

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

R. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 28th day of September, A. D. 1903. M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

PARTIES LEAVING THE CITY: Parties leaving the city at any time may have The Bee sent to them regularly by notifying The Bee Business Office, in person or by mail.

All quiet once more at Oyster Bay. Chicago is celebrating because it is one hundred years old. It certainly does not show its age.

To the weather man—please dispose of your remnants at once and give us bright, clean goods for our carnival next week.

When it comes to a bold game of bluff, President Nash of the electric lighting company easily commands the prize.

President Mellen's resignation from the Northern Pacific means that he has encountered a promotion rather than a merger.

No little thing like an electric trolley wreck will prevent Senator Hanna from coming down the home stretch on election day in his usual form.

Another question that is puzzling our state university regents is whether the people of Nebraska expect them to run a book store as well as a university.

If Judge Vinsonhaler were only nominated for a third term and his democratic opponent in the field, how quickly the World-Herald would change its tune.

Democratic hopes in Douglas county rest on keeping the republicans divided. No wonder the democratic organ throws a fit at every prospect of republican unanimity.

Omaha is a poor place for a man to try to create a sensation by conjuring up an imaginary attempt to assassinate himself. No stamped card can be created here by such a fake.

Work on the Morton memorial monument is under way. The monuments which J. Sterling Morton left in the form of trees planted throughout the prairie states are towering higher all the time.

Mayor Moores was elected to his present term of office on a platform pledging him to municipal ownership for street lighting and he is determined to stand by his promise, no matter what any one else may do.

To make Omaha a great market town requires mills and factories, as well as railroads. Any man with capital to invest in manufacturing enterprises may be sure of a warm welcome and substantial encouragement.

When it comes to free advertising the best of the theatrical advance agents can get several pointers from the enterprising professors of Chicago university, who break into print so successively and so successfully.

King Ak-Sar-Ben's universal sway is typically illustrated by his activity this year. Out at the den he rules over Rome, at the street fair his dominion extends over into Arabia, and in his peasant he will again proclaim his sovereignty over fairyland.

The chief of the inspection bureau is authority for the statement that of 200 cargoes of imported foods looked into since July 1, when the law authorizing national inspection went into effect, 10 per cent have been condemned and rejected. The Yankee who used to pride himself on his shrewdness in manufacturing wares to fool the foreigner will have to look to his laurels.

THE PRESIDENT AND LABOR.

It would seem that no fair-minded man could doubt that President Roosevelt is friendly to organized labor. A little more than a year ago he publicly declared that he emphatically believed in organized labor and there has since been no utterance or action on the part of the president to warrant any distrust as to the sincerity of that declaration. It is an unquestionable fact that no president of the United States has ever done more in the interest of organized labor than Mr. Roosevelt.

What has become familiar as the Miller case raised a question in which the president had to decide between the demands of a trade union and the rights of an employe in the service of the government. It was a question whether there should be discrimination in favor of union men in the public service, thereby closing the door to such service against nonunion men. W. A. Miller, the foreman in the bindery department of the government printing office, had been expelled from his union, which demanded that he be dismissed from his position. This demand was acceded to by the government printer.

Miller appealed to the president, who ordered his reinstatement on the ground that the federal government could not turn down a man because he was not affiliated with labor unions and that if a man is honest and faithful and does his work satisfactorily he is entitled to continue in the employ of the government, whether he is a union or non-union man. The president took the position that there could be no discrimination in the public service as to whether an employe is a trade unionist or not, any more than in regard to a man's political or religious views.

This attitude of Mr. Roosevelt has been denounced by some trade unionists as unfriendly to organized labor. A few organizations have adopted condemnatory resolutions and there is evidently an effort being made, probably incited by political opponents of the administration, to make capital out of the matter for use against the president in the next national campaign. To what extent this may be effective it is impossible to say, but Mr. Roosevelt is adhering firmly to his position.

In a conference with representatives of the American Federation of Labor in reference to the Miller case he said that he must govern his action by the laws of the land, which he is sworn to administer and "which differentiate any case in which the government of the United States is a party from all other cases whatsoever." He pointed out that these laws are for the benefit of the whole people and "cannot and must not be construed as permitting discrimination against some of the people."

We think that to all fair-minded and unprejudiced men this view will be conclusive. The laws of the United States apply equally to all citizens. They make no discrimination in favor of one class of labor and against another. The duty of the president is therefore plain and imperative. He has taken a position that is not only absolutely required by the laws, but is also in support of a vital principle of our government. "I am president of all the people of the United States," he says, "without regard to creed, color, birthplace, occupation, or social conditions. My aim is to do equal and exact justice as among them all. Can there be any doubt that he will be sustained in this position by an overwhelming majority of the people?"

MEETING OF THE MONARCHS.

This autumn even more than last spring will be signalized by an exchange of visits among European heads of state. It is remarked that even in these days of constitutional monarchies the influence of such visits is not to be treated lightly nor their perfectly obvious results ignored. The czar of Russia is now visiting the emperor of Austria-Hungary and the dispatches report a most cordial meeting between the two sovereigns, both of whom are deeply concerned in existing conditions in the Balkans. Referring to the visits of the German kaiser, the czar and King Edward to Vienna, a writer observes that questions of foreign policy are so interwoven with royal prerogative that the personalities of the sovereigns concerned seem less pronounced where they are in reality most active. The Russo-Austrian policy in regard to Turkey might undergo an entire change without once revealing the directing hand of either of the emperors interested. It is not so, however, with the president of the French republic and the king of Italy, who are to meet later in the current month, the latter going to Paris and at some subsequent time receiving a return visit at Rome from President Loubet.

While the exchange of amenities between these latter rulers will have no political significance, the meetings between the others are naturally assumed to have a more practical bearing and to mean something beyond mere courtesy. It is the belief of certain English publicists that the whole diplomatic face of England's attitude in eastern, central, northern and western Asia would become less strained if the British and Russian foreign offices could get together and by mutual moral recognitions and concessions decide upon some common, although not necessarily united form of policy. The coming meeting between King Edward and the czar may have something of this kind in view. Of course Nicholas II, who is accompanied by Vienna by his foreign minister, and Emperor Francis Joseph will discuss the Turkish problem and possibly definitely decide upon the course to be pursued by the two powers, subject to the acceptance of the other powers signatory to the Berlin treaty.

Russia and Austria have already proposed what they consider the Balkan situation requires and this has been practically approved by Great Britain, but Germany, while not absolutely dissenting, has expressed a desire to be enlightened in regard to certain points with particular reference to Russian intentions. It is possible that this information will be given after the meeting of the sovereigns. Meanwhile the situation, at least so far as Macedonia is concerned, grows more serious and consequently there is increasing pressure on the powers for decisive action. The meeting of the monarchs should be speedily followed by results of a practical nature.

GIVE THE PEOPLE A CHANCE.

The ordinance introduced at the instance of Mayor Moores to submit to the citizens of Omaha at the coming election a proposition authorizing the city to issue bonds for the purchase of a municipal electric lighting plant should be pushed through the council without delay. The paramount issue in the municipal election last spring was municipal ownership of public utilities. On that platform the mayor and every member of the council were elected.

Whatever may be the individual opinion of the members of the council at this time, it is their manifest duty to redeem their pledges by giving the people a chance to decide for themselves whether they want to acquire a municipal lighting plant or whether they prefer to continue public lighting done by private corporations. The contracts with the electric lighting company and the gas company will both expire by the end of 1905. The submission of a proposition to authorize the issue of bonds for a municipal lighting plant by the time the contracts with the gas and electric lighting companies expire is not premature.

There will be only one election in 1904 and national issues will then monopolize the popular attention. To defer the proposition for a bond issue until the fall of 1905 would deprive the people of the opportunity to construct or acquire the plant before the contracts for lighting expire. From every point of view, therefore, the ordinance recommended by Mayor Moores and introduced by President Zimman should commend itself to immediate consideration. Let the ordinance be submitted at least thirty days before election.

If the people have changed their minds and do not favor municipal ownership they can vote down the proposition to issue bonds. If they still entertain the same view they did last spring they should be given the opportunity to ratify the bond proposition at the coming election.

FAST AND LOOSE METHODS.

The fast and loose methods that prevail in the handling, disbursement and loaning out of public and private funds in the county fee offices call for radical reforms in methods of accounting. The disclosures of the unbusinesslike manner in which accounts are kept in the office of the county judge afford a striking instance of the system, or rather lack of system, in the handling of fees and trust funds.

The reports on file in the county auditor's office show that County Judge Vinsonhaler has collected \$29,315.80 in fees during the three and one-half years covering his first and second terms. With the exception of \$666.53 not a dollar of the whole amount has passed through the hands of the county treasurers, to whom by rights every dollar of money collected in fees should have been paid and on whom warrants should have been drawn to pay the salaries of the county judge and the clerks employed in his office.

Under the fast and loose system of accounting County Judge Vinsonhaler has retained balances due to the county and doubtless expects to do so until his second term shall have expired. While the report of fees collected includes the moneys paid for the issuance of marriage licenses, Judge Vinsonhaler and his confidential clerks alone know how much has been paid in marriage fees and how much has been squeezed out of bridal couples in the traffic of pictorial marriage certificates.

The various fees paid into the county court are, however, a comparatively small fraction of the moneys paid into the county court. While Judge Vinsonhaler positively declines to furnish the information or submit the books and records that would disclose the amounts now held by him in trust for real estate owners whose property has been taken under eminent domain condemnation and for the widows and orphans whose heritage is being probated in the court, a conservative estimate places them at from \$20,000 to \$30,000. While the law may not require the county judge to report to the county auditor the amount of trust funds held by him, the policy of concealment pursued by him in the office cannot be justified on any grounds.

What is true of the collection and disbursement of fees and funds deposited for the benefit of litigants in the county court applies with equal force to the clerk of the district court, the register of deeds and the county clerk. The only safe way for the conduct of public business is to exercise all the precautions and apply all the safeguards that are required in the conduct of private business.

All fees from whatever source should be paid directly into the county treasury and all salaries and disbursements should be made on warrants drawn by the clerk and redeemed by the treasurer. If the fees of any office are insufficient to pay the salaries of the officers and clerks the county commissioners should insist on retrenchment or hold the monthly vouchers till the fees to meet them are in. The present method of collection and disbursement of fees by various officers not only affords no check whatever, but pays the way to peculations and the farming out of public funds for private gain.

The sooner the Board of County Commissioners takes this matter in hand the sooner we will be able to repress fee office pilfering and periodic scandals.

According to the spokesman of the federation of manufacturers and employers' association the purpose of the new organization is to fight all strikes, boycotts and other labor troubles in the courts. The courts have the consolation, however, that they can hardly be loaded up with more labor litigation than they have been carrying right along.

The unexpected does not happen half so often as the expected. It was to have been expected that the World-Herald would rush to the defense of Judge Vinsonhaler and seek to condone his failure to report the uncollected witness fees turned over to him by his predecessor, Judge Baxter, and the uncollected witness fees during the three years and a half of his own term. It is safe to say that the uncollected witness fees in the county judge's office during the two terms of Judge Vinsonhaler, and covering a period of four years, would not amount to \$250. If Judge Vinsonhaler has not complied with the law with respect to uncollected witness fees, it is no excuse for him to say that the amount was small. But it is interesting to see the editor of the local republican organ grow red in the face because he claims to have discovered that Judge Vinsonhaler has not paid to the county treasurer uncollected witness fees which it is probable do not aggregate \$250.

The plea that the amount of uncollected witness fees is comparatively small is very ingenious, but whether the amount is \$250 or only \$25, the principle is the same. In fact, the smaller the amount the more reprehensible the failure to file a report and to withhold the fees, as required by law. There certainly can be no palliation for the failure to report the uncollected fees turned over by Judge Baxter to his successor, even if the amount was ever so small, and it is more reprehensible when the misdemeanor is committed by a judge.

The state insurance commissioners in national convention are trying to agree upon uniform legislation which should be sought in different states for the protection of the policy holders and the regulation of insurance companies. As things now stand no two states in the union have reached the same solution in their dealings with the insurance interests. This condition has been largely brought about, unfortunately, by the pernicious interference of insurance representatives in legislation to bolster up weak concerns or to give one plan of insurance advantage over another. Uniform insurance legislation can only be achieved by insurance companies agreeing to keep their hands off the lawmakers.

MINOR SCENES AND INCIDENTS SKETCHED ON THE SPOT.

Plans and details of the new railroad station in Washington have been made public and contracts let for some of the work. The location is northwest from the capitol, fully half a mile from the present depot. The building will be reached by a tunnel through Capitol Hill costing \$250 per foot, or a total of about \$1,000,000. The depot building will cost \$2,000,000, and the grounds, trackage and approaches \$5,000,000. The total cost of the change is estimated at \$8,000,000, of which sum congress contributes \$2,000,000.

The depot building will be faced with marble and will cover an area of 254,000 square feet. Three arched doorways, 61 feet high and 44 feet wide, will occupy the central portion of the front and open into a vestibule 288 feet broad. Beyond the vestibule is to be the main waiting room, 210 feet wide by 120 feet long. Floors and walls are to be lined in white marble. The apartment will be lighted by a 100-foot dome of glass and decorated with marble statues of heroic size, frescoes and giant palms.

A superb state entrance will be provided for the president and distinguished guests of the city. The state entrance is to occupy the whole of the east end of the building. This will consist of a suite of rooms, including reception and retiring rooms, for the distinguished guests, and a number of smaller rooms for the use of the attendant leading party passengers as they form in line on their way to trains. All baggage will be handled in specially provided apartments directly under the concourse. Express wagons and drays will drive down an incline and unload in the baggage room.

Provision has been made for a barber shop, a swimming pool 26x37 feet, built of marble; Turkish and shower baths and a mortuary chamber, with accommodations for five bodies. A sub-basement has also been planned for the handling of southern baggage. In this basement there is to be an emigrants' waiting room, baggage storerooms, six elevators, 15x15 feet, will pass from the sub-basement to the main waiting room.

The interior of the building is to be lighted by a semi-cylindrical dome of colored glass 100 feet high. When congress meets there will be a lottery for the choice seats. The newest and freshest member from the backwoods district may be the lucky man to have his name drawn from the box by the blindfolded page and to have first choice of all the seats in the great hall. The veteran of long years of congress, a man of power and note, may be the last of the long line and forced to content himself with a perch in the extreme rear. This is democracy with a vengeance, and, of course, it would never do for the aristocratic upper branch.

The senator who gets a good seat looks it as long as it remains a senator. Such men as Allison, Hale, Hoar, Cullom and others have sat all the way from ten to twenty-five years at one desk. When an old senator with an advantageously located seat drops out through death or failure to secure re-election some other senator from the rear applies for his seat and gets it, the rule being, "first come, first served." New senators are compelled to take the less desirable desks in the rear of the chamber, to await their turn for a chance at better ones. Thus in the senate there is a slow but steady movement from the rear toward the front, of the chamber—a movement highly suggestive of the senatorial system based upon prerogative and precedence.

Even more striking is the method of assigning senators to places upon committees. Here again prerogative is everything. If the chairman of a committee dies or leaves the front, the man of the majority political party who has served longest upon that committee becomes his successor. The rule is invariable, though, of course, complications occasionally arise. If the senior committee man is chairman of another important committee, he may be compelled to surrender one or the other.

There is perhaps no elevator in the world more exclusive than that provided at the capitol at Washington, D. C., for the supreme court of the United States. That elevator can be used by exactly eleven people, and no one else would for a moment consider entering it except as the guest of one of these eleven privileged gentlemen. The fortunate eleven are the nine justices of the United States supreme court, the clerk and the marshal of the court. The elevator goes from the ground floor of the capitol to the second floor, on which is located the supreme court of the United States. It is a small elevator, so that, with its conductor, three portly forms of justices of the supreme court of the United States would fill it. It is one of the very latest designs of electric elevators and is finished in magnificent style.

Commissioner of Internal Revenue Yerkes recently got after the retail cigar dealers for failing to observe the original package law, which prohibits the removal of cigars and tobacco, before sale, from boxes in which they were packed. The inspectors were strictly enforced, in order to prevent frauds in the way of rolling high grade boxes with inferior cigars. Mr. Yerkes now proposes to see that liquor dealers and oleomargarine merchants observe the same requirements regarding the original package law. He has caused notice to be sent out, calling attention to violations of the law governing the sale of distilled spirits. He has found a growing tendency on the part of some persons who are engaged in the sale of liquors to refill with spirits bottles which had once been filled and stamped, under the provisions of the internal revenue law.

He says that while the re-use of a bottle for the purpose of containing spirits which had once been filled and stamped, without destroying the stamp previously fixed to such bottle, may not result in a fraud upon the government, it involves a gross violation of the law and enables the offender to impose upon the public by disposing of a cheap and inferior grade of whiskey, different in quality and alcohol strength from the original contents, at a price equal to the price of whiskey of standard strength and quality represented by the stamp.

The special agent who makes the offense on bottles filled in bond are absolutely destroyed when the bottles are emptied. The same prohibitions are to apply in the sale of oleomargarine in quantities not exceeding ten pounds.

The multiplication of controversies in the government printing office has suggested that the office might be administered with more gratifying results if it were placed in some one of the executive departments. The difficulty over the status of Assistant Foreman Miller has of late emphasized this opinion and it is stated on good authority that the president has concluded to place the office in the Department of Commerce. This will make Secretary Cortelyou the executive official in control of the office and lead to a number of changes in the method of administering the work of the printing office. This action is the result of the conclusion of the special committee which has been looking

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

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THE OLD RELIABLE



into the working of the office and several other bureaus. It is believed that the change will not only dispose of the labor troubles, but bring about certain economies which have been demanded for many years.

A man in public life noted for his brusqueness was under discussion in cabinet circles.

"There's one thing to be said in his favor, however," said Secretary Shaw, "and that is he never importunes the departments to get promotions for his friends."

"That's readily explained," commented Secretary Root. "He hasn't any friends."

CARMACK AND THE NEGRO. Tennessee's Senator "Strips the Question Stark Naked."

Senator Carmack of Tennessee, who is advocating the repeal of the fifteenth amendment to the federal constitution, has opened his heart on the whole negro question in an article in the current number of the Nashville Olyphant Magazine. He "strips the question stark naked," to use his own phrase. How it looks when in that condition can be seen from the following brief summary of his views. He believes that:

- 1. The negro is—absolutely speaking—an inferior race.
2. That white man—absolutely—loathes the negro.
3. Education will only serve to make the negro more loathsome.
4. Stripping the negro of his political rights will, however, make him less loathsome, for the white man will then no longer be shamed by a divided sovereignty with a lower and inferior race.
5. In these four propositions you have the length and breadth of Senator Carmack's philosophy put up in pellet form, to take or to leave alone, as you will.
In justice to the senator it should be said that he does not really believe that his program would, if put into effect, have ideal results. He only contends that it "is at least the best that can be hoped for as a final and peaceful adjustment of the relations between whites and blacks in the United States." The absolutely "best" would be, he maintains, "to gradually transplant the negro race into some other land, where, under favorable conditions, it would work out its own destiny."

Regrettably the senator admits that his ideal is unattainable. He might as well admit as much for his plan to repeal the fifteenth amendment. The one scheme is just as crude, just as much of a quick nostrum, as the other. The average American citizen will surely say that if the negro is not worthy of the ballot the thing to do is to make him worthy, rather than strive to keep him eternally unworthy.

PERSONAL NOTES. Librarian Ballard of the Athenaeum Library of Pittsfield, Mass., has just secured a collection of rare originals relating to Shay's rebellion.

Governor Dockery of Missouri says he cut off his monumental whiskers, where the little birds built their nests, in order that he might see his chin.

Julius Krut Schmidt, Jr., went to Yale as a freshman in a special private car. Gaudoupe, his father is fourth vice president and general manager of the Southern Pacific railroad.

John Hazeltine, known throughout central New York as a philanthropist, has announced plans to take a colony of 1,000 Syracuse people to Montana for the purpose of establishing a town.

Peter Verigin, leader of the Doukhobors in Manitoba, is trusted by his followers with large sums of money, a good deal of which he carries about with him in cash. A reporter who visited him in Winnipeg a few days ago found the leader in a poorly furnished room with thousands upon thousands of bank bills scattered around.

Verigin has purchased 200 teams of horses and great quantities of farm machinery.

I ain't been along th' road as Pur as some. But she's kep' a gittin' better. As I've come, 'twill be better still next year. Sure as I'm a hick here, lookin' back I'll see some mountains I have clumb.

Chirk up, growler; light yer face up With a smile; Better walkin' on ahead ther. Keep a singin' songs o' hope, Never set around an' mope; Fer this life grow sweet an' sweeter All th' while.

Ev'ry day since I have livin' I have found Lots an' lots o' love an' sunshine Scattered round. Life's brimfull o' hope an' light If a feller lives it right, Always got th' best time comin', I'll be bound.

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Men's Clothes. Here at Browning, King & Co.'s "are clothes"—not the kind you see advertised at "N-Ninety-Nine"—but the reliable, trustworthy kind that are well made—made to wear and last and give the faithful service that most men want in a suit of clothes.

And when you come to know Browning, King & Co. clothing—if you don't know it now—you will buy no other Suits and Overcoats \$10 and up to \$45.

"NO CLOTHING FITS LIKE OURS."

Browning, King & Co. R. S. Wilcox, Manager.