

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$1.00...

NEBRASKA'S RECUPERATIVE POWER.

The marvelous recuperative power of Nebraska is strikingly exhibited by a comparison of its banking facilities and bank deposits. On March 4, 1896, when the commercial depression that followed the crash of 1893 and the drought years of 1894 and 1895 had reached the greatest extreme, the deposits in Nebraska state banks aggregated \$10,227,537.

The deposits in the national banks of Omaha and South Omaha in 1896 were a fraction over \$15,000,000. The deposits in the Omaha and South Omaha banks on November 17, 1903, aggregated \$30,840,026.96. The aggregate deposits in all the Nebraska banks, including Omaha and South Omaha, in 1896, were in round figures \$25,000,000. The total bank deposits in December, 1903, exceeded \$120,000,000.

When it is borne in mind that thousands of mortgages aggregating millions of dollars have been lifted from Nebraska farms and homes since 1890 this stupendous increase in the tangible wealth of the state within a period of less than eight years would seem almost incredible. When it is further borne in mind that the bulk of this wealth has been drawn from the products of Nebraska's soil, after paying more than \$300,000,000 to the railroads for transporting them to the world's markets, Nebraska can point with pride to an achievement unsurpassed in the annals of American progress and justly lay claim to more than its share of the prosperity which the whole country has been recently enjoying.

GROWTH OF TRADE WITH CANADA.

The advocates of reciprocity with Canada may find some encouragement in the figures of trade with our northern neighbor recently given out by the Bureau of Statistics at Washington. These show that in spite of tariff barriers and the preference given for the last five years by the British colony to the mother country, American trade with the Dominion has been steadily growing, having more than doubled in value during the last ten years. For the present year our exports to Canada will amount to \$130,000,000 and our imports from that country to \$55,000,000, leaving a balance in favor of the United States of \$75,000,000.

Referring to the statistics the Boston Transcript remarks that it must be remembered that the period covered by them has been one of unusually strained relations between the two countries, so far as mutually unfriendly legislation could affect the tension. "If so much has been accomplished," says that paper, "in spite of a system of friction, dual in its operations, what gratifying results might have been attained had the friction been removed and our transactions been on a basis of mutual satisfaction and comparative freedom. * * * We are now trading because we have to. Could we put our business intercourse on a basis of reciprocal justice we should trade because we wanted to and with mutual and greatly increased profit."

It is by no means to be assumed as certain that if a reciprocity arrangement had been in operation we should have exported more to the Dominion than we have done. It is absolutely certain, on the other hand, that we should have taken considerable more of the natural products of Canada than have been imported, which would have come into competition with our own natural products, as many believe to the disadvantage of American producers. It may be admitted that it would be beneficial to both countries to have business intercourse on a basis of reciprocal justice, but Canada has not as yet proposed such a basis and judging from some recent utterances of her leading men is not likely to whenever Canada is prepared to consider the question of reciprocity on a fair and equitable basis, instead of seeking an arrangement which, like that of 1854, would be one-sided in its operation. It is not to be doubted that she will receive attention. Otherwise her efforts to secure reciprocity are pretty sure to prove unavailing.

THE EASTERN WAR CLOUD.

Conditions in the far east have again taken on a more warlike aspect and while it is not to be assumed that hostilities between Russia and Japan are inevitable, there is very strong probability of it. It seems evident that a definite issue, one way or the other, cannot be postponed much longer, for although each nation has avoided anything in the nature of an absolute ultimatum and both profess an earnest desire for the preservation of peace, the preparations steadily going on indicate a belief that war is more than a possibility. Much will depend upon the character of Russia's reply to Japan's last note, which ought to be soon forthcoming.

If it should not be satisfactory to the Japanese government and should appear to be intended, as it is not unlikely will be the case, to enable Russia to gain more time for preparation and perhaps also to perfect the diplomatic intrigues of which she is suspected, it is by no means improbable that Japan will take some definite action, possibly in the form of an ultimatum.

There is reluctance on both sides to begin hostilities, because of certain distinct diplomatic disadvantages that might arise in the path of the aggressor. There is a treaty of alliance between Great Britain and Japan which is understood to stipulate aid and support in case either party were attacked. It is pointed out that Japan would hesitate to take the aggressive, because by such act it would forfeit the claim to the aid of its ally. Russia would hesitate through dislike to give Japan the diplomatic advantage which would result from an attack upon her.

Whether or not any of the European powers, particularly England and France, are making any efforts to avert war is not positively known, but undoubtedly the governments of those countries are deeply interested in the situation and keeping careful watch of the course of events.

In the event of war the position of the United States would of course be that of absolute neutrality, but American sympathy is unquestionably with Japan, because the contention of that nation is in the interest of the civilized and commercial world. The efforts of Japan are directed to maintaining that policy in the far east for which the United States and other nations have contended and which there is good reason to believe would be endangered by the extension of Russian power there.

Commercially considered, a Russo-Japanese war would doubtless create an increased demand for our foodstuffs, but such a conflict could not but be deplored, whatever the material advantages that any country might derive from it. Until Russia makes reply to the last note from Japan the news from the far east is not likely to be particularly interesting, but in the meantime there will be a general feeling of anxiety and solicitude.

AN OLD QUESTION REVIVED.

The committee on territories of the senate has under consideration a bill for the protection of fur-bearing seals in Alaskan waters. The measure provides for a review of the situation concerning the seals by representatives of the United States and Great Britain, with a view to prescribing regulations for the protection of those animals and if no agreement can be reached it authorizes the secretary of the treasury to kill all but a limited number of the male and female seals on the Pribilof group of islands. The revival of this matter, which has been a source of irritation and controversy for years, ought to lead to some definite result. Some years ago an arrangement was made with the British government looking to seal protection, but the result has not been satisfactory, for the reason that the British did not carry out their part of the agreement, and it is safe to say that no future arrangement will prove satisfactory.

What is desired is to put a stop to pelagic sealing, in which there is indiscriminate slaughter of the animals, the ultimate result of which must necessarily be their extinction. As Canadians are chiefly responsible for this the British government is not disposed to interfere with them. Perhaps it is well to have the situation again investigated, though this has been done a number of times, and that another effort be made to get an agreement for the protection of the seals, but experience does not warrant confidence that such an agreement would prove effective. The alternative of killing all but a limited number of seals will doubtless be regarded by many as far too drastic.

TAKING A NEW TACK.

When the ordinance granting the privilege of planting signboards, in the streets and alleys of Omaha to an enterprising set of promoters was laid to sleep by the council some weeks ago it was thought that the scheme had received its quietus. It appears, however, that the schemers who have exhibited such paternal interest in strangers who might lose their way in the streets of Omaha were actuated by prudential reasons in refraining from pushing the signboard ordinance through the council and up against the mayor.

Now that public attention has been directed in other directions another effort is being made to revive the signboard scheme, not by an ordinance, but by resolution. This change of tactics is presumably designed to avoid a mayor's veto and a possible shortage of votes in the council to pass the ordinance over the mayor's head should he refuse to sanction it. We feel sure, however, that public sentiment has undergone no change with regard to the signboard nuisance any more than it has on the billboard nuisance.

The people of Omaha are anxious to have the city beautified, not disgraced. They would rather forego the convenience that may be derived from street corner signboards than be confronted by street corner advertisements. At any rate, the council would not be warranted in attempting to do by indirection what it would not feel justified by public sentiment in doing in the open.

REMEDIAL LEGISLATION BLOCKED BY THE CONGRESSIONAL LOBBY.

There is in Washington, and particularly here in Omaha, a great amount of pulling and hauling at questions connected with the public lands. Official "graft" in this field is a trifling matter compared with the efforts of members of congress to block legislation which might unfavorably affect the interests of some of their influential constituents. A western senator who has the public lands, Official "graft" in this field is a trifling matter compared with the efforts of members of congress to block legislation which might unfavorably affect the interests of some of their influential constituents. A western senator who has the public lands, Official "graft" in this field is a trifling matter compared with the efforts of members of congress to block legislation which might unfavorably affect the interests of some of their influential constituents.

Senator Platt of New York declares that the Empire state will send a Roosevelt delegation to the national republican convention. Governor Odell is an outspoken champion of Roosevelt and all the big political leaders who are active in New York politics are also on record for him. The chances are that all the talk about opposition developing that would prevent the president from having the support of his own state delegation will vanish into thin air before the delegates come to be chosen.

With all the scientific and educational societies in session this week we ought to get a pretty good idea of the progress made in various lines of scientific research. That is the most useful function these conventions serve, by telling what has been done and what is yet to be done, thus preventing duplication of labor and directing thought to untrodden fields. They afford a sort of annual inventory of educational and scientific achievement.

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON.

Notes and Comment Gleaned from the Army and Navy Register. It looks as if the senate would confirm the nomination of General Leonard Wood to be brigadier general at least, that is the recommendation to be made from the military committee on January 4. When publicity attaches to the testimony given behind closed doors in this case, it will be found that its character is quite different from that described in the press accounts of the secret sessions, and this will explain why the committee entertains no doubt on the subject. The literary disclosures of the week in the Wood case appear elsewhere and show, in one case, the splendid fight Mr. Root has been making for General Wood and, in the other, that that officer long ago and promptly asked for departmental action on the charges made in the New York Sun and originating, General Wood indicates, with Lieutenant Runcie. That nothing was done shows the indifference of the authorities at Washington in the matter and how lightly they regarded the criticisms. The statute of limitations would not interfere with the work of a court-martial in this case, but it would not operate to the disadvantage of a court of inquiry, which may be brought on request of an officer or without such desire by order of the president. Whatever has been said by Lieutenant Runcie in the committee sessions is "privileged" in a legal sense, and for that reason no prosecution for criticism of a brother officer.

HALOS FOR THE PRODIGALS.

St. Louis Globe Democrat. Nebraska democrats have decided that it was not treason to vote against Colonel Bryan in 1902, and the charges made the anti-Bryans will be wearing badges of honor.

WRECKAGE AS AN ARGUMENT.

Washington Post. The railroad companies are presenting forcible arguments in support of the employees' contention that all passenger cars should be constructed as strongly as Pullman sleepers.

TUNING UP THE SYSTEM.

Chicago Tribune. The United States senate, according to the expense account, used \$0.00 quinine pills last year. Probably the senators furnished the other ingredient in the prescription themselves.

STRONG ENOUGH TO OWE IT.

Washington Post. They have it figured out now that Charles Schwab owes the shipbuilding trust \$1,000,000. His physician reports that he has so far recovered his health that he feels perfectly able to keep owing it.

TAKES MONEY TO FIGHT.

Boston Transcript. Fortunately it costs money to be looking for trouble, else Japan and Russia would have been at each other's throats long ago. Desires to be the disturber of the peace shall be arrested and tried at the Hague for disorderly conduct, it is still more desirable that would-be disturbers shall be mulcted in advance on the bourses.

SECRETARY ROOT'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER.

Philadelphia Record (dem.). Democrats may well regard with apprehension the efforts to induce Secretary Root to take charge of the Roosevelt campaign next year. Mr. Root is a man of great force and resource. There is probably not his superior in the game politics of the country. He has a brain power that would make his generalship something hard to contest against.

SEEKING THE SNEAKS OF WAR.

Springfield Republican. In the event of war Japan will expect London to take the lead. Russia will rely upon Paris. Such is the expectation in the financial world. But monetary London is in a poor position to help anybody just now, and Paris has so much money employed there that the floating of a Russian loan in France must result in a gold movement from London across the channel. Thus in case of a Russian-Japanese scramble for war funds, Wall street, which has been drawing heavily on the British gold supply, may be forced aside.

JUSTICE FOR AMERICANS.

Harsh Treatment of Railway Employees in Mexico Reheated. Kansas City Star. As a result of repeated protests against the arrest and confinement without trial of many American railway employees in Mexico, better conditions now prevail in that country. The employees have been agitated for the past two years. The abuses aimed at were numerous and grievous. Little discrimination had been made in the arrest of train crews following railroad accidents, regardless of the culpability of the crews themselves. In many instances the prisoners were confined in unsanitary jails for as long as two years without trial. As many of the trains in Mexico are operated by American crews this state of affairs furnished a legitimate basis of protest from the State department at Washington. Secretary Hay has not only secured a better practice in the care of prisoners, but negligence and has greatly reduced the number of pending actions, but because of his efforts the Mexican Department of Justice has issued a circular letter to the minor courts advising against arrest except on reasonable grounds and in favor of release on bond whenever possible and the earliest possible hearings in all cases.

CUT OFF THE LAND GRABBERS.

Remedial Legislation Blocked by the Congressional Lobby. New York Mail and Express. There is in Washington, and particularly here in Omaha, a great amount of pulling and hauling at questions connected with the public lands. Official "graft" in this field is a trifling matter compared with the efforts of members of congress to block legislation which might unfavorably affect the interests of some of their influential constituents. A western senator who has the public lands, Official "graft" in this field is a trifling matter compared with the efforts of members of congress to block legislation which might unfavorably affect the interests of some of their influential constituents.

WHEREFORE LET US REJOICE.

Philadelphia Record. On having advanced or been advanced in price very much lately, Mr. Rockefeller is now able to give a little less than \$2,000,000 to the University of Chicago for a Christmas present. The people who consume kerosene have an equitable right to demand that their names be carved upon the walls of the university as its benefactors; but of course, there would not be a record for them. Nevertheless there ought to be some monumental record on the institution of the fact that Mr. Rockefeller is merely the agent employed in squeezing money out of the public for the endowment of the Chicago establishment.

REGULATOR OF MEXICO.

New York Tribune. What greater Mexican than Porfirio Diaz was ever known before or since the era of Cortez and the Spanish conquest? He brought order out of confusion, and has been so far sighted, strong souled, forceful and a statesman that his successive administrations have steadily enhanced the welfare of the states whose destinies he has guided. The revenues of Mexico for its latest fiscal year were more than \$7,000,000 in excess of its expenditures, and the country is comparatively free from debt. It is interesting to recall that the people in what remains of the public do, sin.

REMEDIAL LEGISLATION BLOCKED BY THE CONGRESSIONAL LOBBY.

There is in Washington, and particularly here in Omaha, a great amount of pulling and hauling at questions connected with the public lands. Official "graft" in this field is a trifling matter compared with the efforts of members of congress to block legislation which might unfavorably affect the interests of some of their influential constituents. A western senator who has the public lands, Official "graft" in this field is a trifling matter compared with the efforts of members of congress to block legislation which might unfavorably affect the interests of some of their influential constituents.

NECESSITY FOR EFFECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC SUPERVISION.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican. It is conceded by the interstate commerce commission, in its annual report now published, that the Elkins amendment to the law is likely to prove very effective for the end in view—namely, compelling the railroads to adhere to their published rates and tariffs without discrimination or variation. The law is still to be subjected to an adequate test. Railroads have been having all the business they can take care of and accordingly the force of competition is little felt and rates are better maintained at present than they have ever been before. The test will come when competitive traffic falls off and sharp contest ensues for a volume of business not large enough to go around. But it is believed that the government of the last congressional session will greatly strengthen the arm of the government under such conditions in enforcing the equality of competitive provisions of the statute.

So far, then, very good. But the law continues to remain weak in another important respect, and that is in the enforcement against discriminating practices; but the commission remains practically powerless under the law to prevent extortionate practices. The roads must adhere more closely to published and equal rates; but they are as free as ever before to make the law the government of the last congressional session will greatly strengthen the arm of the government under such conditions in enforcing the equality of competitive provisions of the statute.

What is now needed is power for the commission, not merely to adjudge a rate unreasonably high, but to compel the offending road to make the reduction which the government of the United States through the commission considers to be reasonably demanded. Is this intolerable degree of power to place in the hands of the commission? The railroads will all say so, and will resist to the utmost any strengthening of the law in this particular. But their position is untenable. It amounts to a denial of the right or propriety of government to regulate their charges. They pretend to object simply to giving any such power to the commission. In reality the objection is to any assumption and exercise of this power by the government. If a commission, especially chosen and devoting its whole time to the consideration of the question, is unfit to exercise the power, what branch or body of the national authority can be fitted?

We must go on with this problem, then, without giving too much consideration to railroad objections. The government has put its hand to the plow and is not now to be turned back. Prevention of overcharges is about as important a part of the accepted plan of public regulation as prevention of discriminating charges. Let the railroads be recognized by law as monopolies and allowed to consolidate as much as they please, and then let them be brought under effective and comprehensive public control.

PRESIDENTIAL OUTLOOK.

Line-Up of the States for the Battle of 1904.

Leslie's Weekly. If the elections for congress and for state officers in 1902 and the state election in 1903 afford a reliable index of the relative strength of the parties for 1904—and the corresponding contests in all cases since the close of the civil war—then the surest barometer of this sort of the sure republican and sure democratic states next year, with those which are in doubt, the electoral vote of each being given, may be outlined thus, 229 votes being necessary for a choice:

Table showing electoral college votes for various states, including Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

PERSONAL NOTES.

The queen of Holland has just appointed an Englishman, Rev. Kiroop Lake of Lincoln college, Oxford, a theological professor at the famous Dutch university of Leyden. President Roosevelt has sent Miss Sarah C. Provost, the principal of the Cove Neck school at Oyster Bay, a check sufficiently large to give every pupil a handsome Christmas present. Sir Gilbert Parker, the author, has achieved a prominent place in the House of commons in a short time. A good deal of this is due to the unusual magnetism of his personality, which always attracts people.

Arthur Chamberlain of Birmingham, England, a nephew of Joseph Chamberlain, has been touring Canada, partly on business and partly on pleasure. He bears a strong resemblance to Joseph, and looks and talks like a sharp, shrewd man of business. The salary of the president of the American Base Ball league is \$10,000. The Amalgamated Association of Paragraphers should see that this meager stipend is not hoisted again. We must restrict salary competition to men in the Schwab class. George Watson of Rochester, N. Y., in a suit for divorce, alleges that his wife hit him on the head with "The Life of Thomas Jefferson." "To what base uses, my countrymen!" Come to think of it, a certain English monarch regarded T. J. as a dangerous knocker.

Major William H. Garland has just died at the National Soldiers' Home at Johnson City, Tenn. He had shaken hands with every president of the United States except Washington. He was on the naval cadet detail that welcomed Lafayette on his second visit to America in 1824. Sir John See, the premier of New South Wales, has added a new phrase to the political vocabulary. Urged to bring pressure to bear upon the commonwealth government in a certain cause, he replied with a worried and irritated air that he might just as well "sneez against thunder."

Prof. Frederick Starr of the University of Chicago, who has been engaged by the St. Louis fair to go to the Orient and lecture, has been with him for the fair a group of the peculiar people of the north Japan known as the "hairy Alps," hopes to persuade a number of these picturesque people to come to St. Louis. The great Mexican than Porfirio Diaz was ever known before or since the era of Cortez and the Spanish conquest? He brought order out of confusion, and has been so far sighted, strong souled, forceful and a statesman that his successive administrations have steadily enhanced the welfare of the states whose destinies he has guided. The revenues of Mexico for its latest fiscal year were more than \$7,000,000 in excess of its expenditures, and the country is comparatively free from debt. It is interesting to recall that the people in what remains of the public do, sin.

THE GUILTY SCHWAB.

Philadelphia Inquirer. At last Mr. Schwab has had his say, and a most innocent and injured person he appears to be, according to his own showing. If there were any wicked men in the shipbuilding trust, it was not one of them. He has acted all through in a highly enlightened manner and is grieved at the accusations against him by those who were a few months ago his business associates and personal friends.

Mr. Schwab bought the Bethlehem works and offered to turn them over to the Steel trust without a dollar's profit, and the wonder is that the offer was not accepted. True, the price seemed extravagant, but at the time the Steel trust was not pinching pennies. So Schwab sold the works to the shipbuilding people at about four times the cost in securities, and worked a little jokers out of the deal. He was not one of the builders who would be troubled by Schwab was secure. Trouble came and at present the only serene man in the whole outfit is Schwab, who can get his works back if there is a lawsuit, and who offers to take them back without.

In the short and simple annals of thieves falling out all hearts are not of the same ilk. We have a beautiful example of how "grand finance" is carried on. We have no reason to believe that the methods of operation were very different in some of the big schemes which went through safely and are now in more or less troubled waters. The case of Schwab emerges from the controversy excused from all blame by himself—and certainly he ought to know. Unfortunately for him, the end of the chapter is not yet reached.

For aught we know, Mr. Schwab will be able to maintain his position in the eyes of the law, but we wish distinctly to call attention to the fact that he has been held up to the country by Sunday school teachers and other moralists as a shining example of what young men may accomplish by honesty and energy. That bubble is burst, but all the same, Schwab has his millions and objects to being deprived of any of them by any means whatever.

FLASHES OF FUN.

Her father—Why, no, Basie; the clerk at the toy counter didn't pass a bad bill on you. This is perfectly good. "You're a little bit behind in your school, papa?" It smells like an old pipe!—Philadelphia Press.

The Owner—See here! That trunk never did you any harm, did it? The Porter—Any harm? Of course not! It's a good trunk. Of course it is! If it did—Brooklyn Life.

"You say that Mr. Cumrox's daughters no longer have the slightest trouble about getting money from him?" "No trouble whatever. They get it all by themselves." "They are having him teach them to play bridge, eh?"—Washington Star.

Father—I wonder what's the matter with Nelly this morning. She acts like one possessed. Mother—She probably is. I noticed a new ring on her finger when she came down stairs.—Galveston News.

Mother—Tommy, what's the matter with your little brother? He's crying. Tommy—He's crying because I'm eating my cake and won't give him any. Mother—That's no reason. Of course not! Tommy—Yes, and he cried while I was eating that, too.—New Yorker.

Beating himself at his writing table Thomas Jefferson rapidly dashed off a letter and put it in a New York protective letter-box. "That's no worse," he said, reading the letter to his wife and proceeding direct to the post office. "It is for Bill Bryan to tour Europe in a plug hat!"—Chicago Tribune.

Miss Beemer—Who is your favorite poet, Mr. Weaver? Weaver—who is addicted to versifying? Really, don't you know, I think it might appear egotistical for me to answer that question frankly.—Boston Transcript.

Prentiss o'er lost illusions, No girl's grateful for all blame For the love was never a cloud But silver lining had.

What though the doll be sawdust stuffed? It matters not a bit— Just give me a girl who's gladly and Make breakfast food of it. Washington Post.

THE BREAKING FLOW.

Nixon Waterman in Success. I am the plow that turns the sod That has lain for a thousand years And where the prairie wind-sodden flowers nod And the wild birds sing and the grass is green, I come, and in my wake, like rain, Is scattered the golden seed. I change the rugged and lonely plain To fruitful gardens and fields of grain For men and their hungry bread.

I greet the earth in its rosy morn, For the joy of him and his, I bring the glory of wheat and corn For the crowding of those who toil; I am the vision that lures away A thousand long years from now. The marvelous nation your eyes survey Was born of the purpose that I, here, today, Is guiding the breaking plow!

EIGHT REASONS

why Scott's Emulsion is an ideal food-medicine.

- 1. It is partly pre-digested and therefore passes quickly into the blood.
2. It imposes no tax upon the stomach or other digestive organs.
3. It does not cause fermentation such as usually results from ordinary food when the stomach is weak.
4. Its action is mild and even, insuring the greatest nourishment with the least effort.
5. Its quality is always uniform.
6. It feeds and strengthens the bones, blood, nerves and tissues.
7. It is one of the greatest flesh producers known to medical science.
8. It is palatable and agreeable to the taste and easily taken.