

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 15th day of January, A. D. 1905. M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

President Baer is entitled to a comic valentine.

It seems that the withdrawal of Addicks does not withdraw.

The enactment of a department of commerce bill extends the policy of expansion to the president's official family.

President Baer evidently has no very high opinion of President Mitchell. It is safe to assume, however, that President Mitchell reciprocates the compliment.

Mayor Moore is entitled to credit for consistency on the market house proposition. His message to the council leaves no one in doubt that he has not changed his position.

Secretary Shaw refers to President Roosevelt as "the chief servant of 80,000,000 people." That would be less majestic if it were uttered about Emperor William II by one of his ministers.

The diplomacy of Superintendent Pease was again shown when he carefully excluded the members of the school board from his list of those furnishing horrible examples in penmanship for public school pupils.

After throwing the votes of all the democratic senators against the confirmation of appointments of negroes to office in the south, the democrats will try to persuade the negro voters in the north that the republicans are not treating them right.

A decision in the beef trust litigation is expected soon. If the case is decided in favor of the meat packers we will see an early resumption of the suspended operations looking toward a consolidation of all the great meat-packing plants of the country.

The only way to secure tax reform that will equalize the burdens of government as between the railroads and the private individual is to keep everlastingly at it. Committees in command of the fighting forces must not allow themselves to be frightened or discouraged.

Over in Chicago the underwriters are talking of instituting a fire coroner at their own expense, provided he can be invested with the necessary authority. When they talked of a fire coroner for Omaha the possibility of the fire companies footing the bills was not even suggested.

Local medical schools are complaining of difficulties encountered in securing subjects for dissection and are seeking legislation to remove the obstacles. As long as they confine themselves to legislative methods of relief and fight shy of the Indiana system the public will enter no objections.

The solicitude of President Baer, that the adoption of the uniform wage scale for the entire anthracite coal region might not accord justice to men mining coal under different local conditions, is truly pathetic. But Mr. Baer's anxiety to see that nothing but even-handed justice is meted out does not extend to transactions between the coal operators and the coal-consuming public.

In any other city than Omaha the Commercial club, as the organized body of business men, would be in the very forefront of a fight to put a stop to railroad tax shirking whose success would mean a reduction of 20 per cent in every business man's city taxes. Just imagine what activity the Kansas City Commercial club would be manifesting if our campaign for tax reform were being waged there. But the difference between Omaha and Kansas City in this respect is easily accounted for.

ALASKAN TREATY RATIFIED.

The ratification by the senate of the treaty providing for a commission of jurists to pass upon the question of the Alaskan boundary dispute gives promise that the troublesome controversy will in a reasonable time be settled. It should be understood that this convention does not provide for arbitration, but simply for the ascertainment, by American and British jurists, as to the scope and meaning of the provisions of the treaty between Great Britain and Russia regarding the boundaries of the territory that was purchased by the United States from Russia.

There exists now an arrangement that is not satisfactory to either country. It is a provision of understanding that is necessarily temporary, and which circumstances may disturb at any moment. It has been a menace to peace in the past and may become so in the future. Both governments realize the expediency of getting it out of the arena of controversy and, therefore, they have agreed to submit to a commission the determination of the question as to the meaning of the treaty of 1825, in force when the United States purchased Alaska of Great Britain. In proposing this method of reaching a decision of the question our government has made no concession. It has simply said to Great Britain that this is a matter about which there is uncertainty and the United States is willing to have the meaning of the treaty between Russia and Great Britain submitted to a tribunal of jurists in whose integrity and honor both can rely. These jurists will not have the character of arbitrators and yet their decision will have a potential influence upon the determination of the controversy. If a majority should decide in favor of the American contention, as it is confidently believed would be the case, there would probably be no difficulty in reaching an amicable adjustment. On the other hand, should our claim be approved the controversy would end and a perplexing and irritating issue would be forever settled.

We believe that the contention of the United States in this matter is absolutely sound and that it can be conclusively shown to fair-minded British jurists. This is evidently the feeling at Washington and particularly in administration circles. Everybody who is at all familiar with this controversy must desire that it shall be settled as soon as possible in a fair, equitable and amicable way. The treaty ratified by the senate provides a way suggested by our own government and there is reason to believe that it will have a satisfactory result.

CURRENCY FOR THE PHILIPPINES. If congress adjourns without making provision for an improvement of currency conditions in the Philippines the consequences will be most serious to the islands and a vast amount of trouble to this country may result. The dispatch from Governor Taft a few days ago shows how bad the situation is and how great is the urgency for relief and in view of this it seems remarkable that congress should hesitate to provide the needed legislation. Governor Taft stated that all business is suffering greatly from fluctuation and depreciation of silver and that failure to furnish relief at this session of congress would create consternation throughout the islands. He pointed out that the political situation would become more difficult if there was not relief and there can be no doubt that such will be the case.

The greatest need in the Philippines today is a currency system that will protect the business of the islands against the disastrous effects of the depreciation of silver and the consequent fluctuations of exchange and this can be provided by simply putting the currency of the islands upon a gold basis, as was proposed by the house of representatives at the last session of congress and rejected by the senate. There is no necessity for trying expedients, when the way is plain. Governor Taft, who is perfectly familiar with the situation, says that the effect of introducing American money into the islands, which has been proposed, would enhance prices greatly and derange every form of business. That this is correct no one familiar with financial operations will question. The money that is now used in the Philippines should be retained—that is the silver currency—but upon a gold standard basis that will guard against the fluctuations now so damaging to the business of the islands. What is manifestly needed is not a new currency, with which the people would be entirely unfamiliar, but a change in regard to the existing currency which would give it stability and security.

This question has been before congress since early in the beginning of the present session and ought to have been disposed of long ago, since there was ample information as to the necessity for different Philippine currency legislation from that which had been provided in the bill that passed at the first session. Had the policy embodied in the house measure been adopted there would now be no trouble, but as it is there is danger that nothing will be done at the present session and that a year may elapse before the monetary relief so urgently needed by the Philippines will be supplied. The democrats in the senate are said to be opposed to extending the gold standard to the archipelago and it is quite possible that they will defeat the proposition to do this. In that event it is altogether probable that there will ensue in the Philippines disorder and difficulties of a very serious nature. The delay of congress in this matter has been very damaging and failure to provide the needed relief might prove disastrous.

When the proposition for a government-appointed police board for South Omaha comes up at Lincoln the democratic

And strangely enough the advocates of a third-term mayor are the ones with the watchword "anti-machine."

The Long and the Short of It. New York World. So long as Uncle Sam supplies the world with food he can afford to be a little short on warships. Nations are not apt to quarrel with their bread and butter.

Not Worth Repeating. Chicago Inter Ocean. It seems to be Mr. Cleveland's idea that if his opinion as to whether he favors a third term is of the slightest importance somebody should come forward and explain the reason why.

Where Wonders Multiply. Chicago Record-Herald. Since the Chicago aldermen have voted against a proposition to double their own salaries people in other parts of the country will be likely to give up their recently acquired belief that this city has ceased to be the most remarkable place on earth.

Profit for Cable Companies. Indianapolis News. A good many details, declarations, proposals and rejections are being wasted in Washington, not to mention the expense of cable toils, on a case that after all will have to be wholly decided at The Hague. But it may be good practice for the cable toils to be a game that none of them play any too well.

One Horse on Mars. Springfield Republican. Thus far Senator Hanna's bill to pension ex-slaves has received a notable endorsement. Republicanism unanimously adopted by the Birmingham, Ala., camp of united confederate veterans declare that the bill should pass because, among other reasons, the slaves loyally cultivated the plantations of their masters while the masters were away under Lee, Jackson and Grant. At this distance the Birmingham endorsement looks like a joke on Mr. Hanna.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The fight with insurgents in the neighborhood of Manila is a notable endorsement of the Philippines is not yet quite complete. If a light of this sort can take place within seven miles of the capital of the Philippines, as this did, there must necessarily be a considerable number of troops to the islands, by which the garrison of the islands has been reduced to about 20,000, has evidently gone too far.

Senators by Popular Vote. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. One branch of Oregon's legislature has passed a joint resolution asking congress to pass an amendment to the constitution for the election of senators by a direct vote of the people. Many legislatures have taken similar action in the last few years. Apparently, the movement for the change is growing. Such a contest as that in Colorado recently and the one in Delaware for the last few years help to incite the sentiment which voices itself in the Oregon case.

Graft in Politics. Indianapolis Journal. The word graft as now used in politics is of comparatively recent origin. The latest dictionaries throw no light on its meaning. The nearest approach to it is an architectural use of the word to designate "something inserted in or incorporated with another thing to which it did not originally belong." The grafting of graft in politics is something inserted in the public treasury and the people's pockets. Every farmer knows what grafting means and what milking is, but if he were told that the modern graft is a means of milking the treasury in an investment that should be willed, it represents one of the worst forms of legalized stealing and is found in great abundance in state houses during legislative sessions. During the first 100 years of our national existence we have moved very far, both in national and state governments, from the high standard of official responsibility and civic duty, the rigid economy in public affairs and the conscientious regard for the taxpayers that once prevailed.

TAX QUESTION IN WISCONSIN. Equal Distribution of Public Burdens on All Classes of Property. The legislature of Wisconsin is grappling with the tax question vigorously, and with a determination to compel all classes of property to bear an equal share of the public burden. A dispatch to the Chicago Inter Ocean says the taxation committee of the legislature, the tax commission and the general officers of the railroad corporations in Wisconsin will meet at a conference at Madison on February 11, and it is probable that James J. Hill of Minnesota, who has been invited, will attend; in fact, he has informed Senator Whitehead, who is chairman of the senate committee on taxation, that he will be arranged to be on hand if he can arrange to do so without interfering with business arrangements already planned. President Hught of the Chicago & North-western, and A. J. Farling of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul have said that they will be present if possible. All of the other roads doing business in Wisconsin will be represented by officials.

At this time appearances indicate that the primary election bill is to be pushed through by the assembly, which is undoubtedly in favor of a measure nearly as radical as the Stevens bill, which was killed two years ago, while the senate is devoting all its time to taxation with the evident intention of disposing of it before the administrative election reform measure is considered seriously. It is believed that Mr. Hill will be on hand February 11, and that his appearance will be one of the features of this session of the legislature. The railroad people have a better right to be satisfied that there is great danger that there will be legislation of a serious character, and that their interests are in danger.

The legislature, however, through its committees, has indicated a desire to have an elaborate report formulated upon the question of higher taxes, and it is believed that the railroads will improve the opportunity by presenting, through the various presidents or other representatives, the arguments said to have been formulated upon the question of figures and facts recently collected by a special agent. They are prepared to show, it is said, that there has been no tax-dodging on the part of the railroads, and that, as a matter of fact, they have been paying for a number of years a heavier tax in Wisconsin than in any other state, notwithstanding the fact that nearly all other states have increased the taxes of these corporations. It is believed that no time is to be wasted in the senate, and that the right of way over everything else. The assembly, however, is apparently more interested in the primary election reform.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Metropolis. The White Star liner which sailed from New York last Wednesday is said to be the largest ship afloat. Its extreme length is 700 feet, its greatest breadth is 75 feet and its depth 40-1-3 feet. Its gross tonnage is 21,500, while its displacement is 23,200 tons. The liner is of the twin-screw type, the propellers being driven by two sets of quadruple engines. It has eight double end boilers, each capable of working to a pressure of 210 pounds to the square inch. It has nine decks and its makers say that the number of its water-tight apartments and their character and arrangement make it invulnerable. It has masts and two massive funnels, the tops of these being 131 feet above its keel. It will carry 350 passengers in the first salon, 250 in the second and 2,000 in the steerage. It carries a crew of 335, making its population, when all the spaces is taken, the large total of 3,535. Many of the shell plates with which it is protected weigh three tons each.

New York has a new plaything and all the new boys are best at it about as a kitten does its woolen ball. It is the Flatiron building and its deflected faces. One newspaper has named it Cape Flatiron, and describes in marine terms the attempts of feminine shoppers to get to the top of the building, when all the space is taken, the large total of 3,535. Many of the shell plates with which it is protected weigh three tons each.

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REBUILDING UP FOR NORFOLK.

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PERSONAL NOTES.

General Uribe-Urbe has decided that it is a failure unless a man can have his own way. Although a very generous man, President Roosevelt doesn't like to tip the beam at more than 100 pounds.

Charles Moten, a colored man and the oldest resident of Washington, D. C., has just died in that city at the age of 118. Abraham Lincoln, the oldest male survivor of the Lincoln family which descended the president, is living at Lacey Springs, Va. While in Europe General Miles saw a good many novel things. He attended a cakewalk in Paris and Buffalo Bill's show in London.

Mr. Maroon is a handy traveling companion on an ocean voyage. He can reach up in the air at any time and pull down the latest news. Seventy German poets have formed a trust and agreed not to accept less than half a mark a line for their work. This seems to be a confession that many of their lines are not more than half up to the mark.

Benjamin Waddell, a wealthy and public-spirited farmer of Marion county, Ohio, who some time since gave a \$50,000 home for children to the town of Marion, is about to expend at least \$60,000 in building a home for old ladies in the same town. Anelia Rintaska, the only remaining god-child of Napoleon I, is dead at Warsaw, aged 51. She happened to be born the day Napoleon passed through Warsaw, and his way back from Moscow and the great general stopped at the baby's father's hotel.

Having in mind how the eighth letter of the alphabet is misused in England, some one in Washington has perpetrated this crime: "What was really the disease from which Sir Michael Herbert suffered when he had his row with Bowen?" Of course the listener gives it up, whereupon the answer is given: "It was a severe attack of the (H)ague."

Nate Salisbury, who died at Long Branch on December 24 last, by his will left \$20,000 in personal property and no real estate. His widow, Rachel Salisbury, is made sole legatee, "knowing that she will devote the income of my estate to the care and education of our children," as the will reads. The will names Milton E. Miller of Fort Benton, Mont., as executor, but it is understood that he has assumed in favor of the widow.

LAUGHING MATTER. "Have you any objection to my taking your daughter to the theater, sir?" "No; not so long as you don't let her select the play."—Smart Set.

Miss Hope—What is the best way to retain one's friends?—Smart Set. Mr. Sage—Don't give 'em away.—Kansas City Journal.

"I see that one Pennsylvania convict fatally assaulted another." "What?" "They must have some bad men in that penitentiary."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Uncle John—I'm glad to hear you say you've got a new girl. "Yes, she's the best ever." "Willie—Yes, she's the best ever." "Uncle John—That's right." "Willie—Yes, she's the best ever. Every other week or so an there ain't no school."—Philadelphia Press.

"What kind of breakfast food have you?" "Inquired the New Yorkers in the Boston hotel." "We have pumpkin, custard, apple and meringue pie," replied the waiter, carefully adjusting his glasses.—Yonkers Statesman.

"Where are you from, Mr. Polhemus?" "New Jersey." "Where are your politics, may I ask?" "Haven't got any politics—just New Jersey."—Chicago Tribune.

"That inventor has a brilliant future." "He has," replied the waiter, who so long a list of great things he is going to do. He is one of the few people whose features make them famous."—Washington Star.

"I am the most important thing around here," said the big rascal; "I'd like to know why I'm being put in a hole." "I'm putting you in a hole." "Why?" "Because you're the most important thing around here."—Philadelphia Record.

WHICH FORK TO USE. Baltimore American. Some persons yearn for knowledge of the kind you get at college. Some long for musty facts from days ago.

Some hunger to be knowing "What the future will be showing." While others watch the present burning on.

But when I'm called out to dinner By some picaresque sinner Who was always in the social swimming.

I would give a whole diploma, Even my college-bred diploma, I would give it all and gladly be a fool. I would give my evening clothes, And the jewelry I own, to see you smile. When I hear the mellow popping of the cork.

Were I not always forgetting One small thing that keeps me fretting— If I only could recall "which fork?" "Which fork?"

"There's quite a row beside me, But the woe of woe lotted me, If ever I can get them sorted out; For each one has its duty Just as each its duty treads, The oyster one is three-lined, short and stout; And the rest—they're more or less guessing In manner most distressing. And I'd almost trade my hope of future joy, For a chance to eat again. And the farmhouse dull old plain With the tools I used to handle when a boy."

For I'm sure I never learn, Though I learn and learn and learn, Though I spend a dozen seasons in New York. Just what fork to use in line; So from soup to nuts and wine I am haunted by the thought, "Which fork?"

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