

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, as of George B. Tzschucke, President, The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of "The Daily Morning-Examiner" printed during the month of May, 1903, was as follows:

1.....	\$0,980
2.....	\$0,675
3.....	\$0,200
4.....	\$0,400
5.....	\$0,720
6.....	\$0,570
7.....	\$0,970
8.....	\$0,830
9.....	\$0,740
10.....	\$0,775
11.....	\$0,440
12.....	\$0,370
13.....	\$0,400
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15.....	\$0,620
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Net total sales.....	\$45,552
Net average sales.....	30,437

GEORGE B. TZSCHUCKE,
Subscribed in my presence and signed to
before me this 1st day of June, A. D. 1903.
M. H. HUNIGATE,
(Seal) Notary Public.

Governor Mickey is now a LL D.—the reward for affixing his name to all the laws enacted by the late legislature.

These are the days of revolutions—not omitting the revolution in the faculty of the University of Nebraska law school.

Give him half a chance and the Nebraska farmer will show what a hustler he is even if he has to work overtime to catch up with his crops.

Those Servians should remember that no government founded on assassination can command respect among the nations in this twentieth century era.

The total of degrees and certificates issued during the year by the University of Nebraska footed up 397. The diploma brigade constitutes a small army by itself.

The first thing the new king of Servia should do is to proclaim an official abbreviation of his name. King Kara-gorjevitch is too much. Call it George for short.

The judges of the district court are preparing to rest from their arduous labors. None of them, however, has gone out on a strike against being overpaid or underpaid.

The grandson of General Grant has just emerged with honors as a graduate of West Point. The name of Grant will doubtless stand still further luster upon American military annals.

The World-Herald is again solicitous as to the course The Bee will pursue in the campaigns that are to come. It is the practice of The Bee not to cross bridges until it gets to them.

Before conjuring up another break between President Roosevelt and Senator Hanna, the political know-it-alls will have to imitate Micawber by waiting for something new to turn up.

The importance of efficient electric wiring is again emphasized by the incipient fire in the Bennett department store, which was fortunately saved by prompt and vigorous action of the fire fighting force.

And up to date not a word of protest from those railroad tax agents who insisted that assessing the property of the Nebraska lines in 1903 at the same valuation as in 1902 would be an outrage bordering on confiscation.

If Omaha is to hold its own in the building lines, it must get the trouble in the building trades adjusted soon. With construction work tied up through the summer, Omaha will make a sorry exhibit in the comparative table of building operations compiled at the close of the year.

Many cities are proclaiming a strict embargo on Fourth of July explosives in an effort to hold down the mortality list of Independence day. Omaha might save the coroner several jobs by pursuing the same course and forbidding absolutely the sale of the giant crackers and other dangerous explosives without waiting for dealers to lay in a deadly stock and then plead to be protected against loss.

Photographs showing the havoc wrought by the Kishinev massacres are being reproduced in the pictorial weeklys as graphic evidence that the descriptions sent by wire and by letter were by no means exaggerated. The views of the wrecked stores and pillaged dwellings are almost counterparts of the pictures of tornado-devastated buildings, while the groups of maimed and injured include old men, women and little children. The only wonder is that the Russian government allowed the camera to make these indelible records of its infamy.

The Real Estate Exchange is a body like the Real Estate Exchange, which has made such a gallant fight for lower taxation, would stand still in the face of the prospect that Omaha may by the compulsory water works purchase be forced to assume an increase in taxes ranging from \$40,000 to \$100,000 a year in the shape of interest on bonds to be issued for an overvalued water works plant. Possi-

ble it is too late already for the Real Estate Exchange to be of any service to the taxpayers in this case, but at any rate it should have taken the trouble to inform itself fully through competent legal authority as to where we are at.

FOREST RESERVATIONS.

The protest of the governor of Wyoming in regard to forest reservations in that state, in which respect he concurs with the views of his predecessor, meets with general approval in that section of the country. In referring to it the Seattle Post-Intelligencer remarks that while the necessity of proper forest reservations is admitted by all, as a means not only of conserving the country's supply of timber, but in some regions as a protection against floods, yet the reservation business may be overdone. It points out that in Wyoming the reserves have been increased until they include one-third of the entire area of the state, which is thus shut off from settlement. Such of the land as is susceptible of cultivation can never be reclaimed for that purpose, so long as reserved, and to that extent the development of the state is arrested.

That paper is of the opinion that such reservations as this should not be permitted to exist for all time, that they are admissible merely for the temporary purpose of withdrawing the land from settlement and entry, pending thorough examination and survey, for the purpose of determining the proper limits of the permanent reservations to be ultimately made. "Making reservations permanently," it remarks, "upon such an extravagant and unnecessarily large scale will result in provoking the most bitter opposition to the whole forest reservation scheme; will tend to defeat the needed appropriations for the purpose, hamper the work and may, indeed, force an abandonment of the whole plan." President Roosevelt, like his predecessor, has shown a great deal of interest in this matter, the present administration being credited with a number of reservations, but in view of the objections that are being made to this policy it is not likely to be so actively pursued in future.

The new king is said to be entirely acceptable to the people generally and to be pro-Russian in feeling, which means that the influence of Russia will probably be paramount at Belgrade, the Serbian capital. Whether or not this will be conducive to the preservation of general peace is a question. It is said that Russia has been preparing Servia, by gifts of munitions of war, for a possible conflict in the Balkans and that it is in Russia's plan of operations to bring about war between Turkey and Bulgaria. If she has such a design and it should carry there would be strong probability of Servia becoming involved.

However, speculation is at a premium, since it must be based upon the views of European correspondents, who for the most part are quite as likely to misjudge the situation as otherwise. The Servian event is an impressive reminder that there are conditions in Europe making for revolution that may at any time manifest themselves in a most startling manner and its significance should not be lost on other rulers who may not be giving heed to the popular welfare and seeking to better the conditions of their people.

THE WATER WORKS PURCHASE.

Members of the Real Estate exchange who are trying to make themselves believe that the Water board will have a right to set aside or modify the appraisement of the water works plant when agreed on by the arbitrators are simply deceiving themselves. The contract between the water works company and the city is embodied in Ordinance No. 423, passed June 11, 1880, and approved on the same day. The water works purchasing clause, under which the appraisement is about to be made, reads as follows:

Section 14. The city of Omaha shall have the right at any time after the expiration of twenty years to purchase the water works at an appraised valuation, which shall be ascertained by the estimate of three engineers, one to be selected by the city council, one to select a third; providing that nothing shall be paid for the services of this committee except a compensation of \$100 a day.

It goes without saying that the legislature has no right to abrogate or change the conditions of any contract, consequently the legislature had no right to confer any powers upon the Water board that would interfere in any shape, manner or form in the mutual agreement between the city and the water works company.

By the original contract, the city council and that body alone was empowered to select and appoint the engineer who is to represent the city in the appraisal, and the action of the Water board in designating Mr. Alvord was nothing more than a recommendation that had no greater binding effect upon the council than if Mr. Alvord had been recommended by the Board of Trade, the Real Estate Exchange or the Omaha base ball club. The designation of Mr. Alvord by the council to act as engineer for the city of Omaha gives the only legal authority by which Mr. Alvord will be empowered to act for the city in the impending appraisal.

To assume that the Water board can either reject or modify the appraisement is simply preposterous. If any public body representing the city of Omaha has any right in the premises under the contract, it will be the board of directors of the municipal corporation, namely, the council. The serious question that presents itself is whether the appraisement when once made and agreed to by the majority, or all of the appraisers, will not absolutely bind the city to pay the price agreed upon, even if two or three millions above the true value of the works.

That contingency may not arise, but the amazing thing is that a body like the Real Estate Exchange, which has made such a gallant fight for lower taxation, would stand still in the face of the prospect that Omaha may by the compulsory water works purchase be forced to assume an increase in taxes ranging from \$40,000 to \$100,000 a year in the shape of interest on bonds to be issued for an overvalued water works plant. Possi-

If there is any section of Omaha that is not equipped with an improvement club it should hasten to supply the omission. Until they have organized themselves into an improvement club,

the neighbors do not realize how badly they have been neglected in the distribution of gas lamps, water hydrants, cross walks and sewer catch basins. All of these improvements are always planted in the backwash of some other improvement club that has managed to pass its resolutions first. The next thing on the program, therefore, will be to merge a number of the improvers on some community of interest scheme, so that the work of improvement shall go steadily forward without discrimination in all parts of the city at once.

The Board of University Regents among other appointments has engaged a man to serve as superintendent of construction for the new university buildings. In view of the fact that the state has just undertaken to create a state architect charged with the duty of planning and supervising public buildings erected by the state, this action on the part of the regents seems to be doubling up on the work. The erection of a new building at the university should be just as much within the jurisdiction of the state architect as the erection of the Blind or the Soldiers' home. If each institution is to have its own construction superintendent the excuse for a state architect is destroyed.

The Last Straw.

Baltimore American.

Taxing a man because he is fat is an economic novelty unworthy of serious consideration. It puts an additional hardship upon an individual who is already handicapped for life's race.

They Protest Too Much.

Chicago News.

Considering that the coal operators insist that they are not united in any form of combination, the unanimity with which they raise the price of coal at the same time and to the same amount is simply marvelous.

The Eternal Fitness of Things.

St. Louis Republic.

The leader of the French forces against Figuerig bears the ancient and illustrious name of O'Connor. Possibly the exquisite French generals are a bit more effective in parlor warfare, but when it comes to a genuine scrap they must send for their Celtic cousins across the channel.

Cost of Empire Building.

Buffalo Express.

The business of empire building, when carried forward with soldiers and guns, is the costliest task of the nation. It involves a great drain of blood and treasure. In footin up the money cost of the petty wars Great Britain has been engaged in since 1896 a London journal states the aggregate at \$1,614,902,985. Of this vast sum \$63,628,500 were expended in the Boer War. Even these magnificent figures do not tell the whole story. War debts and pensions in the long run nearly double the original outlay and carry the burden forward to the children's children of the present generation.

President and the Postal Frauds.

Chicago Record-Herald.

It is reported that the president is taking a very active interest in the post office investigation, and that his intention is to make it as thorough as possible. This much was to be expected from his character and his career. His speeches sometimes remind us in their profanity of Tom Reed's quip about his enthusiasm over his discovery of the ten commandments, and there can be no doubt that he has set his heart upon getting a full account of the wrongdoing of the post office.

General Roosevelt would condone a fraud or other himself as a shelter for thieves. He may be implicitly trusting a conscientious official, who will direct the prosecution properly, no matter whom it may hit or how far it may lead.

Porto Rico and the Philippines.

San Francisco Chronicle.

In 1897 Porto Rico sent products to the United States valued at \$1,049,251; in 1902 the amount had swollen to \$2,614,751; in 1903 the Porto Ricans took from the people of the mainland goods to the value of \$1,316,297. Here is an example that merits the attention of congress. If the same treatment were applied to Porto Rico as that accorded to the former islands from the mainland, which are nearly all consumed by our army at present, would be increased enormously. In five years our business with Porto Rico was increased sixfold; we could increase our trade with the Philippines more rapidly if we went about the business in the right way.

Missouri's Bootle Sleuth.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Colonel Watterson suggests Circuit Attorney Folk of St. Louis as the democratic candidate for president next year. That idea will please the Missouri bootlers, who would be extremely glad to turn Folk's activities in some new channel. The best use the democratic party can make of Folk is to nominate him for governor of Missouri. If elected, he would clean out one of the corrupt machines that ever cursed any state. His services as governor would doubtless advance him to the presidential line in the better sense of the word.

Two nights afterward he again dined sumptuously and on the morning following the accompanying discomfiture was very much present. So this time, happy in the thought of the cocktails, he started off on his own hook for the cure and soon reached the hotel, walked to the bar, and there asked for "a glass of con-tra-die-shun."

Naturally the man at the bar had never heard of such a drink and endeavored to find out just what monsieur really wanted.

"I mean what I say," he answered in a high key. "I want a glass of con-tra-die-shun."

Still the bartender could not understand and in a hopeless way named over many drinks, but to no purpose.

"Will you explain it to me den?" said the Frenchman in characteristically exciting tones. "Faire vous dire en zee wheekey to make hem strong. Zen vous put in ze wataire to make hem wet. Zen vous put in ze le monsieur make hem square, and ze le monsieur put in ze wataire to make hem sweet. Zen, one, may be two, tress more—I know not. Now, san, vous drink hem yourself. Ef sat is not con-tra-die-shun. I know not ze exs-aplaishumus of sat word."

"Now I understand," said the bartender.

"You want a cocktail."

"Ah! sat is beem," cried monsieur.

"To tall of a cock. Make me one, two, three of hem."

The Spanish government having heard that the Philippine government is preparing to collect all the old Spanish copper coins in the islands and dispose of them at auction, has communicated with this government to say that it fears that the coins will be bought in by speculators and put into circulation in Spain at a loss and inconvenience to the government. The coins could be circulated in Spain at their face value, and if bought cheaply at auction the Spanish government would be the losers.

It is reported that under the Partition treaty it believes that the coins belong to Spain, but is not disposed to enter into a contention on that point and would like to be allowed to purchase the coins at a fair price, when they are put up for sale.