A ten days' recess should enable every member of the legislature so disposed to go home and feel the pulse of his constituents, to say nothing of paying several visits to railway headquarters.

Apparently, the Cubans are not so frantic to have us do something for Cuba now. It is just possible they have decided to get busy doing something for themselves and let Uncle Sam's generosity work out by itself.

Will the manager of the Thomson-Houston Electric Light company permit the city council to hold another regular session before the spring election comes off in May, or are we to be treated to weekly performances of hide-and-seek in order to smother the cheap power ordinance?

With government ownership of railroads we would have Wyoming coal delivered in eastern Nebraska at \$2.50 a ton, declares a populist organ. With government ownership of the mines as well, we could have the coal delivered free. Might as well make the illustration forcible.

The Nebraska legislature should by all means go on record in favor of a larger navy. It was not long ago that the late governor threatened to call out the whole army and navy of Nebraska to put down insurrection in Omaha. Without the navy, the army would be impotent in this prairie state.

The Board of Education appears to be disinclined to revise its demand for a levy that will yield over \$300,000 for the coming year, but it cannot convince the taxpayers of Omaha that without any appreciable increase in the school attendance the wants of the board are so much greater than they were last year.

The Nebraska state food commissioner has discovered that vanilla flavoring extract is subject to adulteration. Perhaps that explains why callers at the soda fountain these days give wide berth to the old-time standards and are variously filled by seductive decoctions bearing more euphonious names and made up of more subtle ingredients.

Chancellor Andrews' lecture on socialism before the Nebraska Bar association has elicited a challenge to debate the subject with one who claims to be a representative socialist and calls upon him to defend his arraignment of socialism which he asserts is based on a fallacy. Here is a chance for John N. Baldwin or some other ambitious orator to take this challenge off the chancellor's hands.

UNIVERSAL MONETARY STANDARD.

The proposition looking to a universal monetary standard, which has received the countenance of the national administration, is a matter of very great importance. A few days ago President Roosevelt sent to congress a message, with a report from the secretary of state and notes from the diplomatic representatives of Mexico and China, recommending that the executive be given sufficient powers to lend the support of the United States in such manner and to such degree as he may deem expedient, to the purposes of the two governments of Mexico and China.

The proposition of those countries is that a commission be appointed to study the economic problem presenting itself to silver-using countries and devise a plan for a universal standard of coinage. When this shall be done the matter is to be laid before the governments of Europe having interests in the far east, with a view to the universal adoption of the system, designed by the commission. The suggestion now made is for a general coinage of silver at the ratio of 32 to 1, each country to use in its currency so much of silver as it can maintain at a parity on the prescribed basis.

In the communication of the secretary of state accompanying the president's message it is stated that the United States is not asked to modify its monetary system, nor is any movement contemplated for the restoration of international bimetalism. The idea of the Mexican government, with which the proposition originated, is that "consultation between the United States and European powers having dependencies in the Orient and the independent countries where silver money is in general use may result in the adoption of a monetary system which will prevent the great fluctuations in exchange which now occur in trade with silver-using countries." It is pointed out that the plan is in accordance with that favored by the Philippine commission for our islands and proposed in a bill now before congress in regard to a Philippine currency, and the opinion is also expressed by the secretary of state that it might have an important bearing on the payment of the indemnity due by China to European powers and to the United States. It is further urged that if the proposed plan were carried into effect "great benefits will follow to the trade of the world, by making easier the access of the products of the manufacturing nations to the markets of China and the other silver-using countries."

The recent experience of the silver-standard countries has been of a nature to impel them to look toward a change of their monetary system. The steady decline in the commercial price of silver has been very detrimental to their trade and they realize that this condition is likely to continue so long as they remain on a silver basis. This is especially true of Mexico and hence that country is most anxious to adopt the gold standard, but would like to do so upon a basis which would not be damaging to its silver production. It is very doubtful if any European gold standard country will be found to favor the Mexican proposition, and we can see no sound reason why this country should do so.

MAKING LAWS TO SUITE.

It is an open secret that the Douglas delegation to the legislature is constructing a new charter for the city of Omaha. While the delegation has not taken the public into its confidence, it is generally understood that its chief aim and purpose is not so much to amend defects in the municipal organic law as to slash and gash the charter in order to make Frank E. Moore's harmless political in case he should be re-elected mayor of Omaha for a third term.

This is decidedly small business, to use a mild phrase. It is given out cold, for example, that the new charter will divest the mayor of all executive authority and power by making all the important offices elective and leave all the minor appointments to the city council. This is factional partisanship run riot. Are charters enacted by legislatures for the government of cities to be framed to gratify factional spite, or are they designed for the promotion of the public welfare on broad lines regardless of individuals or parties whom the people entrust for the time with positions at the helm of local government?

The trend of municipal legislation everywhere within the past twenty years has been toward the concentration of responsibility. In nearly every American city of from 50,000 population upward the mayor as chief executive is made responsible for every branch of municipal government, and with that end in view is given the exclusive right to designate the heads of departments, subject only to confirmation by the council, and the heads of departments in turn appoint their subordinates.

In this respect modern municipal corporations are organized on much the same lines on which great industrial corporations are organized. Every industrial concern and railroad company is governed by a president or general manager, and a board of directors. The president is supreme in the choice of subordinates, and his selections are in most cases not subject even to the board of directors. In every instance the heads of departments and bureaus of a great corporation are appointed by the president or general manager, who in turn appoint their own subordinates.

To divide and subdivide authority would create confusion, promote discord and decrease efficiency in the service. In order to insure the greatest efficiency in the administration of its affairs it is imperative for every corporation to centralize responsibility in a general manager who has the essential qualifications to direct and supervise. A corporation managed by divided authority is like a horse divided against itself—it cannot stand.

If Frank E. Moore lacks the requisite qualifications for general manager of the corporation known as the City of Omaha, if he has squandered the public funds, allowed municipal property to go to waste and ruin, or neglected to protect the city whenever its interests were endangered or assailed, the people of Omaha will have the opportunity of disposing him by the election of another man when his term expires.

It would be a sad commentary upon the metropolitan pretensions of Omaha to remand it to village government. Small towns that have no pavements, no sewers, no street railways, no public works, no health boards and no park boards cannot suffer by choosing all of their city officials at the polls and giving the town council the appointing power. In such municipalities any dry goods box politician will do for city attorney, any common surveyor will fill the place of city engineer and any school boy can fill the place of town auditor. If the new charter is to be built on those lines its constructors will invoke upon their own heads curses loud and deep that will consign them to everlasting political oblivion. They will show themselves utterly unworthy of representing a city of the metropolitan class. If our charters are to be made the vehicle for seditious bore spitwork, Omaha's self-governing charter should be revoked and its citizens would deserve to be disfranchised.

CONSTRUCTING THE CANAL.

The treaty with Colombia provides for ample time in which to construct the Panama canal. The main works of the canal proper are to be commenced within two years from the date of the exchange of ratification of the treaty and the canal is to be opened to the traffic between the oceans within twelve years after such period of two years, but in the event of any unforeseen difficulties or obstacles being encountered, the time for the completion of the work will be prolonged twelve more years. Thus the United States will have not less than fourteen years in which to construct the canal, which may be extended to twenty-six years if difficulties or obstacles which at present it is impossible to foresee should arise. Still another provision is that in case the United States should at any time determine to make the canal practically a sea level canal, then there shall be a further extension of time of ten years.

The careful investigation made by the American engineers and the assurance that when begun the work will be pushed with all possible energy warrants the opinion that this vast undertaking can be completed in fourteen years. But it is to be expected that difficulties will arise which cannot now be foreseen, or that those which it is known must be encountered will prove more serious than is now anticipated, so that it is quite possible that more than fourteen years will be consumed in the work. This also suggests that a great deal more money may have to be expended in the enterprise than is now provided for—\$135,000,000. Indeed, it is hardly possible that the canal can be constructed for that sum, even if there should be no unforeseen difficulties or obstacles. The French have expended that amount or more in constructing only about one-third of the canal, but of course the work will be prosecuted more vigorously and advantageously under American methods.

THE REWARD OF ZEAL.

Philadelphia Record. Prof. Wiley of the Agricultural department, who has been trying practical experiments with food preservatives, ludicrously complains that he has been given the title of "Old Boy." He should console himself with the reflection that this is one of the rewards of zeal for the public service. A far greater man than he was once popularly and affectionately known as "Old Bullion."

STRANGLING A FAMOUS WATERWAY.

Philadelphia Record. A formidable combination of republicans in the New York legislature has determined that \$2,000,000 shall not be voted for the enlargement of the canal unless \$50,000,000 be voted at the same time for good roads. If they shall hold their position the canal cause will be hopeless. It is uncertain whether the state would bond itself for either amount; it will not bond itself for both. The canal has been very useful as a regulator of railway charges, even since the traffic through it became considerable, but if the farmers of the state have decided that there shall be \$50,000,000 for roads or no canal, the latter might as well be presented to the New York Central. The farmers believe that only the cities would benefit from the canal.

GOOD, BUT NOT TOO GOOD.

Ways in Which Many Well-Meaning Persons Do a Deal of Harm. Kansas City Star. The Roosevelt standard of morality is a sound one to work to or to work from. It is based on worthy ideals for makes for strength as well as morals, and its keynote is common sense. It is a good thing for the time that this standard is yielding an influence in the public life of the country, but it is also appropriate that it was set forth by the president in his address last night before the Washington Young Men's Christian association. The point of this address was that a great deal of high-minded endeavor falls of accomplishing results because it is misdirected. "There are many philanthropic movements led and supported by most excellent people," said Mr. Roosevelt, "which, nevertheless, have produced results altogether disproportionate to the efforts put forth, because they have failed to recognize the need of human nature at the same time that an effort was being made to better human nature."

SENATORS AND THE PEOPLE.

Henry Loomis Nelson in the Century. The senate is the most powerful body in the government. It is often spoken of as an oligarchy; but this is not absolutely accurate. Sometimes the president defects it by an appeal to the country, but the senate yields slowly even to the country, for the people have a long time in which to forget the early sins of a senator, who, if he be wise, will be cautious during the latter part of his six years' term. But two-thirds of the senate can be careless until their indifference or obstinacy threatens the party. A senator is not chosen by the people, and legislatures are rarely held to a strict account for the manner in which they select senators, or for the kind of men whom they choose. There is a general immunity for the middleman in politics. The executive who appoints is often punished for a frailty of judgment or for partisan blindness to bad character, while the senator who votes for some man may go scot-free. The people have not often been watchful over elections to the senate, and are not accustomed to take failure to elect good men, or the actual election of unworthy men, as anything that they can help. They seem to suffer from the inertia which often accompanies a conscious lack of power.

REVENUE LAW REVISION.

Wood River Interests: An equal distribution of railroad taxes throughout the state and in the counties, towns and school districts through which the railroads pass is what the people want and will have if there will be lots of trouble in store for somebody. Tenthred Herald: If it is the tax shirker that the legislature is after, nothing would catch them as quick as a law similar to Illinois, which requires the county clerk to publish the assessment of each and every person. In this way they can be brought to time before the Board of Equalization. For failure to list all property a heavy fine or imprisonment is attached. It is easy to get them if this method is enacted into law.

Dodge Criticism: We have never yet seen an argument presented why property should be assessed for less than its actual value. The total assessment would be much larger, but the tax levy would be raised to the same level of revenue. Besides, all property would then pay its just proportion of the taxes. Each county would pay state tax according to property. It is the only fair and equal method of assessment, but of course must be general.

Hastings Republicans: The Republican believes the hue and cry for revenue revision is raised by the corporation lobby and its news boosters in an attempt to divert the attention of the public from an attempt at a strict enforcement of the present law, and the few minor amendments needed, and that the amendment will either be spent in siring personal views of wide divergence, or in the event of the passage of a new law there will be found in its enforcement the usual loopholes for the escape of the franchised corporations. The main reason for this, says the Washington Post, lies in the fact that the present law would place these corporations on an equal basis of taxation with the small property holder, who has always borne the heavier burden, and until some tax reformer points out the defects of the old law and not the manner in which it is evaded we shall remain in the view that there is much ado over nothing.

Arapahoe Mirror: The Nebraska legislature seems to be making real effort now to amend the revenue laws of this state. There is certainly nothing needed in Nebraska in the line of legislation more than a change in the present revenue law; and this does not mean that the whole law be radically changed, but certainly some amendments will be made that will compel the assessment of property at its real value. It seems, too, that the state and county boards of equalization should be given more power than is conferred by the present law. The chief features of the new law seem to be all that is required. There has been an effort in the legislature for the past several years to amend the law, but some interest has always been strong enough to block any remedial legislation. Just what that means is a mystery to most people, because everybody has realized the necessity for a change. If the present members fail to do their duty in the matter they will probably hear from the people who have elected them to represent them in the law-making body.

Fairfield Herald: It may be expected that the revenue laws of the state will be considerably amended at this session of the legislature. The plan to provide for county assessors and to give added powers to boards of equalization on review of assessments to raise or lower the aggregate of assessed valuation meets with favor. The small property holder has probably paid his share of taxes in the same proportion. As it is now, Nebraska shows up poor in assessed valuation and with a rate of taxation as high, or even higher, than the current interest rate, enough to appall the cautious investor who in his ignorance of the facts naturally takes the official statements of assessed valuations each year as correct. If this legislature succeeds in providing a fairly satisfactory remedy for the present ridiculous inadequacy of the annual precinct assessors' returns it will be a great step forward for the state and will benefit the taxpayers who accomplished it to some consideration for one good piece of work which had long awaited attention.

Neigh Leader: A casual glance at the condition of the Nebraska state treasury would warrant the assumption that the present large floating debt of the state is due to extravagant appropriations. While this may be true in a few instances, yet it by no means solves the problem. The cause lies deeper. While the state has been growing in population and wealth, and the cost of government largely and naturally increased, yet the tax rate has not been increased for purposes of taxation, as returned by the assessors, shows a gradual and steady decrease for a number of years. While state expenses have necessarily become larger, the source of revenue has diminished. The Leader is not favorable to any measure that will give a large fictitious valuation for revenue purposes, yet it is forced to the conclusion that some means for raising the assessment to a figure that will yield sufficient revenue for state purposes, under an economical administration, is not only wise, but absolutely necessary. The present condition can not go on forever, for while at present the credit of the state is of the best, a continuation of the policy of the past few years will in the end reach the climax of state bankruptcy. This is the situation as presented to the members of the state legislature, and happily they seem to appreciate it fully, and are planning to curtail expenditures to the lowest possible limit, and at the same time enact needed revenue legislation. To what extent they will be successful cannot now be outlined, but manifestly they are sincere in their purpose.

MINOR SCENES AND INCIDENTS SKETCHED ON THE SPOT.

President Roosevelt does not intend to engage in bear hunting again until he has laid down the cares of office. The Washington Post reports that he gave the hunting ultimatum to a Wyoming delegation, headed by Congressman Mondell, which called upon him recently. He was asked to participate in a grizzly hunt next spring in the course of his trip through the west. "Your picture is very alluring," said the president as the Wyoming people described to him the prospects of big game, "but I have found from past experience that hunting bear with a brass band is barren of results."

"We will close all the trails in the vicinity," protested Mr. Mondell and his constituents in one voice. "Yes," answered the president; "that might be done. I appreciate the courtesy of your invitation, but some people would insist even if they had to take a balloon to do it."

The president has reached the conclusion that there can be no sport with the trees full of reporters, the sky speckled with kite cameras, balloons sailing over containing journalists and sketch artists perched on every crag and butte. He wants some solitude to pop the pesky varmint, not so much on his own account, but to give the bear a run for his life. If he is hunted with too much halloo and uproar he will refuse to play. A nice, quiet game suits him better. Simple in his tastes, he insists on simple pleasures. Mr. Roosevelt and the bears will get along very well together if the newspapers will spare them. But there is only one instance in the presidential career that the press will heed an admonition to secrecy; and this is concerning the annual messages. There is to be said not the glowing and eager interest in a message that there is in a bear hunt. Nine columns of bear hunt is none too much. We can not speak unreservedly of messages. Sometimes nine columns is too much.

Asher C. Hinds, clerk to the speaker of the house of representatives in Washington, is a parliamentarian of great attainments, but he acknowledges that a question asked the other day by Congressman Shattuck knocked him over. Debate on the Philippine currency bill had been dragging along wearily, each successive orator having his time extended. One member secured double indulgence of this kind and then Mr. Shattuck inquired with portentous solemnity: "Mr. Speaker, if this discussion is continued indefinitely how long will it take to reach a vote?" Mr. Hinds did not see the intentional bull for a moment, but realized the situation when the members laughed.

A new piano worth \$15,000, according to competent judges, has been installed in the East Room of the White House. It is the gift of a firm of piano manufacturers. It belongs to the massive square class and is covered all over with gold leaf. The legs are formed of great eagles with outstretched wings supporting the piano and feet resting on the floor. Around the body of the instrument the shields of the thirteen original states are painted at intervals. The interior construction of the piano is of the finest and its tone is very melodious. It will be used at the musicales which Mrs. Roosevelt gives frequently.

The life of a paper note, and especially those of small denominations, as a one, two or five-dollar bill, has always been much shorter than the average person would imagine. Of late, however, owing to the great increase in paper currency throughout the country, its existence has been curtailed until at the beginning of the present year it has been estimated that the ordinary outstanding note now lives but a little more than two years.

The main reason for this, says the Washington Post, lies in the fact that as business becomes more active there is a greater demand for small bills for ready use, and these being handled oftener and more carelessly than the larger ones, they wear out much sooner. This tendency to have the average note exist only a few years has made a great increase in the issue of new money amounting to over \$23,000,000 in bank notes and government paper currency, and a proportionate increase in destruction and redemption.

All of this has its effect on every department through which the note passes, from the time of the beginning of its existence in the paper mills of Massachusetts, whence it is sent to the Bureau of Engraving, to the treasury, and to the countless people who use it until it again reaches the treasury, where it is redeemed and ground into pulp.

In the paper mills this increase in the demand for notes necessitates more employees and more machinery. In the Bureau of Engraving, where the money is engraved, printed and numbered, before being taken to the treasury, the results are still more manifest. During the last year 400 more clerks have been added, thus bringing the number up to 2,851, which, when set up against the employees which composed the entire working staff of the bureau twenty-five years ago, is a forcible reminder of the rapid growth and prosperity of this country. The great amount of work done by the bureau since 1860 has required the organization at a night force, besides the extension at times of the hours of labor of the entire printing force.

INDIGESTION A GREAT LEVIER.

Baltimore American. Edward VII's physician bluntly tells the monarch he eats too much. This is a pretty dish to set before a king. But it seems that there is no royal way to health—in the matter of indigestion all men are painfully equal.

PERSONAL NOTICES.

The adviser of "520 per cent" Miller v. Brooklyn has gone into bankruptcy. A Baltimore girl married a man whom she had arrested for picking her pocket. Say, "wasn't that just lovely?" The legislature of Utah has been asked to legalize a holiday to be known as "Health day," when every person must by law leave home.

The naval investigating committee ought to place some limit on the number of times a witness shall be permitted to change his testimony. General Funston is on a visit to his old stamping grounds in Kansas, but in spite of all temptations has thus far refused to make a speech.

Admiral Schley, accompanied by Colonel and Mrs. A. K. McClure of Philadelphia, is to make an extended tour of the west, going as far west as southern California, where the early spring will be spent. An intimate friend of the president received a letter from Mr. Roosevelt recently in which the writer says: "I am not a rich man, hardly a well-to-do man, and besides I have a large family of small children."

A friend met Congressman Ruppert of New York and said: "Take, I came away from home without any money this morning. Let me have a couple of dollars, will you. I want to get shaved." "Say," observed the congressman as he handed over the money, "who shaves you—Pierpont Morgan?"

Invitations have been issued by Mrs. Maria Patrick of Urbana, O., for a dinner party February 2 in honor of her niece's birthday. Twenty-five guests have been invited, none of whom will be less than 75 years of age. The combined ages of the guests and hostess will aggregate close to 2000 years.

Monday last was a fatal day for beauty, and two harrowing accidents were reported. The long, luxuriant locks of Prof. Mommsen were burned away by the flames of a candle in Dresden, while on the other side of the world Sanford B. Dole of Honolulu was rushing about endeavoring to quell a conflagration in his bowling board.

The slang phrase "up against it" appears to fit the position in which Mayor Fagan of Jersey City finds himself. He is in bad health and doctors have ordered him to take immediate rest at some place away from home. But Mr. Fagan is a republican and it leaves him no choice. Political lines are drawn tightly in Jersey City, so there is no knowing what Acting Mayor Brock might do. Therefore Mr. Fagan is filling up with medicine and sticking to his job.

He (factually)—A society belle should have the right ring. She (demurely)—Well, I have hopes—Yonkers Statesman. George—It's no use fighting the coal dealer with a certain amount to Horace. Mrs. George—No; the thing for you to do is to say nothing and saw wood.—Detroit Free Press. Maudie—You can't fool me. I know you're trying to keep your engagement to Horace a profound secret. Grace—For goodness sake, don't say a word about it. I'm scared to death for fear Horace will find it out himself.—Baltimore Sun.

Now!—Fanny! I always associate your wife with a certain episode in my own life. There's just one thing she always reminds me of—Henriette—I wish I could say that. There's lots of things she always reminds me of.—Philadelphia Press. "George, did you ever love any other woman well as I?" "Indeed? Why didn't you marry one of them instead of me?" "Well, I suppose I'll be asking myself that question, too, some day."—Chicago Tribune.

He—You're the first woman I ever loved. She—Well, I don't know about that; but I'm certain I'm the first woman you ever told that you loved her. I could see that by the sideways way you do it.—Boston Transcript. "You can't barge by appearances, paw," said Farmer Sorghum's eldest daughter. "Benton the roughest exterior may nestle the heart of gold." The old man nodded thoughtfully. "That sounds like a good deal of sense, but to me it's just the opposite with a sick brack."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Oh Prune! St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Swart, shriveled prune! About whose umbrous erevices still cling? The fragrant breath of love, 'Tis thou meek and lowly cat, To thee we dedicate This time to celebrate Thy virtues, Prune. Long hast thou been unused, But of the wildest tongue, And every clowd of thine Hath sought to give thee; Thou that wast 'ere a grape! Full-blooded, fair of shape, Hatched himself might rape And joy to 'mbibe thee. Fall'n daughter of the Vine, Thou wast not born for wine: A humble destiny, A humbler sphere. No sensuous wishful get Licks thee from reeling pot, Thou'rt spared that painful lot, Mankind to cheer. Once thou emburpled bloom Frest in the odorous gloom, Heedless of future doom On boardings' falling fate, Until that fatal grace Tempted the acid, base To drink of the maddening place—Cain to thine Abel.

Scorned of the millionaire, Feast of the proletariat! Blush not thy fame to wear, Proud in thy station, Maker of muscle thou, For thy wife's health, Poe of the trusts art thou, Pride of the nation.

SMILING LINES.

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Advertisement for Ayer's Sarsaparilla. The oldest, safest, strongest, Sarsaparilla you can buy. Includes an illustration of a man and a bottle of the medicine.