

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. For the month of February, 1903, as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Circulation type (Daily, Sunday, etc.), Number of copies, and Total.

Net total sales, \$44,000. Net average sales, \$30,145. GEORGE B. TISCHUCK, Notary Public.

Our Dave will now get about to have himself "prominently mentioned" for some other job.

It is pretty safe to infer that William J. Bryan as a juror means William J. Bryan as the whole jury.

What could be more fitting than to launch Shamrock III on St. Patrick's day as an auspicious omen for its quest of America's cup.

A special order should be placed forthwith with the weather man for some of his best brand for the day of the president's visit to Omaha.

Dave Mercer was the only applicant for the position of director of the census, out President Roosevelt felt himself free to let the place seek the man rather than the man seek the place.

County Treasurer Elmaser has made another monthly statement telling in what banks the county money is deposited but there is not a word telling where the interest earned on this county money is planted.

The Board of Education will retain the rule against the employment of married women as teachers in its revised code, but the rules will be promptly suspended as usual whenever a case arises backed by a strong enough pull.

The task of City Electrician Schurig to locate fifty electric street lamps at 200 different street intersections must be very much like that of the newspaper editor who has twenty-five columns of reading matter and only ten columns of space.

Congressman De Armond extends an invitation to erring democrats to come back, but fails to say whether the invitation reaches any further than the rear seats, which Bryan said the penitents must occupy for a probationary period before moving up front.

One of the addresses at the Jackson day banquet of the Iriquois club at Chicago was intended to give the democrats a look into 1904. The trouble is that most of the shrewd democrats are already filled with apprehension that they will have nothing but a look in 1904.

Ex-Speaker Henderson has been too long identified with the west to separate himself entirely from western interests, no matter how far east he may be in the pursuit of professional duties. Colonel Henderson is a western man through and through and will never feel perfectly at home except in the west.

The conviction of women for capital or other serious crimes almost simultaneously in many parts of the country indicates either that the sex is becoming less law abiding or that the sympathy usually excited by women prisoners is being dulled. This might be a good subject for the club women to discuss.

It is said that when two soothsayers went to meet on the streets of ancient Rome they could not help laughing in each other's faces. The same condition arises whenever two members of the railroad lobby at Lincoln mention to one another the subject of distribution of railroad terminal values as a reminder of its handy use as a pretense to fool the people.

The people of Denver are preparing to act under the new constitutional amendment, which permits them to frame their own charter and to enjoy the full measure of municipal home rule. The Denver charter ought to be up to date, and at any rate will conform to the wishes of the people who are to be governed under it. Denver and Kansas City lead Omaha in the matter of local self-government and Omaha must soon follow to keep up with the procession.

A POINT OVERLOOKED.

Before the revenue bill is agreed to in a form that provides for the assessment of property at 20 per cent of the full cash value our legislators should consider the serious consequences that will follow such a departure.

Experience throughout this state as well as in other states has invariably been that fractional assessments promote inequality and injustice, which cannot be covered up under the full value assessment plan.

The lawmakers at Lincoln evidently do not realize what the legalizing of the fractional assessment plan means. For Omaha it means that whereas this year property has been assessed at 100 per cent for city taxation next year it will be assessed at only 20 per cent.

It means that where the grand total of assessed valuation for 1903 is more than \$100,000,000 next year it will appear to be only about \$20,000,000. It means that while the city tax levy in Omaha this year is less than 9 mills next year it will be upwards of 50 mills.

The position in which Omaha will be placed by such an advertisement can be readily appreciated. It will be heralded everywhere that Omaha's taxable wealth has shrunk to one-fifth of what it was before and that the tax rate has been multiplied five or six times.

The damage done to Omaha by its inflated census of 1890, followed by the drop in the figures for 1900, will be incomparable to the damage wrought with investors and possible incomers by such a showing of decreased property values and skyrocket taxes.

What is true in this respect of Omaha will be true also of South Omaha and of Lincoln, each of which will suffer irreparable injury by the proposed change in the basis of assessment.

On the other hand, if the legislature retraces its steps and goes back to the full value basis it will bring the assessment roll of the state as well as of its cities up to within an approximation of its actual worth and the advertisement thus given to the world will be worth to our people hundreds of thousands of dollars in new investments and tens of thousands of increased population.

It is to be hoped the legislature will recognize its mistake and make this correction before it is too late.

WESTERN AGRICULTURE.

The past few years of western agriculture have been of a very satisfactory nature and the promise for the coming year is to the highest degree satisfactory. Looking to the past the agricultural producers of the west have the amplest reasons for thankfulness.

The years have been filled with the most abundant harvests and the best prices have prevailed for all the crops. There has never been a time in the history of the country when the average of farm products commanded better prices than during the last three or four years, or when they have had a better market or better prices than they are receiving today.

This is one of the considerations that needs to be thought of in estimating the general value of the home market. The common notion is to regard the value of our home products according to the exports, but this is a mistake. The real value of these products is to be determined by the domestic commerce in them, which is many times more than the foreign trade.

The great bulk of the agricultural trade of the west is not in foreign lands, but in our own country. While the producers of the west send many millions of their products abroad, they sell of those products at home hundreds of millions more than are shipped out of the country and at better prices than they receive for foreign shipments.

It is thus a matter of the utmost importance to our producers that they should preserve the home market for themselves.

Western agriculture is today the substantial fact in the national prosperity. Without it nothing else can be of endurance. It is the mainstay of national prosperity. Fortunately the outlook for it is most satisfactory.

WHAT IS THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL?

The American people seem to be pretty well satisfied with what is the republican idea of public policies. They approved those policies in the last two national campaigns by overwhelming majorities and there has been nothing since to cause them to regret that action.

On the contrary the increasing prosperity of the country and the steadily growing development industrially and commercially have convinced the great majority of the intelligent people of this country that they were exactly right in putting the republican party in control of the government in 1896. It is perfectly safe to say that nobody has suffered in his material interests because the republican party has been in control of the government during the last six years.

On the contrary it is an indisputable fact that the prevalence of republican policies has given the country the greatest progress and power that it has ever known in all its history.

THE AMERICAN CUP.

The launching of another sloop—if that be the proper title—to contest for the America's cup, which has just taken place in Scotland, is a matter of interest that is not confined to sporting circles.

The fact that the famous cup has been held by this country for more than half a century has given the contests for it a very great interest and the promise is that this interest will be quite as acute next year as at any time in the past.

The British determination to win back the cup is as strong as ever and Americans heartily applaud this spirit. It contributes to a sport which is absolutely without objection and which is really beneficial to the yachtmanship of the two countries.

It is said that the new yacht which Sir Thomas Lipton will bring over for the next contest will be a wonder and there is no doubt that we shall be able to produce a yacht that will also surpass all predecessors.

The railroads have been so successful in pulling down their taxes in Omaha, Lincoln and South Omaha by the separate tax commissioner system, which raises the assessments of all private property while requiring the acceptance of the mileage figures without change fixed by the state board, that they are willing to extend the system to the city of Beatrice.

This generosity on the part of John N. Baldwin and his associates is certainly striking. The legislature might as well pass a law exempting the railroads from city taxes altogether.

The German Reichstag has made an appropriation for participation in the St. Louis exposition, notwithstanding the fact that the celebration of the Louisiana purchase brings France to the fore as the original owner of the territory.

But if the facts could be ascertained they would doubtless show that the number of former subjects of Germany now settled in states carved out of the Louisiana acquisition exceeds by many fold the number who can trace a French lineage.

Although it has its hands full with the fight for the equal taxation of railroads and other property the Real Estate exchange cannot afford to overlook the county assessment which will soon be under way.

What has already been gained in the direction of more equitable valuations for real and personal taxes must be safeguarded against backsliders and still further progress recorded.

American missionaries in China are getting uneasy again for fear of Boxer outbreaks against the foreigners. While no one will justify or excuse ill usage of Americans in China, we must admit that our treatment of Chinamen in America has not at all times been calculated to establish special friendliness for us among the Chinese.

Salvador and Guatemala have settled by arbitration differences which under other circumstances would certainly have served as a pretext for war. Unless this arbitration virus can be wiped out the natives of South and Central America will be threatened with complete deprivation of their customary recreation.

The Department of the Missouri will be without a resident commander at its headquarters here in Omaha from April 1 to July 1, when the new general in command is expected to take charge. Since the outbreak of the Spanish-American war this department has been sort of a step-child in the military family.

Fad of the Thoughtless.

Philadelphia Press. Grover Cleveland says he didn't know any one thought of silver these days. Certainly not; it's a matter for the thoughtless.

Excuses Overworked.

Washington Post. The New York customs officials are so ungallant as to report that the female inspectors are failures. The women have hard times in trying to get into the positions the politicians covet.

Popularity of the Iowa Idea.

Minneapolis Times. The "Iowa idea" is not an unpopular one in the west. It appeals to the farmer who must pay arbitrary prices for his implements, his building material, his wire fencing, for his many manufactured articles he uses—while he himself receives no benefit from the tariff. The republican leaders will have to brave the trusts and

CONSERVATION IN THE WEST.

Effect of Prosperity in Banishing Radicalism. New York Evening Post. Today the west not only has the ability to care for itself, in a great degree, but is reaching out for places in which to invest some of its savings.

Recently the state of Nebraska, which forty years ago was an open plain trampled by buffalo, and ten years ago was affirming with vehemence the necessity of a platform, invested \$300,000 of its permanent school fund in bonds of the staid old commonwealth of Massachusetts. It took them at 2 1/2 per cent, a rate lower than could be afforded by the eastern banks at the time.

The state bank commissioner of Kansas estimates that 63 per cent of the \$50,000,000 in the banks of that state is owned by farmers, or those who depend on agriculture directly for a livelihood. It is little wonder that the legislators chosen by a constituency where new conditions and new ideas prevail, are inclined to caution.

This growth in conservatism in western communities is, after all, only a repetition of the history of other sections and other lands. With opportunity comes responsibility. Responsibility steadies a state as it does an individual. It has broadened and liberalized the west, not alone in its general laws, but in its more local applications of the functions of government.

The new outlook has come upon the possessors of the plains that the old ways are the sure ways, and that human nature is much the same east and west when it comes to the care of one's own. East and west are today more closely linked in business interests than ever before. The problems of each appeal to the other; the prosperity of one is reflected in the other's brightened skies.

While the good crops have had their part in furnishing a basis for the west's prosperity, the new conditions are in some degree to the better management, the more conservative plans, the sterner views, which have prevailed. There is promise for the future in the fact that this attitude has now become a fixed one in the west; for it means a preparation for any period of depression that may come, and a permanency in development which makes states reach the highest plane of influence and power.

"WATER" AND GOOD WILL.

Chicago Professor Thinks the Fluid is a Good Thing in Franchise Stock. Chicago Journal. One of the able instructors at the University of Chicago has created a stir by defending the practice of "watering" securities on the ground that this practice is but "capitalizing good will."

"Water" and "water" seldom go together. One is opposed to the other. Good will, undeniably an important asset in business, is the result of giving value received to the public. This policy, whether followed by dry goods store or traction company, gives margin for no considerable percentage of "watering." There are exceptions, of course, to all rules, but as a general proposition, it can be said that "watered securities" are based not on good will, but on some sort of a monopoly—a monopoly through franchises, patent rights, or control of natural resources.

"Take the local traction stocks, for instance. Can the 'water' be explained on the score of good will? Were Chicagoans ever accused of cherishing good will for the traction companies? No; the 'water' stands for the franchise rights which gave a monopoly to the existing companies. Again, the watered securities of the Standard Oil company, the corporation which made the University of Chicago what it is today, represent monopoly—not good will. Where there is monopoly seldom is there good will. The money of a company 'watered' securities the less popular, as a rule, does that company become with the public, because the added securities are made possible only by a monopoly which enables the corporation to exact more than legitimate profits. "Water" starts at the line of the honest earnings of a company.

Go through the whole list of corporations and you will find that those companies which are not entrenched back of monopolies have little or no "water" in their stocks. The absence of monopoly makes competition possible. Competition makes dishonest profits impossible. "Water" is possible only through exorbitant profits.

PERSONAL NOTES.

John Wesley Bon, who was a member of Mark Twain's "Innocents Abroad" party, has just died at the age of 79, at Pine Bluffs, Ark.

Charles M. Schwab is returning to the home shore and is said to be the picture of health. This will settle him to a place in the patent medicine gallery.

General A. W. Greely, chief signal officer of the United States army, has signed a contract with a cable company of New York for the construction of a submarine cable to connect Seattle, Wash., with Sitka, Alaska.

Alfred Belt, the richest man in the world, is recovering from his recent serious and supposedly fatal illness and has gone to Hamburg for recuperation. Most of his vast wealth was accumulated in the diamond fields of South Africa.

Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis thinks authors should be taken into a room and shot, so great is the output of books. Dr. Hillis has recently written a book or two himself, but, of course, it would be rude to suggest that the shooting should begin with him.

James H. Hyde of New York, first vice president of a life assurance society, is credited with having broken all southern railroad records the other day, when he traveled on a special train between Jacksonville and Savannah, 172 miles, in 152 minutes, with a stretch of seven miles in four minutes. It cost him \$1,000 to do it.

Police Commissioner Greene was questioning a detective about a certain case. "Tell me what there is in it," said he. "Well," responded the sleuth, "I believe—that is, in my opinion—my theory is that if the clues we are now looking for—" "See here," interrupted the commissioner, "how long did you serve on the Buffalo police force?"

Dr. Ames of Minneapolis also fastens the blame upon the newspapers. Apparently there never was an honest man yet who had somehow acquired the reputation of being a crook but he was the victim of journalistic malignity. The only remedy, it seems to us, is for the honest men, elias crooks, to have a newspaper organ of their own.

Herreshoff, the yacht builder, was walking near his shops in Bristol, R. I., one day last week when a camera flash (and it hit her personal) took a shot at him. Herreshoff started after the offender and soon caught him. The man resorted to diplomatic talk, but the yacht builder would not listen. Wreathing the camera from the owner's grasp, he extracted the offending plate and ground it to bits with his heel.

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES.

Promptly Relieve Coughs, Hoarseness, Throat and Lung Trouble. Nothing excels this simple remedy.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Hippies on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. A definite move toward a municipal electric light plant has been taken by the city authorities. A statement by the commissioner of the lighting department urging the establishment of such a plant has received the approval of Mayor Low and the Board of Estimate, and a bill will be introduced in the state legislature at an early day authorizing the city to build and operate a lighting plant. A club would thus be held over the heads of the companies, and, unless they make it to the city's interest to deal with them, a city plant will be built. That the city authorities are in earnest is further evidenced that the preparation of plans and a preliminary estimate of the cost of a municipal lighting plant have been ordered. The commissioner's report gives the comparative cost of lighting paid by 175 cities, including those that operate their own plants. His figures show that New York pays the highest price in proportion to its population and that the charges here are wholly out of proportion to the cost of production. A forceful argument for municipal ownership is supplied by the showing that six cities that operate their own plants, burning 2,000-candle power lamps, pay an average price of \$66.45 per lamp per year, while New York has paid \$146 per lamp for the same service.

When a young man named Edward Barton was arraigned on a charge of indecent exposure in the district police court, Brooklyn, reports the Times, a woman elbowed her way up to the bench. "Your honor," she said, "this man came to my house on New Lots avenue last night and, representing himself as a detective, got in to a fight with my husband."

"What is your name, madam?" asked Magistrate Furlong. "Spellit," she replied. "Why, how can I spell it if I don't know what it is?" said the magistrate, astonished. "Can't you spell your own name?" "Of course, judge," returned the woman with a puzzled air. "It's S-p-e-l-l-i-t."

"Oh, I see; that's your name, Spellit," said the magistrate. Then turning to the prisoner, "What have you got to say to this?" "It is not true that I went to the house of this Mrs. Writeit," declared Barton. "Spellit," corrected the magistrate.

The court was beginning to get into a bad tangle over the name when the magistrate cut things short by directing that a charge of impersonating a policeman be made against Barton, and he was held.

To the music of a brass band Mayor Low drove the first spike for the first rail in the tracks of the subway last Saturday afternoon. There was much speechmaking and congratulation that this great improvement for which New York has waited so long is now within touching distance of accomplishment.

As soon as the mayor laid aside the brand-new steel hammer with which he drove the spike into its bed, a hundred tracklayers began laying rails along the already prepared cedar ties, and the brilliantly lighted tunnel rang with the rapid blows.

The ceremony took place at the Fifty-ninth street station, near the site of the Virginia hotel. There were present, in addition to the mayor, President Forbes of the Board of Aldermen, Comptroller Grout, the borough presidents, a large number of aldermen; John B. McDonald, the subway contractor; August Belmont, president of the subway company, and many invited guests.

As the invitation was not sent out until late, the public was hardly aware that the formal beginning of the tracklaying was about to take place. Had it been generally known, there would have been such a demand for invitations that it would have been impossible to grant half the demands, owing to the limited space in the station.

The officials of the subway company are now certain that the trains will be running by next fall.

The car was bound upon, relates the Evening Post. In the Sixties, two handsomely gowned women, evidently bent upon an afternoon of "five o'clocks," took seats. At once the pair engaged in an absorbing and not too gently modulated conversation, in which the relative merits of "stimine" and "voile" were discussed with all the precision of experts. Suddenly one of the women looked out of the window upon the Central Park landscape, and gave a little squeak.

"We're almost there, and I look a perfect fright, I know," she exclaimed. "You do look warm," returned her companion frankly. "You'd better." She held out a little silver box, which had been chattering with other silver things, at her chaperone. The lid of the box was open. It disclosed a tiny puff and powder.

"I guess I will," said the woman of the first part, and without more ado, and utterly oblivious of the concentrated gaze of the other passengers, she daintily tapped her nose, chin and cheeks with the puff. Then, drawing down her veil again, she handed the puff back to its owner, who closed the lid of the little box with a snap, and let it dangle at her belt. The conversation had gone on untroubled by the facial operation.

"Lord, no, I'm used to it," said the conductor. "I used to think it was funny when I first saw them do it. A woman is liable to put a dab of powder on anywhere. Only not all of them carry such nice little boxes. One woman passenger we have gets on regular at Seventy-second street and carries loose powder in her satchel. She dips in her handkerchief and brings out a closed tin of powder, takes a dab, and the strange part of it is, they never seem to mind how many people watch 'em do it. Once the old party I was speaking about produces her powder satchel right next to a fussy old chap, who is pretty well made up for a man himself, toupee and dye beard, and all that. He stood it for a few minutes, dusting his coat as the powder fell. Finally he turned to her and said: 'Madame, don't you know that you're

Violating a Rule of the War Department.

"The old lady stops flirting her handkerchief, and eyes him. 'What have I got to do with the War department?' she says. 'They use smokeless powder nowadays,' he says, and then gives me the wink to stop the car in a hurry. And it's a blessing he did, too."

POINTED REFLECTIONS.

When the doctors want to impress the lady they go to work and think up a new name for an old disease.—Somerville Journal.

"I'm told," said the prison visitor, "that before you got here you were one of the leading men in your profession." "Well, the one is terribly simple and the other is very terrible.—Brooklyn Life.

"What qualifications have you as a street railway conductor?" "I worked three years in a sardine packing establishment."—Pilegende Blatt.

"Some people, I believe, still maintain that oil and water won't mix." "Well, perhaps it might not be so bad; that you weren't much of an actor, anyway.—Boston Transcript.

"You set too high a value on money," said the friend. "Maybe," answered Senator Sargent, "but so far as I have been able to learn, money is regarded as the most valuable thing yet discovered."—Washington Star.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Chicago News. A fond desire for knowledge is within my bosom burning. I positively seek and yearn for any sort of learning.

My early education was most shamefully neglected. But now the case is altered. I am ever ready to learn.

The fact that what I do not know is more or less surprising. That what I have discovered, to my great satisfaction, explains my present warm desire for information.

I make no false pretensions, for my ignorance is shocking. The very simplest subjects are my feeble powers mocking.

I'm short on metaphysics and on speculative logic. I do not know a thing about the science of pedogogy.

I'm destitute of Hebrew and of Sanskrit and of Persian. And cannot tell the merits of the old or newer vocations.

In chemistry I'm weak. I don't know much about vibration. I am absolutely lacking when it comes to information.

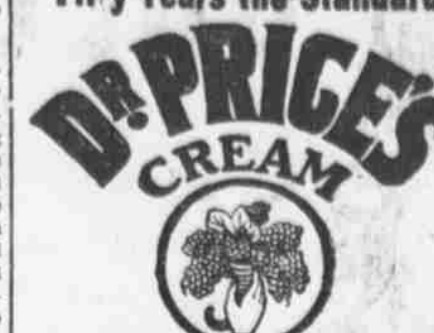
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The only thing I know is that my strong points are not my strong points.

So I've abandoned all ideas of ideals transcendental. I've lost my old-time confidence and now am meek and humble.

But when I think it over I have little cause to grumble. My wife taught school till married, but her present occupation is imparting to her husband all her stock of information.

Fifty Years the Standard



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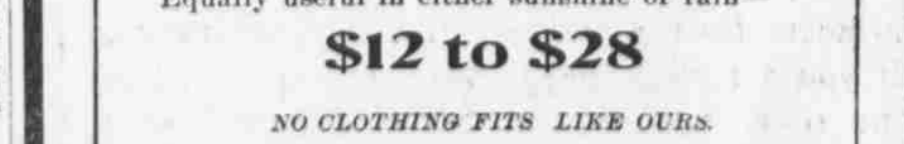


Presto. The Kitchen magician. Don't Wait. Until the eyes give out and you are compelled to stop work. If your eyes feel strained, get the proper glasses at once. Bring your eye troubles to us.

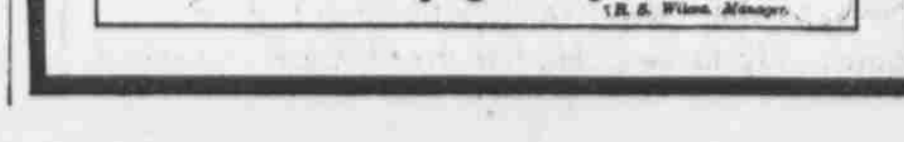
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