

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

R. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of March, A. D. 1903. M. E. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

American dentists seem to have the biggest pull with present-day European royalty. If President Roosevelt and his party have good luck they will reach St. Louis before the back beer season is closed.

A man may be honest in business and dishonest in politics but as a general proposition a double standard politician cannot be trusted.

People who have not gotten the Benoniian contagion "would rather bear the ills they have than fly to those they know not of."

The taxpayers of Omaha have more at stake in the outcome of the impending city election than they have had at any former municipal contest.

By devising some way of producing the abstract of the census first, the census office might do away with the work of getting out those ponderous volumes altogether.

Governor Mickey will do the honors of the state as host to President Roosevelt while within the boundaries of Nebraska. A safe conduct through Nebraska is not necessary.

The popocratic organ, which is trying to make out that City Treasurer Hennings' tax van is a funeral car, will be disillusioned on election day when it will prove to be a triumphal chariot.

All the affidavits in christendom will not alter the fact that at the republican city primaries seventy-three delegates were elected fairly and squarely pledged to Frank E. Moores for mayor and only seventy delegates against him.

The manager of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad and president of the Thomson-Houston Electric Light company is laying low, but he is not an indifferent spectator of the fight. He is shouting for Benson and working for Howell.

Should a stray coat be found lying around loose it should be returned to C. C. Wright. It is reported that Mr. Wright has returned from Excelsior Springs and taken his coat off. A fusillade on City Attorney Connel may be anticipated.

If the officers detailed to investigate alleged crookedness in the Postoffice department would not devote so much time to telling the public through the newspapers what terrible things they failed to uncover they might get along faster in striking a right lead.

One of Uncle Sam's new battleships alone will require a half million dollars worth of repairs to make good the damage done by a recent accident. Accidents may be necessary in the best regulated navy, but the people who foot the bills would prefer not to have them so expensive.

In view of the decision in the Northern Securities case, it was perhaps as well that the bill introduced into the late Nebraska legislature to make way for the incorporation in this state of holding and operating companies with unlimited borrowing capacity was dropped. The removal of the debt limit from corporations organized under our laws would not do them any good under present conditions.

There is nothing new under the sun. This is not the first time corporation republicans wearing the mask of anti-monopolists have carried on a campaign of deception in Omaha. Years ago a so-called citizens' movement was projected by the late Paul Vandervoort and supported with might and main from behind the screen by the confederated corporations in opposition to a republican candidate for mayor, who happened to be an ordinary mechanic.

BENSON'S JACKASS BATTERY.

Old veterans who were on the firing line in the '90's doubtless remember the mountain bowitzers loaded upon the backs of mules, that were commonly known as Jackass batteries. These batteries very often were more dangerous at the breach than they were at the muzzle and more disastrous to the Jackasses than they were to the rebels.

The Benson Jackass battery that sputters and splutters red ink and yellow fakes belongs to the same category. The roar of its red ink shells might frighten some people were it not for the ludicrous braying of those long-eared animals. The heaviest shell fired by the J. A. battery is the Haarmann affidavit, which was ingeniously worded to create the impression that Mr. Haarmann's vote was cast for Frank E. Moores against his protest, and that Haarmann's demand for a poll of the Second ward delegation, of which he was a member, was disregarded. That part of the Haarmann affidavit is cited by the Benson boomers as justification of their course.

As a matter of fact, the Haarmann affidavit as published is a piece of rank imposture. The affidavit was drawn up by the boomers and when presented for his signature Mr. Haarmann made remonstrance against that part of the document that represented him voting under protest and having his vote recorded for Moores in spite of his demand for a poll of the delegation. It was agreed then and there that that part of the affidavit would be omitted, but the conscienceless boomers published their own version over his name. In other words, the Haarmann affidavit as published is true, except in the most important part, and that part Mr. Haarmann emphatically repudiates and denounces as absolutely false.

Above the roar and rattle of the Jackass battery these facts are indisputable: Mr. Haarmann was elected delegate from the Second ward by a large majority on a ticket headed with the name of Frank E. Moores and in opposition to a ticket headed by W. W. Bingham.

Had Mr. Haarmann's name been on the Bingham ticket instead of the Moores ticket Haarmann would not have been elected.

Mr. Haarmann voted with the Moores delegation from the Second ward on every motion in the organization of the convention.

Mr. Haarmann remained in his seat and did not protest when the full vote of the Second ward was cast for Frank E. Moores.

Mr. Haarmann did not ask for a poll of the delegation.

Mr. Haarmann remained in the convention after the boomers had left the hall and continued to vote with his delegation from the beginning to the end.

Last and not least, Mr. Haarmann says he will vote for Frank E. Moores, and the straight republican ticket on the 5th day of May and does not care who knows it.

Mr. Haarmann cannot be swerved from his purpose by the roar and bray of the Jackass battery.

FUTURE OF THE AMERICAS.

The address of Senator Cullom before the American Academy of Social Science, in which he discussed the community of interests of the United States and Latin America, voiced sentiments which are very generally entertained in this country and which it would seem must inevitably in time have practical realization. Mr. Cullom expressed the opinion that the movement for closer relations between the American republics will increase from year to year. There can be no doubt of this if a wise statesmanship shall control the affairs of the republics and their people can free themselves of unwarranted prejudice. Senator Cullom said he hoped to see the day soon when the three Americas will be bound together with lines of ships and by railroad and telegraph lines, "so that the people of all these nations, North, Central and South, can conveniently mingle and trade together."

He thought the ratification of the canal treaty will mark the beginning of a new era of the greatest prosperity for all the republics of Central and South America, while the completion of that enterprise will be of world-wide benefit.

The establishing of closer relations, in a commercial way, between the United States and the southern countries has not made progress in recent years. While other nations competing for the trade of those countries have increased their business with them, our export trade with them has not advanced. Whatever the explanation of this, it is manifestly an unsatisfactory condition and it is hardly possible that it can continue indefinitely. American manufacturers and merchants may have felt during the last few years that the southern markets were less desirable than some others, but the time will come when these markets will be wanted and they should be cultivated now.

Although there is no little prejudice against the United States in the southern republics, with a few exceptions, still it is doubtless a fact this feeling is declining, as a result of the repeated assurances and manifestations of this nation's friendship and earnest concern for the welfare of the sister republics. When the United States shall have constructed an isthmian canal closer relations will certainly follow and if the projected intercontinental railway should be built there will be created a bond between this country and the southern republics the value of which could scarcely be overestimated. With an isthmian canal and a railway connecting the systems of this country with those of the countries south of us, the problem of commercial relations between the United States and the southern continent would be solved and a unity of interest and cordiality of friendship be firmly established.

The southern republics should have a future of steady progress and they will

DEFENDER OF COMBINATIONS.

Mr. Merriam, until recently director of the census and who was a candidate for secretary of the new Department of Commerce and Labor, has arrayed himself among defenders of the industrial combinations. A speech he made a few days ago has attracted some attention and it suggests that had he been appointed to a cabinet position, as the head of a department one of the duties of which will be to investigate the combinations, he would have been entirely out of place. Mr. Merriam believes that "the concentration in a few hands of so large a number of the industrial concerns throughout the country must have the effect to steady the situation."

He thought that certain industries, like the iron and steel, controlled by a comparatively few men owning the raw material and the transportation facilities, and finally producing the manufactured article, "must be in a better situation to restrict the output and adjust supply to demand with less of loss than could possibly be expected were their constituent companies resolved into original ownership, with consequent competition and cost of administration."

Grant the plausibility of this, yet the fact remains that combination of this kind leads inevitably to monopoly and with that effected the men in control take no account of the public interests. The steel corporation is assumed to have lessened the cost of administration in that industry, but in what way has this benefited the public? Enormous dividends have been paid to the stockholders in that corporation, but the lessened cost of administration has not cheapened the products of iron and steel. That corporation is steadily moving toward a monopoly of the industry and perhaps no one will suppose that if it shall attain that the consumers of its products will be benefited. It is not absorbing competitors and getting control of the raw material with a view to lessening the cost of its goods to American consumers. As the New York Journal of Commerce says, "the power to restrict output and adjust supply to demand in any industry cannot be safely trusted to a few men, however able, experienced and financially strong. In fact, the fewer, more experienced and stronger, the greater is the danger of the abuse of power, which may be used, and inevitably will be used, to keep up prices for the profit of those sharing in the monopoly at the expense of consumers."

It is against the monopolistic tendency that the people are arrayed and they will continue to insist that this shall be checked and that industrial combinations shall be placed under such governmental regulation and supervision as will prevent their becoming monopolies. Mr. Merriam admits there are evils. These must be remedied and there seems to be no longer any doubt that the government has the power to remedy them. The most plausible and ingenious arguments will fail to persuade the American people to accept and tolerate industrial monopolies.

DIVIDE AND RULE.

In the three-cornered majority contest the allied corporations are playing their old tactics of divide and rule. At the outset their plan of campaign was to capture both the democratic and republican primaries, dictate the candidates of both parties and let the people have their choice between them. But the unexpected often happens. The repulse of the corporation mercenaries at the republican primaries and the failure of the conspiracy to purchase a nomination for the preferred corporation candidate compelled a change of program.

The bolt of the defeated minority, precipitated under pretense of foul play by the corporate bellwethers, opened the way for a wedge by which the corporation bosses hope to divide the people, and rivet the corporation yoke upon their necks for the next three years. But the people of Omaha are waking up. They know that the railroads and the franchised corporations have pooled their resources for the election of a mayor and council that will do their bidding even at the sacrifice of the public interest.

The paramount issue of the campaign is equitable taxation. The people know that a corporation tool in the mayor's chair and corporation stool pigeons in the council will make equitable taxation impossible. They know that they cannot hope for equitable assessment with a purchasable or plant Board of Review. They know that the Board of Review can raise or lower assessments and has it within its power to decrease the assessments of corporations by millions, and correspondingly increase the burdens of the small home owner, the merchant and manufacturer. They know that the mayor appoints the Board of Review subject to confirmation by the council and they know furthermore that a corporation owned council can nullify the work of the Board of Review by lowering its assessments of corporate property and raising the assessment of property owned by individuals and firms.

It is patent to all men who know anything of politics that Edward E. Howell is the choice of the corporations for mayor. It is a matter of record that Howell inserted the clause in the present city charter under which the railroads have evaded their city taxes when he was a member of the state senate.

It is patent to all intelligent men that the candidacy of Benson is in the interest of Howell and the corporations. It is so regarded and treated by the democratic organ, the World-Herald,

TALK OF THE STATE PRESS.

Falls City Journal: The legislature tried to pass a law making the stealing of chickens a felony. If the price continues to rise as it has been doing it will be a felony under the old law before long.

Ashlund Gazette: Great credit is due to Congressman Hinshaw for his zealous efforts in behalf of rural mail service in this locality. They have already borne fruit in the definite arrangements to start the two Ashlund routes. Mr. Hinshaw has demonstrated his interest in the welfare and convenience of his constituents.

Wausa Gazette: The state legislature has adjourned and its record is a part of history. As the smoke clears away and the people of the state become more acquainted with the work accomplished they will more fully appreciate the earnest efforts of the members. One thing is certain, the fusion party finds little comfort in the record of the late legislature and will find less as the months pass by.

Lincoln Independent: The house of representatives did itself much credit when it passed a bill giving the wife half-interest in her husband's estate after his death. The senate had less broad-minded men in this matter and defeated the bill much to the discredit of men who know better. J. A. Douglas deserves much praise for his gallant fight in the house in behalf of the measure.

Valentine Republican: Surely it is to be hoped that the Hon. Hickey established a precedent in the first stand he took against Sunday legislative jamborees which will be followed by future governors. While some contend he is taking his Methodist into the office too freely the Republican believes instead he is directing a sense of high moral conscience and honor in setting a good example for the thoughtless. Circumstances and conditions indicate it is time some one had backbone enough to stem the tide of disregard for Sunday observance.

Auburn Post: In the judgment of the Post the legislation passed for the most important bills that have been passed by a Nebraska legislature for years—the revenue bill and the joint resolution calling for a constitutional convention. Governor Mickey preferred to amend our present constitution rather than making a new one. The Post believes that amending our present constitution would be like patching an old coat, when you are through you have a rotten foundation covered with patches. A new constitution need not radically change the present one, but it can eliminate its defects much better than amendments.

Rushville Standard: The legislature passed a bill granting the state the right to build another normal school. The place has not been designated, the bill leaving the selection of the place to the State Board of Education. Being a citizen of this country it would be natural for us to wish to have the school located at Rushville if it would be practical, but realizing the impracticability of such a proposition we shall do that which we consider the best for the west part of the state.

Nebraska's new revenue law does not go into effect until next year, but that is no reason why the State Board of Equalization should not try to give us an assessment of railroad property for this year that will make the tax-shirking railroads pay on a valuation somewhere near equitable as compared with their selling value on the current stock markets.

The people should stick to those who stick to them. As a member of the last Board of Review William J. Hunter stood up for the small taxpayer as against the corporate taxshirker despite all influence and pressure exerted by the corporation agents. As candidate for comptroller Mr. Hunter should have the vote of every taxpayer in Omaha.

Where Light is Needed. Chicago Post. The Interstate Commerce commission now purposes to inquire to what extent the coal-carrying railroads are merged. And when they have been properly classed and shaved who will answer to the call of "Next?"

Deserved Rebuke. Cincinnati Enquirer. Judge Adams of the United States court at St. Louis rebuked a lawyer for using the phrase, "Any stage of the game," in the presence of the court. The rebuke was a just one. The lawyer who cannot employ better language—who is obliged to descend to common slang in his argument—should be ringing front-door bells in the presence of the court, or attending to "cow cases" for a jerkwater railroad.

Beneficial Restrictions. New York Tribune. Still more stringent regulations ought to be adopted in almost every state of the country to protect the interests of the people in the collection of game, birds, and fishes. Such regulations are the long run for the advantage of the masses and not for the enjoyment of any privileged class. In fact, under the Stars and Stripes there are no privileged classes. Americans everywhere have ample reason for advocating the enactment of wise and judicious game laws. Much good has been done and more is in store.

Democracy a Failure. Characteristics Exemplified in the Serious Affairs of Life. Kansas City Star. Everyone knows the man who is quick to take offense and when he gets a quarrel under way backs down. He is the sort described in slang phrase as "not there with the goods." He is the most uncomfortable person to get into. The injunction of Polonius, "Beware of entrance to a quarrel, but, being in, bear it that the opposed may beware of thee," falls dead to his ears. Having no determination to go through with what he undertakes he feels no responsibility and usually leaves a more resolute companion in difficulties. It was probably he who gave occasion for the saying that one can always find trouble when he looks for it. In a homely way the fellow described illustrates a characteristic which is often exemplified by men of entirely different caliber and in more serious affairs of life. Those who start things and have not the energy to go on with them to completion are sometimes men of great natural abilities. "Start things" is the correct expression, because frequently such persons do not even begin what they have had an impulse to perform. Failure, like success, is democratic. It is exemplified in persons of most inferior quality as well as in those of most exalted possibilities. It is manifested in the ordinary walks of life the same as in those reserved for the elect. The habit of mentality connoted in a physical way by a chin which melts imperceptibly into the "Adam's apple" and by a tone of voice ending interrogatively may be incident alike to him who would be a fighter if he could get the grit and to him which makes a good showing in a street fight is the same as that which gives heart to ambition in a great enterprise. The rude epithet of the cowboy, "He done his damndest—angels could do no more," expressed the same sentiment as that which would be said of a philosopher. Whether one has courage and ability of purpose is the point of excellence in any line of endeavor. Whether the object to be attained is worthy or not is another matter. The quality which makes a good showing in a street fight is the same as that which gives heart to ambition in a great enterprise. The rude epithet of the cowboy, "He done his damndest—angels could do no more," expressed the same sentiment as that which would be said of a philosopher. Whether one has courage and ability of purpose is the point of excellence in any line of endeavor. Whether the object to be attained is worthy or not is another matter. The quality which makes a good showing in a street fight is the same as that which gives heart to ambition in a great enterprise. 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