

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

B. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 29th day of December, A. D. 1903. M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

In the hands of Colorado troops the "bull-pen" is mightier than the writ.

Unless all signs fail, Omaha is on the eve of a material advance in real estate values.

The street corner advertising sign ordinance has been put in cold storage for thirty days more.

Love not only laughs at locksmiths, but has a way of giving the merry ha-ha to cardinals at times.

That the Great Western has become a vital factor in the upbuilding of Omaha is no longer a disputable fact.

Not the least sign of the ability of the Panamanians to govern themselves is the wisdom they have shown in selecting a protector.

The opening of the Omaha Grain exchange will mark an epoch in the growth of Omaha as a great commercial and industrial center.

The alleged terrible upheaval among the republicans of South Omaha over the prospective spring election is simply a tempest in a teapot.

People who are beginning to tell "how the little came out of the winter" should remember that winter has a way of doing things after February 1.

If cotton keeps up its present rate of advance for any length of time the real badge of the purse-proud matron will be the once despised calico wrapper.

Now that the United States senate is considering bills to commemorate battles with Indians the famous "Pawnee war" of 1864 may receive attention worthy of its importance.

Mr. Webster can afford to be real busy now, for he can take a rest of four years if his friends in Nebraska succeed in coupling him up with Roosevelt. No vice president was ever worked to death.

People living in the suburbs will have lost nothing by the failure of the Stult injunction. Those 32-candle electric fires could not hold a candle to the Welsh-bawl lamps even if they are planted on stilts.

Reports from Pennsylvania would indicate that someone who can take up the work where Sir Humphrey Davy dropped it will confer a perpetual favor upon the miners in particular and the human race in general.

The statement that Secretary Shaw intends to leave the cabinet is without foundation, says a Washington special. The denial was superfluous. No well informed person believed for a moment that it had any foundation.

Councilmen who object to being held in check by injunctions should bear in mind that there would be very slim picking for lawyers and little occupation for the courts if it was not for the restraining orders and injunctions.

To be faithful to one's friends is an admirable trait, but the Iowa congressional delegation should remember that the not inconsiderable salary of a federal district judge is being permitted to remain in the national treasury.

It is too bad that Alonzo Cruzen's candidacy for the United States senate should be handicapped before he reaches the country by a secretary who refuses to give out the report of inspectors in his case "for reasons of public policy."

Dispatches from Washington indicate that Senator Tillman is taking active steps in the direction that was tipped off to The Bee at the time the South Carolina swashbuckler addressed the Jacksonian club in Omaha just after the defeat of 1900.

WOULD MEDIATION AVAIL?

The third article of The Hague convention says that "the signatory powers consider it useful that one or more powers, strangers to the dispute, should, on their own initiative, and as far as circumstances will allow, offer their good offices or mediation to the states at variance." The right to do this belongs to powers who are strangers to the dispute, even during the course of hostilities, and it is specified that the exercise of this right "shall never be regarded by one or the other of the parties to the contest as an unfriendly act."

It is perfectly plain that under this provision of The Hague convention the United States or Great Britain or France or Germany may properly offer their good offices for an amicable settlement of the issues between Russia and Japan, without incurring the charge of being unfriendly to either. It has been suggested that such mediation should be offered by one or more of the powers who are strangers to the dispute. It has been urged that the United States is in an especially favorable position to offer mediation and that if this government should do so it would very likely be joined by other countries who are desirous that war in the far east shall be averted. The statement has come from foreign sources that our government had taken steps to learn the attitude of the powers toward a proposition looking to The Hague tribunal for an adjustment of the far eastern trouble, but there has been no information from Washington confirmatory of such report. The reasonable supposition, on the contrary, is that our government has not proposed any mediation and will not do so, although it would perhaps be disposed to accept an invitation from a European power to unite in an offer of good offices as provided for in The Hague convention.

It is questionable, however, if any offer of mediation would be accepted by the contending nations. The nature of the controversy is such as hardly admits of settlement by such a tribunal as that of The Hague, the real purpose of which is to adjust disputes that do not involve issues regarding domain and affecting rights relating to the very existence of national authority and power, as in the issue between Russia and Japan. These nations are contending for something that is vital to their interests and their development. Russia is striving to firmly establish a foothold in the far east that will make her master of the situation in that quarter of the world. Japan is endeavoring to thwart this purpose and place herself in a position to control the oriental world. Each is playing for a mighty stake and it is hardly probable that either will be disposed to leave to any outside power or powers the privilege of determining the form of settlement.

It is undoubtedly a fact that neither Russia nor Japan desires war. Each is unwilling to begin a conflict, although actively preparing for what seems to be almost inevitable. It is very plain, however, that neither is disposed to invite mediation and it is probable that if offered it would be rejected, from whatever source it should come.

TREASURY AND CANAL PAYMENTS.

Probably within a few months, certainly before the expiration of the year, the government will be called upon to make payments on account of the Panama canal amounting to \$50,000,000. In view of this the condition of the treasury and the possible effect upon the money market of so large a sum drawn from the public money are matters of interest. The receipts of the national treasury have been improving since the beginning of the year and for the current month will probably be fully up to those of January last year.

In its last issue the United States Investor says that the encouraging outlook for the treasury has an important bearing on the problem of making the canal payments. It removes all probability of an issue of bonds for that purpose. It is pointed out that the cash balance in the treasury stands at \$227,000,000 and this can easily be increased by \$15,000,000 by reducing the balances set apart to the credit of disbursing officers. It is therefore manifestly unnecessary to issue bonds for the money required to pay for the Panama canal franchise and concessions.

But an important question is as to the proportion of the payments that will be made directly from the treasury and the proportion that will be drawn from the banks in which the government now has deposits amounting to \$168,000,000. In regard to this the investor remarks that it may depend in large measure upon the condition of the money market at the time the payments must be made. While it would be possible to make the payments without drawing on the banks, this would reduce the working balance in the treasury vaults to such a low stage that this method will hardly be resorted to. It is therefore probable that if the money market is reasonably easy when the payments are made a considerable proportion of the \$50,000,000 will be drawn from the deposits in the banks. If, as is probable, says the investor, the actual payments abroad are made by the accumulation of exchange in advance, this will not involve the actual withdrawal of any currency from circulation, but will simply result in its transfer from one set of banking institutions to another. As the money would be drawn from a large number of banks no single institution would feel the drain seriously and there would be little if any disturbance of business.

It is stated that Secretary Shaw has been advised to draw on the depository banks for the entire \$50,000,000, it being argued that unless he does so he will have only a very narrow margin of cash above the necessary working balance in the treasury vault and will have difficulty in meeting any urgent demands for currency that may arise at that time. It is safe to say that the secretary of the treasury will be governed in the matter by the condition of the money market at the time canal payments are to be made and that he will do nothing which might operate to the disadvantage of the business of the country. From present indications it appears probable that there will be no necessity, particularly if congressional appropriations are not on an extravagant scale, for drawing a dollar from the banks for canal payments.

SLIPSHOD COUNTY FINANCIERING.

The report of the late treasurer of Douglas county for the six months ending January 6, 1904, as officially published, affords striking proof of the improvident financiering and unbusinesslike methods pursued in the management of the affairs of the county. It will be noted, for example, that the balance in the county general fund on July 1, 1903, amounted to \$15,019.02, and the amount collected in general fund taxes from July 1, 1903, to January 6, 1904, aggregated \$86,842.70, making the total amount available for the general fund during the past six months \$101,861.72. Instead of being content to limit its general fund expenditures to the funds at its disposal the county board ordered the treasurer to transfer to the general fund balances, aggregating \$31,774.04, remaining in half a dozen other funds, so that the general fund was swelled to an aggregate of \$142,635.66. Of the \$31,774.04, \$20,000 was transferred from the bridge fund, \$5,000 from the road fund, \$4,822.54 from the miscellaneous fund and \$1,951.46 from the advertising fund.

These questions naturally suggest themselves: What right had the county board to order a transfer of \$5,000 from the road fund and \$20,000 from the bridge fund into the general fund? Did the treasurer have a right to obey the orders of the board and make the transfer if the law did not authorize them to order such a transfer? If there was a surplus at the end of the year in the road and bridge funds, why should not that surplus have been allowed to remain in those funds so that the commissioners could have reduced the bridge and road taxes for 1904 proportionately instead of making the levy for roads and bridges even larger than it had been the preceding year? What constitutes the miscellaneous fund account, and why is a separate miscellaneous fund account kept if the money collected for this fund is to be dumped into the general fund? The advertising fund represents the excess of money collected from delinquent taxpayers over and above the amount paid to the publishers for advertising the tax lists. Where is there any law that would authorize the appropriation of this fund for general expense purposes? What is the object of making tax levies for separate objects if the proceeds are to be dumped into the general fund at the pleasure of the county board?

Another piece of improvident financiering is presented by the county treasurer's exhibit of outstanding interest-bearing warrants, which on January 6, 1904, amounted to \$136,487.62, and \$109,055 of these outstanding warrants represent unpaid warrants on the road fund. It appears that on January 6 there was a balance in the county road fund of \$6,146.12. Manifestly the outstanding road fund warrants could have been readily taken up and the interest stopped had not the county board made the transfer of \$5,000 from the road fund to the general fund.

An examination of the published statement of the treasurer also shows that the main object of these semi-annual statements is frustrated by the lack of publicity on the main question, namely, the current expenditures in the various departments of county government. The treasurer's report simply shows that about \$125,000 has been laid out of the general fund during the past six months for various purposes. How much of this amount represents the county payroll, and what proportion was paid out for other purposes is not shown.

What the taxpayers of Douglas county have a right to expect in these published statements of the county treasurer is an exhibit of the amount drawn out of the treasury for salaries and clerk hire in each of the various offices, including the sheriff, county judge, county clerk, clerk of the district court, register of deeds and treasurer; the amount drawn by the sheriff for feeding prisoners, transporting convicts, juvenile criminals and insane persons to the penitentiary, reformatories and insane asylums; the amount expended for building and maintenance of public roads and bridges and maintaining the county infirmary; the amount paid out for supplies, drugs, fuel, stationery and materials used for repairs of public buildings. In other words, a detailed exhibit of expenditures in each of the various county offices, as well as the amount paid for interest on warrants; the amount of interest received from depositories.

To be sure, much of this information may be obtained by taxpayers who are willing to go to the trouble of making personal inquiry concerning each item of disbursement at the court house, but that is not satisfactory to the general public. It is to be hoped that Governor Cummins has been misquoted by the Associated Press regarding the settlement of the conflict between labor and capital, which he is credited with representing as the issue between man and master. The issue between man and master was settled for the white man in the early part of the nineteenth century and for the black man when the master was expelled from the map by the abolition of slavery. The relation of capital and labor in the twentieth century is that between employer and employee.

The local Bryanite organ has turned all its long distance guns on John D. Rockefeller, but it fails to see any abuse within 500 miles of Omaha worth attacking. It does not concern itself with matters that affect the local taxpayers whether it be either railroad tax evasion

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot.

Dispatches to the New York Evening Post attempt to show that there is no connection between the recent spurt in Wall street and the probable action of the supreme court in the merger case. Regarding the delay in reaching a decision, it is said the court is bound by no precedent in the matter of time required to consider that or any other case. The judges, after hearing the case, proceeded to their individual examination of the argument, the law, and the precedent. This takes time, for there is always a mass of cases in the court's hands at once. After an interval usually of some weeks—the judges confer on the case and compare their personal views. These conferences are apt to be numerous, at various intervals. When judgment has thereby been fully defined, the chief justice assigns the writing of the court's opinion to a judge in the majority, and the preparation of a dissenting opinion to one of the minority. Public announcement must wait until this, too, is completed.

The court's deliberations in the insular cases, three years ago, had special reasons for being expedited. The whole schedule of Porto Rican government was involved, and the United States itself was the most deeply interested party. Argument was heard in that case on January 11 and 12, 1901; decision was rendered March 27. This is commonly accepted as marking the normal minimum.

A point regarding which genuine curiosity exists in Washington is this: Will the court, if it upholds the attorney general's contention, reaffirm the sweeping application of the Sherman act made in the circuit court last April, or will it ingeniously limit its judgment so as to apply only to the northern merger and cases identical with it? People familiar with the court's habits generally expect the second of these two possible alternatives.

Representative T. F. Marshall of North Dakota has started out to reform the code of laws and is in Alaska. Mr. Marshall has introduced a bill providing for an amendment to the act which defines and punishes crime in this district of the north. The measure is notable chiefly for the rap it gives an industry which next to drinking and gold mining is supposed to flourish like poverty grass in every new country.

Hereafter any miner on the Yukon who allows a friendly jacket to be opened in his tent is to be fined \$500 and imprisoned in the nearest jail for six months. Mr. Marshall was so careful in the drawing of his bill that he included in it a list of prohibited games, namely, our old friends and some new ones of Alaskan birth. Here is the list of the pastimes forbidden to miner, prospector, settler and traveler in the land of gold and grizzlies: Faro, monte, roulette, rouge et noir, managout, rondo, poker, draw poker, brag, bluff, tuck, craps and vingt-et-un (twenty-one). Mr. Marshall gives the name of the good old French game of twenty-and-one in both languages for fear a shrewd Alaskan lawyer might pull a client out of a hole by a technicality.

Mr. Bristol, the fourth assistant postmaster general, who is one of the most efficient officials of the government, as shown by the recent postoffice investigation, is also—for reasons not hard to seek—one of the least popular. By most of the subordinates in the department and by many congressmen he is looked upon as a sort of policeman. To tell the truth, his personal bearing has something to do with this feeling, for he never puts himself out to make himself agreeable, and is always bent on the pursuit of the particular official purpose he has on his mind. There are those who say he lacks tact. It may be so, but he is a deputy auditor of the treasury was killed by a discharged clerk. He had for a long time been regarded as a terror by the men under him. The news came to the capitol by telephone, and the telephone girl who caught it tried to tell about it to a southern representative. "I don't get the name of the poor man," she said, "but he was a high official in one of the departments, always getting somebody else into trouble and nobody seemed to like him."

"Great Scott!" exclaimed the southerner, throwing up his hands, "Bristow has been shot."

George Menches, known as the polygot guide at the capitol, is dead. He had served as guide there for nearly twenty years and was most successful in his employment. He came from Wales and could speak and write in French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, besides having a familiar acquaintance with several dialects. He spoke his native Welsh, and naturally had a good command of English. He went to California in 1846 and made a fortune in slushing gold, which he invested in valuable real estate in Newark, N. J. This he lost in the panic of 1873.

Since his assumption of the duties of the speakership Mr. Cannon has improved in health and strength, until now he fills the description George Harding gave of a prominent minister in Indianapolis, now residing in New York—"the bounding and bright-eyed." When Richelieu, in Bulwer Lytton's play, had accomplished his purpose, he rose from an apparently mortal illness, shouting, "I live! the blood of France has entered my veins!" So Mr. Cannon now seems to have been strengthened by an infusion of twentieth century United States liquor. Certainly he finds the speakership less of a burden and a grind than the chairmanship of the committee on appropriations.

Alfred S. Hall answers twice to the roll call of the Massachusetts house of representatives, there being two members of that body bearing that name—one from Revere and the other from Winchelsea. He of Revere, who is the younger, lately married a Winchelsea young lady, and of Winchelsea, who is a widower, got most of the congratulations, his fellow members thinking it must be he that was the bridegroom, the bride being from his town. There is no end of bother in sorting out their correspondence. It is the first time in the history of Massachusetts that two members of the same branch of the legislature have borne the same name.

There has always been a feeling in congress that the government was paying too much money for the transportation of mails. One or two special committees have inquired into the subject of compensation, but the rates have never been scaled down. The democrats believe they could unearth facts in connection with these contracts that would make the disclosures in the rural free delivery service pale into insignificance. The republicans realize this and are consequently fighting shy of an inquiry.

One of the officials of the Postoffice department has made the following remarkable statement to the Brooklyn Eagle correspondent: "Contracts for carrying mails on railroads are made for a period of four years. The rate of pay is determined by a test weighing of mails over the route to be covered in the contract, such test lasting usually thirty days. I know of one instance where a number of bags of newspapers were hauled back and forth over a road during a weighing period, when the department was striking an average for the pay for the following four years. No attempt was made to discover the stunt which" showed off the train

THE HERO OF THE HOUR.

Minnesota Journal.

The man behind the bill in all right in his place, but the man of the hour is the man in front of the furnace, shovel in hand and determination written on his face.

Sailing Under True Colors.

Philadelphia Record.

The upshot of the bill passed by the House against adulterations of food and drink in international commerce is that hereafter all products will have to sail under their true colors.

Trouble at the Outposts.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It looks very much as if Russia and Japan were both waiting for some little clash at the outposts to precipitate general hostilities. That's the usual way for wars to begin when neither side wants to assume the responsibility for letting loose the snarling dogs.

The Limit Reached.

Chicago Record-Herald.

With the holocausts, railroad accidents, steamship disasters, mine horrors, death-dealing tornadoes, floods and the general destruction and distress due to the extreme cold that winter could hardly take any kind of a change, that would not be for the better.

Merger and Trusts Buckle To.

Minneapolis Tribune.

The story comes from New York that President Harrison of the Union Pacific is organizing a movement to have the railroads for cheaper steel rails. His roads have refused to buy any more rails at the present price; but he will guarantee orders for millions of tons of what he considers a reasonable rate. This movement was inevitable, supposing the railroads to have common sense and business prudence. When all other iron and steel prices have been cut, there is no sense in paying boom prices for steel rails.

Cost of Gas.

Indianapolis News.

Mr. Prosser has told the directors of the Consumers Gas Trust company that they can manufacture fuel gas at a cost of 46 cents a thousand feet and, after paying the interest on the \$2,000,000, which it is supposed the new plant will cost, sell the gas profitably at 75 cents. If the experience of other cities is of any value, we think that the cost of manufacture—46 cents—is high. The margin between this and the proposed selling price of 75 cents is certainly liberal. We believe that when all the facts are known it will be found practicable to sell gas for 50 or 60 cents.

Investments More Solid.

World's Work.

With the general growth of wealth, the number of perfectly safe municipal bonds has increased. Many such bonds issued for electric plants and water works are among the best investments.

We Have Seen Reached a Stage of Development.

Where certain industrial securities are beyond suspicion. Some of the best managed of these have paid dividends so long and so regularly that their stock takes rank with the best railroad stock. As a general class "industrial" are justly under suspicion, for any group of adventurers may organize anything and put dishonest stock on the market. But the older and more conservative "industrial" have proved themselves as safe as a safe for a long time to come, at least as any other class of investments, and the investing public is now so accepting them.

Such is the change that the actual possession of wealth has brought.

So long as we dealt in expectations we could not apply the real investor's care to securities. Now that we have come to demand greater security, and we set it. It is radical change in the financial mood—a great advance in character.

PUT HIM OUT!

Philadelphia Record (dem.).

It is preposterous that the bright prospects of success of the democratic party should be menaced by this man Bryan, who has proved himself to have failed twice to other shall win. Twice he was allowed to dictate the party platform; twice he was nominated for president; twice he led the party to defeat. Instead of having the decency to retire, he is making himself a conspicuous as possible, knowing that he cannot possibly be nominated, he is determined that no man who can be elected shall be nominated. He declares that no man who did not vote for him can be nominated, and that the disastrous platform of 1896 and 1900 must be reaffirmed. He intrudes himself upon the meeting of the democratic national committee; he announced that a daily edition of his billious weekly will be published in St. Louis during the convention; he talks incessantly about a platform and the candidate in the tone of a dictator.

Ayer's

Quiets tickling throats, hacking coughs, pain in the lungs. Your doctor will explain this. He knows. Trust him. He has the formula.

Made by J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass. Also manufacturer of AYER'S HAIR VIGOR—For the hair. AYER'S PILLS—For constipation. AYER'S SERRA-PAPILLA—For the blood. AYER'S AGUE CURE—For malaria and ague.

Cherry Pectoral

At a station and picked up by the next train, and thus carried over and over the line. In this way the weightings were tremendously increased, and for four years the government paid rates based on the hauling back and forth of those bags of newspapers.

PERSONAL NOTES.

An Austrian government official is warning his countrymen not to emigrate to the United States on the ground that they are having bad times. Let nobody deny the impachment to the Austrians who think of coming.

Edward H. Funston, the father of General Fred Funston, who represented the Second Kansas district in congress for several years, has become a candidate for reelection to succeed J. de Witt Bowersock, the present member.

Representative Curtis of Kansas, who, because of his interest in Indian legislation, is often referred to as the "Indian member of the house," has had an interesting career. He earned his living at first as a jockey, then he became a hack driver, studied law, was elected county attorney and finally landed in congress.

Backed up by the citizens of Sharon, a little town near Cleveland, Thomas Hossler, driver of an independent oil wagon for two years, has been carrying on war with the Standard Oil company. At different times the mammoth concern has sent rival wagons into the town, offering to sell considerably below any figure Hossler could reach and make a living. The citizens stuck to the independent dealer and in each case the Rockefeller octopus has been forced out of the small field. Hossler says triumphantly: "A man who has his neighbors behind him can't be beaten by an old millionaire."

Miss Mary Edna Torrey, the victim of the Chicago theater disaster upon whose case the verdict of the coroner's jury was based, was a first primary teacher at the Throp school, Chicago. She graduated from the West Division High school in 1896. The following year she was appointed to the position she held at the time of her death. She was small and slight of figure, with a girlish appearance. Her body was not burned and her clothing was not even scorched. She was not bruised and evidently had not been trampled down in the mad struggle for life. Her body was embalmed and medical examination showed that the stings had been performed in a dozen places by the gas from the burning building.

"I love you," he declared, "with all my heart, with all my mind, with all your teeth knocked out." "But you're very strong," she interrupted.—Chicago Post.

"How the winter days do fly!" "Don't they? Time goes as fast as a load of coal."—Detroit Free Press.

"It must be awful," said the sympathetic stray, "to have all your teeth knocked out." "Well," responded the bay mare, who had met with the accident, "it has its advantages. Nobody can tell my age now, you see."—Philadelphia Press.

"He's absolutely loyal to the organization, isn't he?" "Absolutely," replied the organizer. "Why, he'd follow the organization even if it was in favor of decent government."—Judge.

Laura—Is Margaret entertaining? Alice—I should say so. The minute we go into her studio she gets out something to eat.—Indianapolis Journal.

"Father," said little Willie, "what is a trust promoter?" "My son," was the answer, "that is a very difficult question. Some people say he is a fine business man and others that he is the victim of an exaggerated case of kleptomaniac."—Washington Star.

It's mighty hard To be a bard For when you sing of shadows gray, The words change right away, And all the sky is clear and blue, And nothing that you sing comes true.

And when you chant sephers soft, And sunbeams sparkle from aloft, There comes with an overwhelming whiz A blizzard on a record bill.

In a twinkling, the lights are dim, And the bard!

—Washington Star.

"McKINLEY." (In commemoration of his birthday anniversary.) "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Today our country honors, with oration and with song, A name that will not perish as our nation moves along. In behalf of righteous judgment, yes, for those who suffer wrong, As we go marching on.

Chorus: Glory, glory hallelujah, Glory, glory hallelujah, Glory, glory hallelujah, As we go marching on.

His life among his fellow men stands out in bright array, As one of truth and soundness, and gentle in his way, As we are numbered with the host that made America; As we go marching on.

His influence, ever living deep within our hearts, will help us onward in our grand, our noble, better through the good we can impart, As we go marching on.

McKinley thus is living and is marching on above, Toward a grand fulfillment of the Master's endless love, When a new world reigns forever over all that live and move; As we go marching on.

As we go marching on, JOHN F. STALEY, Late Company B, Eleventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

You can absolutely rely upon

Huyadi Tanos The natural laxative water for Constipation. Take half a glass or arising.

WUTSON OPTICAL CO. 215 SOUTH 10TH ST. The Difference between "very near right" and "exactly right" in GLASSES is the difference between failure and success. You get "exactly right" Glasses when you come to us and we guarantee it. J. C. HUTESON & CO., 23 S. 16th St., PAXTON BLOCK.