

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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May Day has come and organized labor and organized capital are again face to face.

When the corporations have it in for anybody the corporation lawyers and the corporation strikers have it in for him also.

By a legislative blunder the number of justice courts in Lincoln will increase from two to three, which is just three too many.

The democratic barn stormers point with pride to their platform, but they have not been able to point with pride to their candidate for mayor.

Republicans afflicted with conscientious scruples about voting for Mayor Moores should remember that a vote for Benson is half a vote for Howell.

Unless the building contractors and the workmen engaged in the building trades arbitrate their differences pretty soon Omaha will experience a killing frost in mid-summer.

The boodle investigation at Springfield partakes very much of the characteristics of the Bartley investigation at Lincoln. The investigators appear to be trying hard to find nothing.

It is not true that Mr. Benson is a confirmed tax-shirker. He paid \$7.05 into the city treasury in personal taxes last year and would be willing to guarantee double that amount for a warranty deed to the office of mayor.

Good roads, the trolley and the rural free delivery are all steps in the same direction. Coupled with the farm telephone they will completely revolutionize farm life before the first quarter of the twentieth century has expired.

The question that presents itself to every taxpayer of Omaha is not whom he would like to have voted for, but who among the candidates stands any chance of election and who will be influenced least by corporations and contractors.

Members of the original steel trust syndicate have received 200 per cent profit on their original investment and the bulk of this enormous profit has either been wrung out of the earnings of labor or out of water coined into gold. In the end the consumer pays the freight.

The managers of the American Can company are very much perplexed over the problem how to pay seven per cent on \$41,000,000 of preferred stock. That is precisely the problem that will confront other concerns that will guarantee dividends or fixed incomes on super-inflated stocks and bonds.

With two or three honorable exceptions the federal office holders of Omaha exhibit the same indifference with regard to the success of their party in the municipal campaign that they did in the campaign of 1906, when the republican national committee had to set apart a special fund for persuading disgruntled federal office holders to vote the republican legislative ticket, so as to insure the election of two republican United States senators.

And now we are to have an astronomy trust with all the star gazers and sky prospectors of the world under one general management, with a view to making explorations of the heavens a systematic business in which every member of the trust will be given an assignment instead of promiscuously roving about in universal space, trying to discover new worlds and watching for the appearance of long tailed and short tailed comets.

THE MILES REPORT.

Any effort to discredit the national administration through the report of General Miles regarding his investigations in the Philippines will have no effect with fair-minded men. It must of course be admitted that some of the statements of the report are of a serious nature, showing that there have been in the army in the Philippines men who were unworthy to wear the American uniform, but it is not shown that there has been any laxity either at Manila or in Washington in properly dealing with those who have wantonly violated the laws of civilized warfare.

As to the statements of General Miles they are made, as he himself confesses, on hearsay and without any proof to substantiate them. He obtained them mainly from Filipinos, who in most instances failed to put their charges in writing. This is not the sort of testimony which the American people will be disposed to accept as justifying a sweeping condemnation of the army in the Philippines. The reply to the report made by Judge Advocate General Davis must convince anybody open to conviction that no effort has been spared in the matter of investigating charges against military officers. Even now investigations are in progress as to charges made long ago and if they are found to have a substantial basis it is not to be doubted that the officers against whom they are made will be tried and if convicted will be punished.

It would seem that no rational person could believe that President Roosevelt or Secretary Root would shield any officer of the army who was known to have committed cruelties and barbarities such as General Miles speaks of. The president and secretary of war are unquestionably as solicitous as any one can be for the good name and honor of the army. Not even General Miles himself is more anxious to preserve the fame of the American soldiers. It may be said, also, that Governor Taft and his associates in the civil government of the Philippines are the last men who should be suspected of blinking at outrages of the nature stated in the Miles report. It is simple justice to those men to believe that if they were aware of such outrages they would not hesitate to denounce them and bring them to the attention of the military authorities. The national administration has done its duty in the Philippines and will not suffer in the respect of fair-minded people from what is said in the report of General Miles.

OUR DEFENSELESS ISLANDS.

Attention is called to the defenseless condition of the Philippines in the report of General Miles, who renews the recommendation he made soon after the naval victory at Manila that at least one strategic position be fortified beyond the possibility of capture by any foreign fleet or fleets. There is no immediate danger of the kind which General Miles urges precaution against, but his suggestion is manifestly sound and it is to be presumed the matter will receive attention from the next congress. Military experts both here and abroad have pointed out that in the event of war between the United States and a European naval power the archipelago would be a vulnerable point and would doubtless receive the early attention of the enemy. This seems an entirely reasonable view and should impress itself upon congress.

It is not necessary to go into an extensive system of fortifications in the islands, but the importance of having at least one strategic position strongly fortified is perfectly obvious and as the work will require considerable time it should be begun without unnecessary delay. The fortifications at Manila are said to be in very good condition and with a few changes and additions will be adequate. Equally strong works at some other strategic point would probably be sufficient for the security of the islands against a foreign power and moreover would be valuable as a protection to American sovereignty there.

THE APPREHENDED STRIKES.

Today, it has been understood, would witness the inauguration of strikes by organized labor in all the large cities of the country. It appears likely that strikes will be less general than apprehended. New York advises state that employers and employes there for once are of the same mind in desiring to avoid any interruption of work this year and several of the largest building trades have been granted their demands. Doubtless the other trades in this line will get what they ask or come to satisfactory terms with the employes, so that no new difficulties with labor are expected in that city. Reports from other eastern points are hardly less reassuring and indeed it appears to be quite generally the case that employers are disposed to follow the example of those in New York and grant the demands of labor, where these are shown to be fair and reasonable.

The deliberation that has been given to this matter has evidently had the result of creating very generally a conservative sentiment. Both intelligent workmen and the employers of labor appreciate the fact that widespread conflicts would be most disastrous of every kind of business and would give a severe check to the prosperity and progress of the country. There is consequently greater willingness on both sides to reach an amicable arrangement

of differences. This is a disposition which should be earnestly encouraged. As was said by Senator Hanna there is always a neutral ground, a neutral position where the great forces of labor and capital can meet and at least consider the situation. The tendency to find this ground which is being manifested in a fact in the present situation which is highly reassuring.

WHY DO THEY OPPOSE MOORES?

All the corporations opposed Frank E. Moores in the republican primaries and all the corporations have joined hands to defeat him at the election next Tuesday. It goes without saying that the corporations never oppose a man who is willing to do their bidding. They are arrayed against Moores because he has resisted corporate pressure and will not take his orders from the corporation managers. The Burlington railroad, for example, has opposed Moores because he signed the ordinance granting the right to the Northwestern Railroad company to extend its tracks into the jobbing district, thus destroying the monopoly of railroad trackage which the Burlington had for many years enjoyed. This action on the part of Moores was clearly in the interest of Omaha, and especially of Omaha manufacturers and Omaha wholesale dealers. But while Moores has incurred the everlasting enmity of the Burlington he has failed to inspire gratitude or local patriotism among the jobbers who have joined hands with the Burlington in its desperate effort to down Moores and elect Howell by projecting Stalking Horse Benson into the campaign.

Whether the Missouri Pacific has anything in common with the Burlington on switching grievances is not discernible, but its general manager is openly shouting for Boomer Benson when he must know that Benson has no more chance of being elected mayor than he has of being struck by lightning in mid-winter.

While there is no community of interest in terminal privileges between the Union Pacific and the Burlington, there is a sympathetic feeling between that corporation and all the other railroads against Moores because Moores is held primarily responsible for the raise in the assessment of the railroads from \$205,000 to more than \$25,000,000.

The intense hostility of the franchised corporations to Mayor Moores is due to the position Moores has taken in favor of municipal ownership, cheaper light and power and reduced telephone tolls. The Thomson-Houston electric lighting monopoly is opposing Moores and favoring Howell because Moores insists that the city of Omaha shall own and operate its own electric lighting plant and because he exerted his influence in favor of the submission of the ordinance granting a franchise for the proposed electric power canal.

The telephone monopoly is opposed to Moores because he has shown a disposition to respond to public sentiment that demands competition and a reduction of telephone tolls. The street railway and gas company, which are practically under one management, have made common cause with the electric lighting monopoly and telephone monopoly against Moores because he has stood up for Omaha rather than for the corporations and has committed himself to a policy they regard as inimical to their interests. If the water works company did not expect to go out of business it also would be booming Benson in the interest of Howell.

The allied corporations have thus forced the issue between themselves and the people, so that it is no longer a question of parties or men, but a question of whether Omaha shall govern itself or whether its people shall submit to corporate domination.

POLITICS MAKES STRANGE BED-FELLOWS.

The Real Estate exchange, which might have rendered Omaha invaluable service in continuing the legitimate and laudable campaign for equitable taxation, is in a fair way of being split and coming to pieces in its vainglorious and futile attempt to boom Erastus Benson into the mayor's office. In their enthusiasm the Bensonian members of the exchange seem to be oblivious of the fact that they have put themselves in an unenviable light before the community by entering into an alliance with the tax-shirking corporations and tax-shirking jobbers who are arrayed against Moores from selfish motives under false pretenses and incidentally are trying to punish the men who have brought relief to the great majority of Omaha taxpayers by equalizing the assessments between the corporations and the home owners.

In the battle for tax reform waged by the exchange last year Erastus Benson was not even a figurehead. He was distrusted by the men who were in the forefront of that battle and took no active part either on the tax committee before the Board of Review, before the council or in the public arena. The very fact that the mainstay of Mr. Benson outside of the exchange are the allied corporations, who are furnishing the sheaves of war and all the mercenaries at their command to assist the Benson boom, shows clearly that the enemies which the exchange made in its tax reform campaign have pit that body in position to club itself to death.

The Real Estate exchange Bensonites have not only played into the hands of the corporate tax-shirker and disgruntled jobbers whose assessments had been raised by the Board of Review, but are also exhibiting a lack of appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. William Hunter as a member of the Board of Review. Mr. Hunter stood up courageously and manfully against all the pressure of the corporations and jobbers to sustain the tax committee of the exchange in its efforts, but instead of recommending Hunter to the voters the Bensonian exchange members have joined with members of the Municipal

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. The best dressed men in New York are the Wall streeters. There is one young member of the Stock exchange who is famous for his clothes. He has a wardrobe in his private office and changes his suit three times a day—at 10, at noon and at 5 o'clock. A busy session on the floor will wreck any suit. Most of the brokers wear an old office coat in the amuse and turmoil, and there is scarcely an active member but has an extra pair of trousers to put on after the close of business. Scores of little tailors in the financial district make a good living pressing trousers at 50 cents a pair.

In his latest lecture at Hampton, Va., at the Industrial Institute, Booker Washington hits the nail on the head when he declares: "The negro is seeking no social equality. The negro is as proud of his own race as the white man is of his race. I believe it is the duty of the white people to try to get insight into the domestic, business, moral and religious life of the negro and this they can do without introducing the bugbear of social equality. I believe the white people of this country have about begun to realize that they can't get rid of the negro. The negro is not going to the colonies; he is not going to die out and you can't bury him. You've got him here and the best thing you can do for him is to make him a decent, self-respecting, honest American citizen."

Under the law recently enacted county funds may be loaned out at two per cent per annum, but that permission is not by any means to be construed as a prohibition of accepting as high a rate of interest as any responsible bank is willing to pay. Douglas county treasury deposits have been farmed out for years without yielding any income to the county under pretense that the law did not authorize the deposit of these funds at a lower rate than three per cent. Now that the limit is reduced to the rate that is being paid by the banks on city deposits taxpayers have a right to insist that the funds shall earn some interest for the county.

The campaign of deception and imposture is to culminate Saturday by the general distribution of unsolicited advice and corporation sample ballots prepared in the name of the alleged Municipal League of Omaha, which has not had a tangible existence for years and is made up of about a baker's dozen of business men politicians. It is a matter of notoriety that the committee, which embodies about all there is left of the Municipal league, agreed to disagree and that the circulars to be sent out were prepared by the rump of the committee for the rump candidate of the republican convention with a populist label.

Remember that citizens who failed to register last November must present themselves for registration at their respective voting districts next Saturday. This also includes the citizens who registered this spring for the primaries, but were not registered last fall, or were not entitled to vote at last fall's election. The registration of this class of citizens at the primary election does not count at the general election this spring.

The democratic state press is taking a very active interest in the Omaha municipal campaign, not because Howell stands for reform, home rule and corporate restriction, but because his election would give the democrats a powerful foothold in Douglas county and make sure of the election of seven democratic judges this fall and a full democratic delegation to the legislature next year.

Significant Omission.

Brooklyn Eagle. Senator Morgan says that the democratic party's principles have received the endorsement of the country. He did not say when.

Perish the Thought.

Chicago Record-Herald. When the kings of England and Italy met they kissed each other four times. Let us hope there is nothing in the theory that germs may be carried in whiskers.

One Restful Sunday.

Baltimore American. President Roosevelt went to church, listened to a sermon, rode fifteen miles on horseback against a high wind, talked to a bunch of people at a soldiers' home—and yet he persist in saying he spent a restful Sunday.

Strange Secrecy of Water.

Chicago Post. A locomotive combined has been formed in Great Britain embracing works that employ 7,000 men and turn out 600 locomotives a year. And its capital stock is only \$10,000,000! There must be a severe drought over there.

Putting It on the Clouds.

San Francisco Call. The Southern Pacific company seems to have won the palm for the invention of the most extraordinary excuse to evade responsibility for a train wreck. In a suit for damages recently tried the company won the case by accusing a cloudburst and fixing blame upon it.

Startling Innovation.

Baltimore American. The police commissioner of New York is a very remarkable man. He declined an invitation to address a political meeting on the ground that as he had issued orders to the forces under his command to keep out of politics it was his duty to set them the example. Such consistency is novel enough to touch on the revolutionary.

Silence Best Becomes Him.

Indianapolis Journal. General Tyler expressed astonishment that the postmaster general and other high officials should have acted as they did in his case, and thinks they have lost their heads. This is probably because he has lost his—a humiliation he might have avoided if he had not acted on bad advice and permitted members of his family to compromise him before the public.

Ten Commandments Reaffirmed.

Brooklyn Eagle. Judge Grosscup's decision is not revolutionary. It merely comes at a revolutionary juncture. There cannot be any serious danger to business or to national prosperity in the reaffirmation of the ten commandments in a courthouse, with penalties attached. That is all the rebate decision amounts to. We are not so rotten that the enforcement of plain honesty and fairness between men is going to upset us.

BETTER GET TOGETHER.

President Roosevelt Should Be Heeded in Omaha. Chicago Tribune. The sentiments regarding the proper relations of capital and labor uttered by President Roosevelt at Omaha were applauded by a large audience. He pleaded with capitalists and workmen to deal with matters which interest them both free from arrogance on the one side and devoid of envy on the other. He scored those demagogues who endeavor to excite class hatred as the worst enemy of the class whose champion he pretends to be. He said—and no one will dispute it—that "in the long run and as a whole we are going to go up together, or go down together, and hence the necessity for honesty and common sense in dealings between capital and labor, whose interests are so inextricably interwoven."

It is said that the president's theme was suggested to him by citizens of Omaha, who hope words coming from his lips in behalf of industrial peace will serve to avert the industrial strife which it is feared will begin in that city May 1. There are apprehensions of a number of strikes on that day and of stormy times. It is to be hoped that the president's remarks will have a good influence. They were cheered by those who heard them, and their wisdom will not be questioned by those who read them. It is to be feared that not all the men who should be interested in the suggestion of the president, and print for the instruction of their readers the concluding portion of the report of the anthracite strike commission—which certainly makes excellent reading—labor men who have formulated demands and employers who may fall to read the report, and if they do read it may decline to admit that it lays down a rule of action for them.

The president has done all he can do in the premises. He devolves now on the municipal authorities of Omaha, the business men, and all good citizens who are interested in the preservation of industrial peace to take the matter into their hands and make a united effort to prevent the most damaging thing to settle them speedily. The whole community will be affected by the threatened strikes. It should do something besides asking the president for a kindly word. It should make a concerted effort to reconcile local capital and local labor.

TOO MUCH PROSPERITY.

Like His Brother with the Paleface Poor Lo Gaw! Stand It. Chicago Record-Herald.

Sad news comes from Oklahoma, where an investigation of the condition of the poor Indian has recently been made by a representative of the government. It appears that the Indians of Oklahoma are suffering from too much prosperity. Ten or twelve years ago they were busy and happy. They owned land, each head of a family had a pony or two, a few dogs, pigs, chickens and other necessities of life, and the days came and went with a pleasing, if somewhat monotonous regularity.

Today the noble red man of Oklahoma appears to be rapidly going to the bad. Their life has turned out to be valuable and they are leasing it to white men at high prices. The result is that the Indians are no longer free to work for a living and they are rapidly falling into habits of idleness and vice. The report of the commission who has been looking into the matter says:

"From habits of industry and thrift these Indians, or most of them, have become idlers and vagrants on the face of the earth. The best friends of the Indians are those who are in favor of compelling them to work. Work is the salvation of these Indians and their only salvation. The leasing of lands has proved to be a great calamity for a majority of them. It would be a thousand times better for them if the leasing of lands was prevented and the property presented to them flatly to work or starve."

PERSONAL NOTES.

The Chicago police raided net-get-quick concerns last week. When an attorney job, his keeping the fool and his money together.

Paris is preparing a royal welcome for King Edward, but it is pretty certain that he won't have as good a time as on some of his former visits.

Whether the door is kept open or closed it seems to be pretty generally agreed among shrewd observers that Adam Zed will manage to stay in the horse.

Count Montequieu says the American business man appreciates the beautiful as he himself does. What is more beautiful than a \$5 ticket to a \$1.25 "conference" on art?

United States Senator Daniel of Virginia said in a recent speech at Baltimore that the nineteenth century produced five soldiers to whom the world has given the title of great—Napoleon, Wellington, Von Moltke, Grant and Robert E. Lee.

On Monday last Joseph Jefferson, the veteran actor, visited the grave of his father, Joseph Jefferson, in Magnolia cemetery, Mobile, Ala., and a band of mourners upon it. The elder Jefferson fell a victim to the yellow fever during the epidemic of 1842.

Joseph Chamberlain, who is regarded by many Englishmen as one of the cleverest politicians in Europe, owes much of his success in public life to the fact that he has splendid capacity as a business man. It is thus able to bring to bear on questions of high national or international importance the trained mind and clear perception of a man of affairs.

"They all look up to J. P. Morgan down here," said a Wall street broker, "and any one of us would break our neck to get a tip from him, but no one loves him. There is not a man who would not go up against him and break him if he could. Not because they have anything against Mr. Morgan, but that's the spirit that rules in Wall street. First, do up the public; second, do up each other."

OUR PROSPERITY PERMANENT.

Not a Note of Pessimism Heard Anywhere in the Land. Kansas City Journal.

"I have been studying the statistics of our commerce for twenty years, and I have never known the time in which they indicated a greater activity in agriculture and manufacturing, or in any of the producing industries, than at present," so says O. P. Austin, chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury department. His conclusions as to all indications pointing to a continued prosperity in this country are fully supported by every authority that has considered the matter.

Railroad men, bankers, farmers, manufacturers and wholesalers in all the large business centers appear even more sanguine than the statisticians. There is not a note of pessimism anywhere in the land. The facts are in accord with all these cheerful predictions.

Exports for the twelve months ending with March amounted to \$14,000,000. Cotton and grain exports have greatly increased over last year's figures. Exports of iron and steel, however, have slightly declined, but the authorities find in this not a striking evidence of prosperity, in that the home demand for these staples has increased and is greater than the output of all the foundries and factories working more days in the year than ever before.

If the well known axiom of political economy be true, that prosperity is indicated by the consumptive capacity of a nation, then this increased use of home products, together with the tremendous revenues of government from custom duties far in excess of previous years, is a positive proof that the prosperity of the United States has come to stay.

A Few Pointed Remarks on the Pittsburgh Wedding.

Minneapolis Journal. If there is anything that will tempt a sober, soft spoken American citizen to wish for temporary control of a plethoric vocabulary of epithets and expletives it is such an affair as that Yarmouth-Thaw wedding in Pittsburgh.

Here is an American girl of beauty, wealth and good position who has made through her own way on a miserable scion of a worn-out and leached aristocracy, a wretched parasite, dependent, unprincipled, a low music hall singer, a greedy downy hunter, who for all his pauperism declined to marry the girl if she brought him only \$20,000 a year.

There are ugly but quite believable reports that this despicable matrimonial fortune hunter who could not get his foot into thousands of American homes actually delayed the wedding for half an hour while he haggle over a few more pieces of gold as the price of his consent to marry the Thaw girl. The whole contemptible barter and sale is enough to make every American blush.

The only bright side of this revolting affair is the reluctance of Miss Thaw's mother to consent to the accursed alliance, but that reluctance is blenished by her final consent to add \$70,000 a year to satisfy the greed of this misnamed nobleman who would not take the girl and \$20,000.

There is one other thing to be said. Miss Thaw for all her millions must be an unworthy daughter of America, if she is willing to mate with such a noble rascal as the earl of Yarmouth. With his \$100,000 a year the earl will probably take her and himself to some remote spot in the States and stay out, and by that double riddance the country will be bettered.

BE CALM, GENTLEMEN.

Barons of Watered Stock Agitated and Irritated.

Detroit Free Press. Whether or not gods intend to destroy the coal ronee operators is under investigation by the Interstate Commerce commission in New York is another question, but these gentlemen of position and affluence have certainly been made mad. It is sure that from the point of view taken by all those who are under the thumb of hard lined The Sherman law, which was so long ridiculed as a dead letter, has suddenly been given a mighty significance. The law can control the trusts and they are in a feverish state of agitation.

Heaven forbid that any wrong should be done by the barons of water stock, who lightly the requirements of law, pay dividends and employ labor as they need it. We would not take one jot or tittle from their importance in the upbuilding of the nation or the carrying out of the general scheme of salvation. Our chief regret is that all those who are in their class they are lay hard lined The Sherman law, which was so long ridiculed as a dead letter, has suddenly been given a mighty significance. The law can control the trusts and they are in a feverish state of agitation.

It is a sad state of affairs and one that appeals to the sympathy of all good Christians. Men who have devoted their lives to the beneficent work of stripping other people of all riches that might prevent their entering the kingdom of heaven are entitled to more consideration than Mr. Baer and associates are receiving. Nevertheless, who shall say that they have not their reward? In some brighter and better day, perhaps, their names will shine gloriously in the Wall street martyrology.

SMILING LINES.

"Jane, do you believe in predestination?" "No, sah, I don't believe in none o' dem new-fangled breakfast foods, no sah."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Broker—"Don't you find it easier to shove some men than others?" The Barber—"Yes; don't you?—Yonkers Statesman.

"I'm glad to see all this philanthropy going on," said Uncle Eben. "But I reckon it's gwinter be a good while before you sees anything appear to be losing their grip upon the dignity about which they have so long hedged themselves, breaking forth with the intensity of language and temper that all the traditions of monopoly and respectability concede to the barf. Only a few of the more considerate than Mr. Baer and associates are receiving. Nevertheless, who shall say that they have not their reward? In some brighter and better day, perhaps, their names will shine gloriously in the Wall street martyrology."

IN MAY.

John Burroughs in the May Century. When grosbeaks show a damask rose Amid the cherry blossoms white, And warblers sing their hearts out, To loving eyes a joyous sight;

When columbines like living coals Are gleaming 'gainst the lichened rocks, And at the foot of mossy poles Are young bluebirds in flocks;

When ginger-root beneath twin leaves Conceals its dusky floral bell, And showy orchid spits its weaves In humid nook its fragrant spell;

When gandelion's coin of gold Snow is matted on the lawn, There And maple trees their fringe unfold, While warblers storm the groves at dawn,

When these and more great eyes and ear, Then strike their tangle and come away; It is the joy-month of the year, And onward sweeps the tide of May.

Waltham Watches

They are carried all over the world.

"The Perfected American Watch," an illustrated book of interesting information about watches, will be sent free upon request.

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