

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$4.00. Daily Bee (with Sunday), One Year, \$4.50. Sunday Bee, One Year, \$2.00. Saturday Bee, One Year, \$1.00. Twenty-first Century Farmer, One Year, \$1.00.

OFFICES. Omaha—The Bee Building, Twenty-first and M streets. Council Bluffs—The Bee Building, Chicago—1640 Park Building. New York—225 Park Building. Washington—401 Fourteenth Street.

CORRESPONDENCE. Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed: Omaha Bee, Editorial Department. Remittances. Remit by draft, express or postal order payable to The Bee Publishing Company.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. Omaha, Nebraska, Douglas County, etc. Published by The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, that the actual circulation of said newspaper during the month of October, 1903, was as follows:

Net total sales, 922,302. Net average sales, 29,753. GEORGE B. TSCHECHUCK, M. B. HUNGATE.

WOULD AMEND THE TREATY. The agreement of the house democrats to vote for legislation to make effective the Cuban reciprocity treaty assures the early passage of the bill presented a few days ago by the chairman of the ways and means committee. The democrats desire the treaty amended so as to abolish the differential duty and strike out the five-year clause, but it is not at all probable that this will be done. The democratic contention is that the five-year clause attempts to bind the hand of congress against changing the tariff on sugar for a period of five years, thus protecting the Sugar trust to that extent against foreign competition.

THE BOARD OF REVIEW. The task before the Board of Review, which is about to begin the work of revising the assessment lists made up by the city tax commissioner as the basis of the municipal tax levy for 1904, while perhaps not as important as that which has devolved upon the board for the last two years preceding, it is still of vital concern to Omaha property owners. Under the statutes the Board of Review has plenary power to raise or lower any assessment return with or without a complaint on the part of some other aggrieved property owner. Limited, however, to a session of thirty days, the reviewers cannot possibly do more than rectify and correct the most glaring inequalities that necessarily obtrude in any assessment roll that is made up by more than one assessor. It will pay neither the board, therefore, nor our taxpaying citizens to fritter away valuable time on trivial complaints. It is the big problems of taxation with reference to the valuation of various classes of property that the board should grapple with, and particularly the taxshirking proclivities of the larger corporations rather than the petty mistakes made in the returns of small householders.

ABRIDGING THE SUFFRAGE. The resolution introduced in the house of representatives by General Dick of Ohio, providing for a congressional investigation in regard to the abridgement of the suffrage in some of the states, is general in its scope. It calls for an investigation to examine conditions in all the states to determine what, if any, proportion of the number of male citizens 21 years of age in any state, to whom said state denies or abridges the right to vote, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, bears to the total number of male inhabitants of such state. If such a condition exists, the basis of representation in congress and the electoral college shall be reduced proportionately, according to the terms of the fourteenth amendment and the revised statutes of the United States. While the resolution is not a partisan measure, since it provides for an investigation in every state where any number of male citizens are disfranchised by state legislation, it will of course be treated by the democrats as partisan and antagonized by them accordingly. Of course there will be no action on the resolution at the extra session, but it will probably be given attention in the regular session. Its passage, however, cannot be confidently predicted. Resolutions bearing on the same subject were introduced in the last congress, but failed to command much interest. That the matter is important is very generally recognized, yet there appears to be a strong indisposition to give it that consideration which it undoubtedly should receive, as a matter of plain and simple justice to a very large number of disfranchised citizens. That the question cannot be always ignored may be positively asserted and perhaps there will never be a more favorable time than the present to make the investigation which the Dick resolution proposes.

BRITISH AGRICULTURE. The fact that agriculture in the United Kingdom is declining has long been known, but the figures just presented in the report of the British Board of Agriculture show conditions rather more serious than had commonly been supposed. There has been a shrinkage in the acreage under cultivation for crops of almost every description, the diminution in the land under corn crops exceeding 124,000 acres. As recently as 1894 the extent of land under corn crops was a million acres more than at present. In 1899 the area assigned to wheat extended to near 4,000,000 acres. It is the wheat crop, far more than any other, that has been sacrificed in the withdrawal of land from cultivation. The area under what are called "green crops" has also declined and it appears that only in the cultivation of small fruits was there any increase in acreage. There was a moderate increase in the number of cattle, but a considerable decline in the number of sheep, the latter fact being especially significant, for the reason that wool is the chief raw material produced in Great Britain and of minerals.

These facts show the increasing dependence of the United Kingdom upon other countries for foodstuffs and can hardly fail to make an impression upon the public mind unfavorable to the proposal to place a tax on foodstuffs which is a feature of Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal reform plan. It is a part of the contention of that statesman that under the operation of the policy he advocates British agriculture would be stimulated, but if this be admitted it is still certain that it could not be developed to an extent that would come anywhere near meeting the home demand. As has been well said, if England should reverse the policy which grew out of her natural conditions and the energy of her people, instead of being the cause of them, she might become less of a workshop and a trading center, but she would hardly become more of an agricultural country without going into decay.

It won't come off. The west is giving Wall street a great laugh these days.

Wonders Troop Around. Philadelphia Record. Who could have imagined that such a great volume of water could be squeezed out of so impermeable a substance as steel?

Doing Business at Home. Springfield Republican. Spain's surplus this year is \$60,000,000, which was simply unheard of in the palmy days of empire before the late war. Spain now has a future, for she is attending to business right at home.

An Impertinent Suggestion. Kansas City Journal. Congress has not yet adopted the rule requiring members to show their railroad passes before being allowed their mileage. It takes it for granted that they have them.

The Retort Harpoon. Chicago Chronicle. Before taking ship for Europe, Mr. Bryan indulged in the little further blackguarding of the gold democrats. It is to be noted, however, that the gold democrats are not contesting anybody's last will and testament.

In the Attitude of Knockers. Minneapolis Journal. If the democrats could only tell which way the Panama would jump, they would know what to do. They don't care much whether the president's course has been right or wrong; what they want to know is what the public thinks about it.

A Vent for Hot Air. New York World. Our Canadian friends failed to get Alaska, but they are taking it out in hissing the American flag. It doesn't hurt the flag, and it gives the same sort of real devilish comfort that one gets in exclaiming "Oh, fudge!" when he has pinched his finger in the door.

Characteristic Conceit. Baltimore American. Apropos of the Golet-Roxburgh wedding, the London journalists sneer at the display of wealth by rich Americans, but say nothing of the way in which British hands are eagerly grabbing at that same wealth. They take American fortunes with a dignified disdain of its importance on this side, and with quite as dignified ignoring of the virtue of consistency.

The Right Thing to Do. New York Sun. Fair-minded as the Atlantic side of the Atlantic will concur in the unanimous verdict pronounced by European onlookers as to the propriety of the position assumed by our national government toward the new Republic of Panama. All attempts to discredit the motives or impeach the conduct of our State department will prove futile. We have simply done our duty in the premises. There was nothing else for us to do.

PERSONAL NOTES. There must be a terrific hullabaloo in Hoo Hoo circles in Oklahoma. Eleven lumber dealers have been indicted for violating trust laws.

Ex-Senator Marion Butler, of North Carolina, chairman of the national populist committee, says he cannot form any opinion of the recent elections. It doesn't make any difference.

Mary McLeane would like to attach herself to a husband if she could conveniently shake him in a year. One who has lived in Montana ought to be familiar with the superior advantages the Dakotas offer in cutting loose from encumbrances.

Dr. J. Wilson Swan, the inventor of the incandescent electric light, has just entered his 70th year. It is nearly a generation since Dr. Swan first exhibited the electric light which has now become universal.

The city council of Chicago has passed a law banishing the toy pistol from the list of Fourth of July killers. If other municipalities follow the example and enforce it, the problem of "race suicides" would take several leaps toward solution.

It appears to be pretty well established that New York pie trust has crumbled to pieces. The fact is, people, if absolutely compelled by exorbitant prices to do so, can manage to rub along without pies, or can hire help competent to make some sort of substitute for them.

An Australian chemist who has contributed a patent feeding bottle to the civilization explains how it works in this style: "When the baby is done drinking it must be unscrubbed and laid in a cool place under the tap. If the baby does not thrive on fresh milk it should be boiled."

Louis Richard Schoenheit, who commanded the guards at Lincoln's Bier and was one of the twenty-one bearers of the martyred president's casket, is living at Old Fort, the historic residence at German Valley, N. J., which during the revolution, was afforded alternately shelter for the Continental and British soldiers.

Congressman Landis was introducing his brother Fred to some colleagues on the floor of the house at the opening of congress. A western man, by way of making talk, asked the newcomer: "How did you happen to come to congress, Mr. Landis?" "To tell you the truth," was the half-laughing answer, "I was out of a job and so I went out for this one."

Joseph G. Fulton, for over half a century a forage master in the United States army and one of the best known men in Virginia, died at Old Point Comfort a few days ago. With him the office of forage master passed out of existence. It was abolished several years ago, but as Mr. Fulton was the only person holding such a position he was allowed to continue for life. He entered the United States army in 1860.

Strange things happen in unexpected places. Colonel A. K. McClure, former editor and publisher of the defunct Philadelphia Times, has been appointed clerk of the supreme court of the eastern district of Pennsylvania. The clerk is paid by week, which is about the correct rate. He recently drew up his memory for verbatim reproduction of a letter which he received from Jefferson Davis nineteen years ago, though he had not seen the document for many months.

The democratic members of congress have agreed to support the administration's Cuban reciprocity policy, but not without opposition from three democratic members from Louisiana, Texas and California, championing the sugar interests in their states. It is to be noted that no mention of dissent is found from the lone democratic congressman from Nebraska, which is also a sugar producing state.

The report of the secretary of the Douglas County Agricultural society shows that the entire receipts for membership fees amounted to the munificent sum of \$34, which served as a nest-egg for the appropriation of \$3,000 of the county treasury. We know a lot of people who would like to do a similar business on the same small capital.

The "hats off" order in theaters is meeting with opposition from the women over in London, although it was quickly and willingly complied with by all our American women. We will give credit to the American women for having more consideration for their escorts than their British sisters.

Real estate men all agree that the local market is more active now than it has been for some time and that the prospects are for better still. A city like Omaha, on the up grade as a result of the advent of new railroads and the inauguration of new industrial enterprises, is sure to give its real estate increasing values. There is money to be made in Omaha real estate investments.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. The Tammany tiger has abundant cause for smacking its chops and throwing a fit of joy as it contemplates the approaching start. Scores of hundred public apartments go over to the Fourteenth street zone. They include the municipal building and downtown terminal, tunnel connection of East river bridges, extension piers in the North river, second tunnel to Brooklyn, east side tunnel on Lexington avenue, and the moving plant and enterprises. The total cost of these and minor enterprises reaches the enormous sum of \$100,000,000. Contract graft is eliminated from most of these big jobs, as the awards have already been made. The new source of water supply will also be a problem for the McClellan administration. At a cost of thousands of dollars a commission, headed by Prof. W. H. Burr of Columbia, has recently completed a survey, and has made a partial report recommending the purchase of the watershed in Ulster county. Decision will be left to the incoming administration.

Attorney are searching New Jersey towns for Miss Carew, a young nurse, formerly employed in a New York hospital, in order to pay her \$10,000 under the will of Frank J. Edwards, a civil engineer of Philadelphia, Pa.

Edwards fell ill in New York three years ago and was cared for at the hospital by Miss Carew. He wished her to become his wife, but she was in no hurry to desert her profession, and after corresponding with Edwards at Pasadena for a long period she decided to return to the city of the gold democrats. It is to be noted, however, that the gold democrats are not contesting anybody's last will and testament.

Charles Becker, the "king of counterfeiters," who has been serving a term of eight years in a California prison for raising a check for \$12 to \$20,000, has returned to his home in Brooklyn. Becker is one of the feared criminals in the country. Since his release from prison, more than a month ago, he has been constantly shadowed by secret service men, though he has said frequently during his recent term in prison that he had reformed, and was putting his talents to none but lawful uses.

While in prison in California Becker invented a process for treating paper so as to make it impossible to erase figures, change dates or alter the printing thereon without detection. He is said to be anxious to start a legitimate business of manufacturing such paper.

Becker is known all over the country and in all the big cities of the world as an expert engraver, as well as a clever counterfeiter. Several years ago he put in circulation a number of 100-franc bank notes on the bank of France. They were admitted to be perfect facsimiles of the originals, and only because of duplicate numbers was the fraud discovered.

New York has made an important addition to its ownership of historic landmarks and notable pleasure grounds in the buying of the Jumel mansion and the lands surrounding it. For interesting associations the house and its environment are well worth frequent visits, and for picturesque scenery they will be precious to future generations. The views of the Harlem valley, of the Fordham heights, of great stretches of varied pictures on both sides of the river and of the bridges which span the stream hold the observer spellbound.

New York tobaccoists are following the European custom of discouraging tobacco chewing by not keeping the article on sale. It is not a matter of morals, but of profits. Between Twenty-third and Forty-second streets on Broadway a dozen dealers have dropped plug and fidget from their stocks. "When you cut off a man's chewing you increase his smoking capacity," said one dealer today. "Besides, chewing is everywhere conceded to be a disgusting vice, while smoking is generally held to be legitimate. In Berlin and Paris no first-class dealer has the stuff on his counters. Tobacco chewing is almost exclusively an American vice. While there is a marked decrease in the demand for the weed in this form, I regret to say that the paper-covered cigarette is being held to be the future. There is money in it, and there is no danger that it will fall under the ban placed on chewing tobacco. On the east side, that abode of the immense foreign population of New York, chewing tobacco finds little favor. It is only the half-civilized American who takes the vice alive. On the other hand, the avowed tobacco chewer is a stranger to many deadly vices which are generally practiced by the forgers who eschew the filthy weed. This is so in New York, at least."

A great deal is heard about the swarms of alien labor into this port. "The Philadelphia Ledger," but when the tide turns the other way, as it occasionally does, it is hardly noticed. Thousands of foreign born persons are for various reasons returning to their native land just now. Foot by foot the alien labor is being cleaned up. It is compared with the crush yesterday when the Italian legion swarmed around the pier at the foot of Amity street. There were about 1,500 men, a few women and children, all bound to get back to Genoa or Naples on the steamer ship "Patric," of the Italian line. A decrease in the demand for labor is said to be one of the causes of the present rush for Europe.

There are hundreds of gay young Lotharios hanging around New York. They mostly make their headquarters in the grill rooms of fashionable uptown hotels. Most of them have fallen into money by inheritance and seem to be continually trying to prove the old saw about "one generation between shirt sleeves and shirt sleeves" by blowing in their patrimony. They are the beaux of the modern baby, as they are called by a recent magazine writer. "To outdo each other in the ignoble contest as to which of them might soonest part with the attributes of manhood."

Congressman Perkins happened in a downtown New York cafe the other day and called upon an old friend, an alderman. During the chat an Italian couple came and asked in broken English if the alderman would unite them in marriage. The alderman performed the ceremony, and after accepting his modest fee politely handed the bride an umbrella. The ceremony was over, the proceedings were gravely, and after the couple went out asked: "Do you always do that Charles?" "Do what? Marry them? Oh, yes." "No, I mean bestow a present upon the bride. A present! Why, wasn't that her umbrella?" gaped the alderman. "Why, it was mine," replied the congressman, sadly.

Cause for Gratification. New York Evening Post (Ind.). It would be a strange historic reversal if the republican party, which began its life with a denunciation of the democrats for proposing to rob a neighbor, should be turned out of power for attempting the same thing. Yet that is not impossible. A thoughtful republican was heard to say yesterday: "This Panama blunder is the kind of going which the democrats are so lately drawing out this modern baby. The democratic party is alert enough to seize its great opportunity to oppose President Roosevelt in the name of the national honor."

BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Its Relation to the Cuban Treaty as Viewed from Boston. Boston Transcript. A correspondent in Omaha, Neb., undertaking to portray the profitability of the farm industry of beet raising, gave some revealing figures. It is the farmer's interest from our desire to injure or belittle any progressive industry. But in our study of the beet-sugar problem we have learned to discriminate between the value of beet culture to the farmer and the profits which are copiously garnered by the beet-sugar refining companies.

The Nebraska farmer, our Omaha dispatch says, realize some \$60,000 for their crop in a year, and the three factories produce 24,000,000 pounds of sugar; that is, less than 10,000 tons. The writer says that an acre of beets this year yields the farmer \$25, and that the farmer who hauls the beets to the factories at \$1 per ton saves the railroad profit and also has the privilege of trucking home pulp or pomace to feed to his stock. We are unable to figure up so much as \$60,000 for the crop; since, taking the yield at 14 per cent in sugar, there would be required for 10,000 tons of sugar 73,750 tons of beets, and their value at \$4 would be \$295,000. This confirms the impression that the importance of the beet culture is much exaggerated.

A production of nine tons of beets to the acre is shown by the evidence before the committees of congress to be good yield. Nine tons at \$4 would yield \$36, not \$55. The October report of the United States and Gray, in a report from Leavitt, Neb., states: "About two-thirds of a crop is expected from the acreage in the eastern counties; the high water in August delayed growth for a week or two, besides washing out parts of the fields and covering the soil of farmers with mud. The average yield per acre expected around Fremont, Neb., is not more than six or seven tons, while some fields were destroyed by water and will not be harvested." The same statisticians state the estimated beet-sugar product in twelve states this year, 23,000 tons, which, with the product of eleven previous years, makes the total output of the industry 218,000 tons in twelve years, requiring 5,564,285 tons of beets, the value of which to the farmers at \$4 would be \$22,257,140 in the whole twelve years in twelve states.

We object to the consideration of the selfish interests of this truly unimpaired industry to limit our discharge of obligation to Cuba or to bind the hands of congress for a term of five years or more and subject the people to a heavy tax, all to protect the beet-sugar refiners, while the western farmers are getting but the least of sugar supply from the raw material they supply to the trust.

Beet-raising for sugar requires the greatest care from the farmers and sale at low price. The refiners admit that the manufacture of sugar is profitable to them with the high price of refined sugar produced by a duty of about two cents per pound, and the added benefit of the states of one-half cent to one cent per pound bonus. The refineries represent, in New Jersey corporations, some \$30,000,000 of capital. The beet culture, beyond the crop just harvested, represents no investment for the future, in the event that the beet farmer wishes to devote his land to other crops in 1904, according to the rule of rotation of crops.

The American people are earnest to have justice done to Cuba in a fair reciprocity and their patience is exhausted when the beet-sugar trust, which has succeeded in depriving Cuba of the advantages promised for two long years, now demand a guaranty for as long a term as the treaty for the continuance of the present high duty on sugar, and a pledge that the petty reduction of one-third cent per pound shall not be enlarged.

OLD KING CORN. Puts Up an Astonishing Pace on the Home Run. Chicago Record-Herald. Two months ago, when the early frosts came, the United States suffered a short spasm of doleful dumps over the outlook for the corn crop. Now, however, the government statisticians are reason to believe that the 1903 crop will be larger than that of any previous year in the history of the country, with the single exception of 1902.

The estimate is for a crop of 2,315,000,000 bushels, grown on a little less than 90,000,000 acres of land, with an average yield of about 25.5 bushels per acre. Last year the corn growers not only planted a larger acreage, but secured a heavier yield. On a trifle more than 94,000,000 acres 2,523,000,000 bushels were grown, the average per acre being 26.5 bushels. This year has an advantage over last year, however, in the quality of the corn, the general average being 82.1 per cent as compared with 80.7 per cent last year. In 1901 the general average was 73.7 per cent and in 1900 85.5 per cent.

The corn crops of the last decade have varied greatly in size, the worst being that of 1904, when 22,000,000 acres produced only 1,212,000,000 bushels. Since then the acreage has ranged between 80,000,000 and 90,000,000 bushels, except in the two years 1901 and 1902, when it was above 90,000,000, and the total yield has ranged from 1,522,000,000 to 2,323,000,000 bushels. The low figure was in 1901.

In 1902 the total crop of the world outside the United States was only 700,000,000 bushels. The good yield of this year, maintaining as it does the purchasing power of the corn-growing communities, will be a helpful factor in the commercial and industrial prosperity of the country.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

Destiny Points to North America Under the Folds of Old Glory. Indianapolis News. We commend to our native fault-finders, the folk that can never see anything good or righteous in the action of our government, and are forever holding us down to the precise letter of the law, the following comment from the World, of Toronto. In it we get that valuable thing—a sight of ourselves as others see us. An especial value of the present view is the note of cynicism that advises us that the "Yankees' quality of our procedure is not lost to sight. But what is particularly valuable to us is the largeness of view that our Canadian neighbor has. It can feel the large significance of events—a thing that our home-grown critics never can, when it concerns ourselves. Says the Toronto World: "When the United States drove Spain out of Cuba and Porto Rico they made one step in the process of obtaining control of Central American waters. 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