

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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OUR ANNUAL STATISTICAL REVIEW.

The Bee in this issue presents its annual statistical review of the public and private business for the year just closed. It is made up of an array of cold yet imposing figures, which tell their own story and will repay careful study by all interested in the growth and welfare of Omaha.

THE CHICAGO CALAMITY.

There is nothing to be said regarding the terrible calamity at Chicago that has not come to the mind of everyone who has read the graphic account of the awful catastrophe. Language fails to adequately describe its appalling character and the imagination is incapable of conceiving the terrors of that fearful struggle of hundreds of people to escape from the seething flames that swept over them.

AS TO PAYING COLOMBIA.

It is understood that one of the requests contained in the communication of the special envoy of Colombia to our government is that we shall pay damages to that country for the loss of territory, the amount to be fixed through arbitration. The representative of the Republic of Panama has stated that his country is willing to pay her proportionate share of the foreign debt of Colombia, which would amount to about \$1,000,000.

NEBRASKA IS NOT THE ONLY STATE...

Nebraska is not the only state which is being diverted by teachers' conventions. Almost all the state associations are pulling off simultaneous programs of entertainment, instruction and political wire pulling.

THE 1903 FIGURES OF IMMIGRATION INTO THE UNITED STATES...

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IN AN INTERVIEW SENATOR PLATT EMPHATICALLY STATES...

In an interview Senator Platt emphatically states that all the republican leaders of New York state are very embarrassed for those democratic papers that proclaimed Platt the leader of all New York leaders at a time when they expected him to do differently.

IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE OVERWEIGHTED REPRESENTATION OF THE SOUTHERN STATES...

If it were not for the overweighted representation of the southern states in the electoral college the democrats would not even dream of the possibility of a successful campaign for the presidency. It is only by reason of the solid south wielding twice the number of votes that belong to them that democracy manages to stay on the map at all.

Walt and Watch.

Chicago News. Omaha school teachers are marrying off faster than the board can discover new ones. What will happen out there during Leap year?

Looking at the Unattainable.

Washington Star. The portrait of George Washington on the postage stamp wears the expression of a man who is still hoping that all employees of the Postoffice department will finally attain his ideals of veracity.

Will the Turks Get Busy?

Chicago Record-Herald. If England, France and Germany got mixed up in the Asiatic war the sultan will hardly neglect the opportunity to dispose of the rest of the Christians that he happens to have available for massacring purposes.

Where is the Villain?

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The western packers indignantly deny any knowledge of a combine to boost the price of meat. Some audacious miscreant must have started this vile rumor with the malicious intent of casting odium upon our most benevolent trust.

Orders Promptly Filled.

Chicago Inter Ocean. No sympathies or prejudices which we may entertain in relation to the combatants will prevent us, of course, from supplying the nations involved in the Oriental difficulty with such little commodities in our line as they may require.

Concerning Good Resolutions.

Chicago Chronicle. Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, preaching last Sunday in New York, ridiculed and condemned in advance the new resolutions with which some people will begin the new year, on the ground that they would be broken by January 15. But it is clearly better for a man to leave off his bad habits for two weeks than not to leave them off at all.

Playing on One String.

Boston Transcript. That Canada is henceforth going to supply France with more wheat than the United States, as an eminent British authority has lately asserted, is not perhaps unduly unkind for us. There are indeed grounds for believing that the quickest way to impoverish a country is to ship its fat soil away in endless car loads in exchange for the products of the skill of other lands; and that is about what wheat exportation amounts to.

WHAT A REAL LEADER CAN DO.

Chicago Tribune. Calming a Threatening Mob Around the Council Bluffs Jail. Two respectable members of Council Bluffs, Ia., were brutally assaulted on Christmas night. Two negroes were arrested, were identified on Monday by the victims and were put in jail to await the action of the grand jury next week. There was no delay of justice and no prospect of escape of the accused from legal punishment.

THANKS ARE DUE THE FARMERS.

Chicago Tribune. The Year's Contribution to the Wealth of the Country. The farm value of the crops of corn, wheat, oats, hay, barley, potatoes, flax seed, buckwheat, and tobacco raised this year is estimated at \$2,500,000,000 by the bureau of statistics of the Department of Agriculture. To that great sum may properly be added about \$700,000,000 for the value of the cotton crop. This is an amazing aggregation of "rich assets," which can be turned into money whenever it is needed.

THE LEGISLATIVE MILLS.

The legislatures of many states will begin their sessions in the coming week. Most of them will organize next Monday and it will not be many days thereafter before the people will begin to hear of the doings of their supposed servants. An eastern contemporary remarks that in later years it seems as if the people had very little to say regarding matters of legislation, this being kindly taken out of their hands by a coterie of politicians who presume to run the states for their individual ends. It is too true that such is the case and has been for many years, but there is reason to at least hope that the future will bring a change and that the voice of the people will receive more attention from those who are chosen to represent them in the halls of legislation.

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STRANGE DOINGS IN 1903.

The bite of a mosquito sent a Chicago man to the cemetery in a regulation hearse. A woman in Worcester, Mass., reached the age of 305 without the aid of whisky or tobacco. Believing that two heads were better than one, Ed Cabbage of Carthage, Mo., took unto himself a wife.

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NOT SINCE MOUNT PELEE'S TERRIBLE DEATH-DEALING ERUPTION HAS THERE BEEN CARRIED OFF IN ONE FEEL SWEEP SUCH A MASS OF INNOCENT HUMANITY AS BY THE LATEST FRIGHTFUL CHICAGO THEATER CALAMITY.

When men die in battle, they court death. When they fall victims to nature's upheavals or unassigned accidents, they have no chance to avoid the blow. Man's utter helplessness to control his own destiny can never be more forcefully impressed upon him.



A Happy New Year. Not only for you today, but for your loved ones who will live after you. It can be accomplished by taking out a policy in the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States. Do It Today. H. D. NEELY, Manager.

LAST YEAR'S LAUGHS. Mrs. Gaddie—Mrs. De Tropp wasn't invited to Mrs. Swellman's tea at all, but she came. When she entered the room the silence was positively painful.

To My Many Friends in Omaha: A HAPPY NEW YEAR. Yours Sincerely, F. W. FOSTER. A LIFE ANNUITY Is the Best Protection for Your Wife or Child. The Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co. Furuishes It.

The Store of the Town. Extends greeting and a Happy New Year to their many patrons who have helped them to one of the most prosperous years of their half century of making and selling the finest clothing in the world. "NO CLOTHING FITS LIKE OURS." Browning King & Co. R. S. WILCOX, Manager.

From "Hobo" to "Banker" Decatur Lasts are original—fitting men's feet as men's feet should be fitted. From Maker to You. \$3.50 and \$5. 1521 FARNAM.