

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$5.00; Daily Bee and Sunday, One Year, \$6.00; Illustrated Bee, One Year, \$7.00; Sunday Bee, One Year, \$4.00; Saturday Bee, One Year, \$3.00; Twelfth Century Farm, \$1.00.

DELIVERED BY CARRIER. Daily Bee (without Sunday), per copy, 2c; Daily Bee (with Sunday), per copy, 3c; Sunday Bee, per copy, 2c; Evening Bee (without Sunday), per copy, 2c; Evening Bee (with Sunday), per copy, 3c.

OFFICES. Omaha—The Bee Building, South Omaha—City Hall Building, Twelfth and H streets. Chicago—140 Unity Building, New York—320 Park Row Building, Washington—501 Fourteenth street.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George B. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of January, 1924, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation category and Number of copies. Includes categories like 'Total', 'Less unsold and returned copies', and 'Net total sales'.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to me this 3d day of February, A. D. 1924. B. HUNTING, Notary Public.

San Domingo—By Jingol. The American mule may now get ready to tread the paths which lead to glory in Asia.

Republican vice-presidential timber is beginning to loom up in the political forest preserves. In San Domingo the insurgents of yesterday may be the government of today and the government of yesterday the insurgents today.

The Missouri jury in the Butler case evidently desired to help an overworked supreme court. The result would have been the same. Mr. Folk may decide not to take his "boom" for governor of Missouri into the "Kingdom of Calloway" where Ed Butler has just been acquitted.

Rome announces that it will permit one of its squares to be paved with wooden blocks. Omaha can testify that part of Rome at least will not be eternal.

When the taxpayers of Omaha get their eye-teeth cut they will join The Bee in demanding the summary lopping off of costly frills and fads in the high school.

The recent lecture of Ralph Breckenridge on "Life Insurance as a Suicide Stimulant" would justify the nomenclature of life insurance solicitors as suicide promoters.

Stenographers in general and stenographers of Omaha in particular feel proud that the new general superintendent of the Union Pacific graduated from their ranks.

If Lorenz comes clear in the postal fraud trial he will have a high opinion of his ability to get into debt despite all that may be said upon the subject by political economists.

If the friends of Lumberman Idings succeed in nominating him as candidate for governor he can be depended upon to provide solid planks for the republican state platform.

If the war situation in Asia is much more desperate than the talk of the Japanese minister at London the war correspondents cannot sharpen their pencils any too quickly.

With the Omaha grain rate leveled down 30 per cent Nebraska farmers ought to realize 5 cents more a bushel on their grain, always providing that the elevator men will let them.

Unless indications fail a number of more or less distinguished Nebraskans will be provided free fare to Washington and expense money while there, Hastings sending the largest contingent.

The president of Chile is probably envied by the executives of more prominent republics. When the opposition in the Chilean congress became too noisy he immediately exercised his constitutional authority and brought the session to a close.

Plans are being made by the general staff of the army for the cleansing of the Isthmus of Panama prior to the beginning of the United States of the proposed canal. This will be a bigger task than Hercules shouldered in attempting to cleanse the Augean stables.

The Canadian newspapers evidently believe in reciprocity and think that as long as the United States charges them a cent a pound for transmission through the mails Canada should not transmit American papers for one-half that amount. They forget, however, that international postage rates are fixed by the postal union treaty.

TESTING THE SLOUMB LAW.

The Nebraska high license law has now been in effect twenty-two years and during that period almost every line of the statute has been interpreted by the supreme court. It is now proposed, as we are informed, to invoke the power of the courts to prevent the issue of liquor dealers' licenses to parties who are either mere agents or employees of breweries and distilleries.

It is urged that the law does not contemplate the issue of more than one license to any individual, and he is presumed to be the owner of the resort and not simply a substitute for the owner. Whether the validity of a license granted to a substitute for the real owner can be tested before the supreme court is problematic. No license to sell liquor is granted for more than one year and inasmuch as the legal proceedings to invalidate the license would have to be brought in the lower courts and carried up from the district court to the supreme court, the license would expire before final decision is reached.

The main object of the Slocumb law was the regulation of the liquor traffic in such manner as to minimize the evils thereof. With that end in view the law expressly prohibits the granting of a license to any party convicted of violating its provisions during the preceding year, and this includes parties who have been convicted of keeping disorderly resorts.

Experience has shown that this provision can be violated with impunity and does not in effect prevent disorderly resorts from being licensed. It is comparatively easy for the saloon keeper, who has been convicted of violation of the law, to procure a license for his bartender or some relative who is willing to have his name used and thus circumvent the pivotal provision of the statute that contemplates that violators of the law shall not be vendors of malt and spirituous liquors.

The more rational and effective mode of dealing with the liquor traffic is the system in vogue in London, where the license is issued to a designated building and cancelled as a penalty for the violation of law. Under this system the license is a valuable franchise. It does not matter who runs the house so long as the place is kept orderly and decent and the regulation of the hours of opening and closing are observed. As a natural sequence the owner of a licensed building takes every precaution for himself as well as for any tenant against the violation of the law. This puts the owner and lessee of a building in which liquor traffic is licensed on their good behavior, since forfeiture of the license prevents its reissue in the same locality for a number of years, and thus entails a very heavy loss to the proprietor. If this system was adopted in Nebraska and licenses to sell liquor were granted for buildings instead of their occupants and violations of law would carry with them the forfeiture of the license for five years or for a longer period, the enforcement of the law would not be found difficult.

A FREE PORT PROPOSITION.

It is about twelve years since the suggestion was first made that the government should establish a free port similar to that of Hamburg. For a time it attracted some attention and a bill was introduced in the United States senate providing for such a port. The measure was never reported from the committee to which it was referred and the matter dropped out of consideration. It has been revived, however, and a movement is now on foot, said to have the support of a number of wealthy New York business men and manufacturers, to establish a free port at some place on Long Island, Staten Island or the upper part of Manhattan.

The proposition has taken formal shape in a bill introduced by Representative Shober of New York, which authorizes "the president of the United States to establish free depots of manufacturing colonies" at the port of New York or at some other suitable place. The author of the measure points out that the plan is to have the president designate a certain section to be known as a free port. This area is to be fenced or walled in so that the customs authorities will have full and complete control over it. Within this area it is proposed to construct woolen and cotton mills, shoe factories and all the other establishments for manufacturing articles. The raw material from foreign countries will be brought to this free port and entered without duty, always, however, in accordance with the prevailing tariff law. The free hides will go to the tanneries and shoe factories and be turned out in the shape of completed products, while the stock of woolen and cotton material will be treated in the same manner.

It is urged that the establishment of a free port would do away with the delays, annoyances and expenses of the payment of the customs duties now required, and the long process of recovering them after proving that the goods were not entered for consumption in this country. Under the tariff law provision is made for the refunding of duties on raw materials which are used in manufactures and are, in turn, exported from the country. The idea is not to tax the raw material when it is brought to this country merely for purposes of manufacture and not to be consumed here. The Treasury department is paying refunds or drawbacks of this kind every day. But it is a long process to have these drawbacks made, involving a vast amount of red tape and consuming valuable time. In some instances the cost of securing refunds is as much as 50 per cent of the amount of money involved. All this would be done away with by the establishment of a free port and at the same time there would be built up a lot of new industries and encouragement given to the manufacture of foreign materials by American methods and by American workmen. These and other equally practical con-

siderations in support of the free port proposition were urged at least a dozen years ago by the editor of The Bee and we are pleased to note the revival of the question, which ought to receive the careful attention of congress. It is an entirely practicable proposition and if carried into effect would unquestionably have beneficial results.

FABRICATING AN ISSUE.

For nearly thirty days the Omaha Bryanite organ has kept up an ink-pot bombardment of John D. Rockefeller and Chancellor E. Benjamin Andrews, and its cannon ball soup editorials have been seasoned with prussic acid and vitriol, re-enforced by hair-raising cartoons. There is method in all this madness. The blood-curdling and soul-stirring Salvation Army editorials are part of a well-digested political program.

The popocracy of Nebraska are sadly in want of an issue for the coming campaign, and that issue had to be fabricated like the Cardiff giant. A special dispatch to the Chicago Inter Ocean, bearing all the earmarks of the Omaha fakery, announces with due solemnity that the Rockefeller monument is to become one of the issues in this year's Nebraska campaign unless the university regents compel Rockefeller to withdraw his proposed contribution to the University temple and force Chancellor Andrews to retire. In case the peremptory mandamus is not heeded by the regents or by Chancellor Andrews, the issue is to be forced upon the republican party at its coming state convention, and if the republican convention sees fit to ignore the Metcock pronouncement the democratic party is to take it up in its convention and place the republicans in a position of worshippers of plutocracy and minions of monopoly.

This is a wonderful piece of strategy, provided it works out. There is a bare possibility that the people of Nebraska will not go into spasms over the Rockefeller monument and there is also a possibility that no delegate in the republican state convention will make a spectacle of himself or confess himself a monumental idiot. It is even possible that the sober second thought of Nebraska democracy will look upon the Rockefeller monument racket as a piece of gimlet-hole politics.

In marked contrast is the very recent example set by Prof. Harper, president of the Chicago university, which was founded by John D. Rockefeller and is recognized as the Rockefeller university. When asked by a member of the faculty whether he or any other university teacher would be permitted to retain his position in case he should see fit to discuss Rockefeller's methods of acquiring wealth, President Harper declared in substance:

"The University of Chicago has been laid out on broad lines. It believes in the widest freedom, it guarantees for its faculty and for its students the widest latitude of discussion. It will not only tolerate free speech, but guarantees the free expression of opinion on every public issue. Members of the faculty will enjoy free speech and they may discuss Mr. Rockefeller and his methods without the slightest risk of losing their positions."

Contrast with this the un-American exhibition of imperious intolerance that permeates the double-shotted utterances of the would-be commander of Nebraska's democracy!

CHINA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

The United States was foremost among the powers, when the anti-foreign outbreak in China took place, in urging that the territorial integrity of the Chinese empire should not be impaired. It has recently been stated that our government regarded its rights in Manchuria as being wholly commercial and that it did not question the superiority of Russia's political rights in that portion of China. A late report from Washington says that on the contrary this government intends to insist that Russia shall adhere to the agreement among the powers which took part in the negotiations at Peking in 1900 to preserve the territorial integrity of China. This report, claiming to be with authority, says: "The position of the United States with regard to Manchuria is practically the same as that of Japan. This government holds that the Russian government is bound by treaty, as well as by assurances to the United States, to evacuate the Chinese provinces and also to adhere to her agreement with the nations which participated in the Peking expedition of 1900 to preserve China's territorial integrity."

Assuming this to be a correct statement of the position of our government there can be no doubt that it is a sound and justifiable attitude, but what will insistence upon it amount to in the event of war? Everybody understands that it is Russia's purpose to hold on to Manchuria. She will fight to do this and if she should be successful in a conflict with Japan her grasp upon Manchuria could not be broken. More than that, she probably would seek to further extend her power and possessions in China. In order to do this Russia would perhaps have little difficulty in obtaining anything she might ask from the helpless Chinese government. In such circumstances the United States would urge in vain that the territorial integrity of China must be preserved, unless our government was joined by the other powers interested, which very likely it would not be, for the reason that the European nations are not disposed to encourage American interference in Asiatic affairs. Russia has ignored the assurances given the United States in regard to the evacuation of Manchuria. Can there be any doubt that if she should be successful in a war with Japan she would pay no attention to any strictly American demand respecting her policy in China.

The United States has a very large interest in the far eastern situation. A war between Russia and Japan would be regarded here with the keenest concern and solicitude. But we must keep out of the trouble and take our chances in the result. We shall ask that our rights be respected, that what is ours by virtue of treaties shall not be denied, but beyond this we cannot go without violating all our traditions and principles. We may still urge the preservation of China's territorial integrity, but we can do nothing to secure it.

GREATNESS OF OUR COUNTRY.

Power and Progress Felt in the World's Politics. San Francisco Chronicle. The people of the United States have been greatly surprised at the influence which this country has exerted in the world's politics for the last few years. For more than a century we have taken very little interest in the affairs of other nations and seldom conferred with any European government in regard to the affairs of any non-American nation. As the result of the Spanish war we seem to have been pitched into the midst of the council of nations and we are astonished at the consideration with which we are received and the importance attached to such suggestions as we make. In the popular mind, this sudden access of respect and deference is in great measure attributed to the able "diplomacy" of Secretary Hay. Doubtless Secretary Hay is an able and wise man and has been eminently successful in the negotiations which he has directed, but there are reasons for the consideration which we receive which are far more potent than the ability of any man.

ANOTHER COLONIZATION SCHEME.

Mr. Leigh Hunt, formerly president of the Iowa Agricultural college, is said to be promoting a scheme to send negroes from the southern states to Egypt to be employed in the cultivation of cotton. He says there are millions of idle acres of land along the Nile in the Sudan capable of being developed into as fertile fields as those now under cultivation, but the great obstacle to the speedy development of the region is the lack of labor. This Mr. Hunt would supply by drawing upon the negro population of the southern states and he feels confident that he can induce some of them to go. He says if the negroes are given a chance to settle in the Sudan they are not asked to experiment in government making nor to follow the fortunes of an upstart of the empire, nor to subject themselves to the villany of Librarian and Nicaraguan methods of government. He believes that it will be possible for the American negro to acquire wealth and influence in Egypt and that he would readily assimilate with the native people, to the material improvement and advantage of the latter.

Perhaps Mr. Hunt will be able to induce some negroes in the south to accept his proposition, but he will hardly find the task so easy as he seems to think. The negro is extremely fond of his own country and clings tenaciously to the soil where he was born and reared. The race is not migratory or adventurous and is not easily tempted by promises of improvement in its material conditions. If this involves going into distant lands and among strange people. The southern negroes generally are pretty well satisfied with what they have and not many of them would be lured into leaving their homes and friends by picturing to them what they might accomplish in Egypt. Mr. Hunt seems to be very sanguine. No amount of argument, he declares, could convince him that industrious, hard-working negroes would be averse to improving their condition. It is not improbable that he will find it necessary to modify his opinion after he has gone a little farther with his movement.

FEDERAL PROHIBITION.

California Protests Against a Dangerous Experiment Proposed. San Francisco Call.

An attempt is in congress to make the federal government a participant in the summary system of the states which affords a market for wine and liquor. In some of such states liquor, even wine, beer and cider, are outlawed; they cease to be property and are subject to seizure and destruction, leaving the owner without recovery or remedy. Up to this time the right of a citizen to use his own house and for his own use liquors has been protected by the interstate commerce laws. When sent from one state into another in the original package property in liquor has been inviolable. A citizen of Kansas can buy a case of wine in California and have it shipped to his home for use as part of the diet on his own table, and the prohibition laws of Kansas cannot touch it because it is commerce originating in another state. Now it is proposed to stop this. Mr. Hepburn, who represents a prohibition state in congress, has introduced into the house a bill which provides that when liquor is shipped into a state it is considered from that state and other as soon as it enters the state of its destination becomes subject to all the laws of the latter state.

This means that when a case of California wine enters Kansas, consigned to a citizen of that state for his private use, it ceases to be property. The car or warehouse or the owner's house may be entered by force and the wine taken out and destroyed! The proponents of the bill claim for congress the right to pass it under that clause in the federal constitution which gives to congress the right to regulate commerce between the states. We are not aware that the courts have ever held that under that grant of power congress may destroy commerce between the states. Wine is an important article of commerce produced in California. Has congress the right to prohibit commerce therein between California and Kansas, Iowa, Maine, Texas and South Carolina? It is known that in the prohibition cult tobacco nags next to liquor. How long will it be before that is prohibited by the same states and the tobacco producing states will fall under federal prohibition of their commerce? When the right of summary legislation is once conceded a wide field is opened for interference with natural right.

It is a dangerous experiment for congress to destroy the equal application of the commercial law of the country by forbidding commerce between any of the states in any property that has legal existence and protection at the place of its origin.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

One warm day doesn't make spring. Keep winter clothes on. There are strong reasons for believing winter's backbone has a few knobs left. The proposed revival of corporal punishment in New York City is causing a spanking breeze in that vicinity.

Now the coal dealers are kicking about short weight. Consumers who have worn out their shoes in that exercise will enjoy the spectacle. The "eternal fitness of things" is not an empty phrase. There is Mr. Hugg, an Indiana lawyer, who makes a specialty of divorce cases.

By the time Uncle Sam's treasury gets back that little loan to the St. Louis fair placed in the hands of one man or of a small group of men ever ready to do his bidding. In secret, but at the dictation of the one in control, the capital was increased to a fabulous figure without any

judgment as to the wisdom of the loan. The little country school house—you remember it; of course you do. Within the angle snugly set, Where two long yellow highways met, And saplings planted here and there About the yard, and boxed with care As if to crush the house left behind. The youngsters caught and caged, to learn. Around the rolling patches spread, With woodland pastures garlanded, From which the breezes gladly bore Sibylline utterances, down the road, They trudged to learning's poor abode: The pink sunbonnet, broad brimmed straw; The large brown feet that knew no law Of fashion's last; the bundled forms That laughed aloud at cold and storms.

What tales the scorned desks might relate Of triumph gained with book and slate! What lore the claspboards loose possess Of feats at nighttime and recess! And down the road, down the road, to see, Back up the road, and o'er the leas, Haste boy and girl, new words to find, The little school house left behind.

Oh, little country school! In vain May critics hold you in disdain. The greatest lessons that you taught Were not by chalk and pencil wrought. As opened your door on fields and sky, So, likewise just as wide and high, You opened to the eyes of youth The principles of love and truth.

Another lawyer has been convicted and sent to the penitentiary in New York. Black sheep cannot hope to prosper in a profession devoted to shearing rather than growing wool.

There was a great shower of flowers on the grave of Whitaker Wright, prince of swindling promoters. Wright went to his grave without squabbling on his lordly partners. Little Nordica did not ask for alimony when separated from an incumbent by divorce. She has an abundance of golden notes in stock and doesn't need the money. Maud Gonne, the Irish Joan of Arc, is armed again, not for a fray, but for a wee "broth of a by." It is said Maud's lullabies are far more soothing than her oratory.

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.

Chicago Tribune: No better evidence of the gentle and forgiving disposition of Pope Pius X. could be brought forward than the fact that he blessed a friend's fountain pen the other day. Chicago Record-Herald: A man was arrested and fined at Utica, N. Y., a few days ago for snoring in church. With the lack of fire escapes on our churches and the arrests for snoring, how can men be expected to keep on assuming the terrible risks that attending church involve?

Pittsburg Dispatch: A Philadelphia clergyman recently envisioned the meeting of an association for the aid of self-supporting women by expressing his regret that "woman has ever entered the race for making money." Because it "submerges her finer nature." His auditors patiently abstained from asking him whether woman's finer nature would be prevented from being submerged if she should starve to death.

Springfield Republican: The Methodist clergyman and nearly 100 members of that denomination were among the victims of the Irregulars theater disaster, and this is a fact which painfully illustrates to the governing power of the church how slightly are its rules regarding this form of amusement observed. The subject will come up for renewed consideration at the conference of Methodists to be held in April at Los Angeles, Cal.

Indianapolis Journal: Some time ago a choir in Canada went on strike because the minister requested the members not to chew gum. Now a New Jersey choir has made trouble because a certain was hung which concealed them from the congregation. And who can blame them? What young woman would join a choir where she could not be seen in her new hat and silk waist? Who wants to join the choir invisible while still on earth? If the church wants a choir in star chamber, why don't it get a phonograph and be done with it?

CORPORATE POLITICS.

Policy Designed to Promote Honest Industrial Development. Baltimore American.

There will be general approval of the position taken by Judge Peter S. Grosscup of the United States circuit court of Chicago on the proper national policy to be pursued in dealing with great corporate organizations, especially with those combinations of immense capital which partake of the nature of trusts. The main object of all legislation in this direction, as Judge Grosscup said in his Springfield address, should not be general and promiscuous publicity. It would not be good business sense, neither would it be fair, he insisted, to compulsorily hang up every incorporate business, great and small, where every mischiefmaker could hawk it and every competitor copy it. The main object to be aimed at is in reestablishing the industries of the country, and this can only be accomplished by a policy under which a corporation dishonestly conceived cannot be organized at all, and a corporation dishonestly administered will pass at once, before the evil is irremediable, into the hands of the courts or some department of the government. The great aim, the transcendent aim, Judge Grosscup said, in conclusion, should be to make this a proprietorship widely diversified among the people—the persistence in substance, though different in form, of that widespread popular ownership upon which, as one of the chief cornerstones of our republican institutions were founded, and without which no republic can remain secure.

In view of the alarming and even disastrous revelations which have recently been made regarding the financial management of some of the great corporations ever organized in this or any other country the words of Judge Grosscup are peculiarly timely. In some of these recent instances the whole management of millions upon millions of capital and the fate of property once of the highest value, was in the hands of one man or of a small group of men ever ready to do his bidding. In secret, but at the dictation of the one in control, the capital was increased to a fabulous figure without any

justification from either past profits or future possibilities. This new credit, though largely fictitious in character, was manufactured in such a way as to turn immense fortunes to the inventor, but to wreck the legitimate investment of those who had become minor stockholders of the company. The work done by Whitaker Wright with his swindling mining companies in London was little worse than that done by these American wreckers, and the man who committed suicide to avoid penal servitude came very close to the truth when he said that he stood in the same class as the American promoters whom he named.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTIES.

"Why are you smiling so broadly Henry?" "When Henry, dear?" "Before you were married, of course."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Do you think he is really in love with you?" "I don't know," answered Mamma. "He says he is," but his letters don't sound a bit silly."—Washington Star.

"When I say good-bye to you this evening," said Mr. Slowman, "do you think it will be proper for me to place one reverent kiss upon your fair hand?" "Well, yes," she answered hesitantly. "I would consider it decidedly out of place."—Philadelphia Press.

"That's a pretty noisy passenger you've got in there," remarked the man who was smoking on the front platform. "Is he any one?" "No," said the motorman. "He's a flat wheel in his head."—Chicago Tribune.

THE COUNTRY SCHOOL HOUSE.

YOUTH'S COMPANION. The little country school house—you remember it; of course you do. Within the angle snugly set, Where two long yellow highways met, And saplings planted here and there About the yard, and boxed with care As if to crush the house left behind. The youngsters caught and caged, to learn. Around the rolling patches spread, With woodland pastures garlanded, From which the breezes gladly bore Sibylline utterances, down the road, They trudged to learning's poor abode: The pink sunbonnet, broad brimmed straw; The large brown feet that knew no law Of fashion's last; the bundled forms That laughed aloud at cold and storms.

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