

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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THE PROPOSED SERVICE PENSION. Bills have been introduced in the house of representatives providing for the pensioning of every living union soldier who can produce a certificate of honorable discharge from the army.

OFFICES. Omaha—The Bee Building, 12th and M streets. Council Bluffs—19 Pearl Street. Chicago—149 Dearborn Street.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. For the month of January, 1904, as follows: Daily Bee, 29,200; Sunday Bee, 28,700; Total, 57,900.

THE CANAL COMMISSION. In anticipation of the early ratification of the Panama canal treaty, some interest is being shown respecting the appointment of a commission, as provided for in the Spooner act.

THE BALTIMORE CONFAGRATION. The Baltimore confagration will be a hard blow to the fire insurance companies. There is no apparent danger of the Miles boom for president dying from over-exertion.

IT IS ALMOST A MIRACLE THAT THE LOSS OF LIFE IN THE GREAT BALTIMORE CONFAGRATION WAS SO TRIFLING. The cable that connects Japan and Corea has been cut, which leaves an opening for the Marconi wireless.

WE SHALL PRESENTLY SEE WHOSE PRAYERS ARE MOST AVAILING IN THE CELESTIAL HEMISPHERE—THOSE OF THE HEATHEN JAPANESE OR THE CHRISTIAN MUSCOVITE. It should not be difficult for the St. Louis councilmen now on trial to prove that they did not get the money which the jury decided Butler did not pay.

IT IS NOT SAFE FOR JAPAN TO COUNT UPON A REPETITION OF THE ACTION OF THE POWERS WHICH CHEATED RUSSIA OUT OF THE VICTORY IT SCORED OVER THE TURKS IN ITS LAST WAR. An object lesson in the practicability of prohibitory laws is shown in the meeting of the Iowa Liquor Dealers' association which is to take place in Omaha this week.

THE JAPANESE ARE GREAT IMITERS. They have now followed Admiral Dewey's plan of cutting the cables. It is a good plan provided the right men are at the end which is cut. If this thing keeps up Nebraska will insist upon Church Howe bringing that uniform home with him, so that his fellow citizens can become really acquainted with the conical general to Antwerp.

THE HIGHEST TAX LEVY FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES UPON PROPERTY OWNERS OF OMAHA ON A BASIS OF ONE-SIXTH OR ONE-FIFTH OF THE TRUE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY ASSESSED WAS 54 MILLS. On the same basis the levy for 1904 is equal to 70 mills.

IF THE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT ARE SO ANXIOUS TO FORESTALL A PREMATURE PUBLICATION OF THEIR OPINION IN THE MERGER CASE THEY MIGHT RENDER AN ORAL DECISION AND FILE THEIR WRITTEN OPINION LATER. Such a course is not without precedent.

WITH THE NAVAL RECRUITING OFFICE RUNNING IN FULL BLAST IN THE FEDERAL BUILDING REPRESENTATIVE DELOS DENIER MAY HAVE AN OBJECT LESSON FOR JUDGE MINGER WHEN THE CASE FOR THE RELEASE OF HIS SON FROM THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES IS PRESENTED.

AFTER THE FOREIGN INSURANCE COMPANIES, THE RAILROADS, THE PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS AND A FEW OTHER SPECIAL INTERESTS TAKE A FALL OUT OF THE NEW REVENUE LAW THE PEOPLE WILL BEGIN TO REALIZE JUST WHAT THEY DID GET FROM THE LAST LEGISLATURE.

MISSISSIPPI PLANTERS STILL CONTINUE TO EXECUTE THE LAW WITHOUT RESORT TO JUDGE OR JURY. Their latest exhibition of chivalry was the burning at the stake of a negro and his wife accused of murdering a planter who had forcibly sought to oust them from their home.

of railroad or not. It is perhaps somewhat doubtful if the state could enforce regulations of this kind, but there is no question that they would prove serviceable to the public. Another important railroad bill requires that the roads shall assume full liability for consignments of freight, though shipped to a point not on their lines and transferred to another line of railroad.

WHAT CARNEGIE SHOULD DO. The dramatized story of "King for a Day," related by the author of the "Arabian Nights," was re-enacted by a number of preachers and goody-goody people at a mass meeting held in the Broad Street Baptist church of Philadelphia last Friday.

IN RESPONSE TO THIS CONUNDRUM REV. MADISON C. PETERS SAID: If I had \$1,500,000 I would establish a cooking and domestic school for girls. There is a lack of technical training of girls as they leave the schools. They make poor housekeepers, and our young men are afraid to marry them.

ANOTHER PHILADELPHIA DIVINE RECOMMENDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OLD MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS. In support of this suggestion he urged that "it is the hardened old sport who does the most damage because he, as a rule, has money. To reform him would mean saving young women and men."

THE GIVING OF MONEY DURING LIFE, "exclaimed still another preacher, is a grand thing and Carnegie has set a noble example." Endowing a chair of good manners in our colleges would be a good thing. Too many graduates have no respect for age, and frequently have bad manners.

AN IRRESISTIBLE CONFLICT IS IN PROGRESS BETWEEN THE PRINCIPALS AND THE ENGINEERS AND JANITORS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF CHICAGO. The principals of Chicago public schools have organized a movement to depose the engineers who are playing autocrat and to subjugate the janitors who are soldiering, and the engineers and janitors are proposing to combine against the principals to meet the fight half way.

THE LEGISLATURE OF IOWA HAS ABUNDANT MATERIAL BEFORE IT, RELATING TO CORPORATIONS IN THAT STATE, TO COMMAND ITS CAREFUL ATTENTION DURING THE REMAINING TIME OF THE SESSION. Numerous bills have been introduced providing for amendments and modifications of existing laws, some of them rather drastic in character.

THE ANNUAL CONTROVERSY OVER THE STATE PRINTING CONTRACTS HAS BROKEN OUT AFRESH, BUT IT IS EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL WHETHER ANY COURSE CAN BE ADOPTED THAT WILL EFFECTUALLY STAMP OUT THE STATE PRINTING GRAFT. The Bee fully concurs with the Lincoln Star in the demand for a thorough revision of the state printing system by the next legislature.

THE JAPANESE MINISTER TO GREAT BRITAIN REGARDS THE BREAKING OFF OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND RUSSIA AS TANTAMOUNT TO WAR AND REITERATES THE STATEMENT THAT THE RUSSIAN REPLY WAS NOT DELIVERED BECAUSE IT NEVER WAS SENT.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN GENERAL HAVE COME TO FEEL A DEEP INTEREST AND REAL AFFECTION FOR MR. HANNA. Even those who cannot bring themselves to approve of his political methods have watched with no little satisfaction the broadness of his sympathies and the development of his intellect under the fostering conditions of official life.

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ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON. Current Affairs Gleaned from the Army and Navy Register. Among the justifiable provisions adopted by the house of representatives during its consideration of the army appropriation bill has been the prohibition of the payment to army officers on the active list or retired list of salaries as clerks or civilians.

LOOKING BACKWARD A FEW YEARS. Detroit Free Press. Let's see how we are going to perform, all the wonders now predicted for radium? Indiana on the Horizon. Indianapolis News. The outlook is gloomy for the American boy with Brookline school teacher's pronouncement in favor of spanking with a rubber hose comes the news that all the single mills in Wisconsin are starting up again.

A POSSIBLE PERIL. Chicago Record-Herald. There is a line of danger of mothers in Washington in May. Let us hope the nurses will have the goodness to refrain from organizing in the meantime and presenting an ultimatum just as the mothers are getting ready to pin on their badges. The Ideal Professor. Philadelphia Press. The ideal college professor, according to President Harper of the Chicago university, "should be married, and if he has three or four children he will be still better."

AN ESTIMATE OF THE PRESIDENT. World's Work. He is no enemy of capital. He has no hatred of wealth. He believes in the protective tariff. He stands upon sound money. He has spoken for a more "elastic" currency. His position is at the opposite pole to populism. But he refuses to be controlled by Wall Street. He declines to rotify corporate interests and advances when his official duty compels him to proceed against them.

TAKE A LITTLE SUNSHINE, BILL. New York Tribune. Why cannot the pessimists the Nebraska hypochondriac, swallow a few doses of "liquid sunshine," although the democratic party is doomed to defeat in November? The world is not wholly out of joint and all wrong, notwithstanding that the iron dice of destiny have been rolled by the gods and the dice of fate that Mr. Bryan cannot be the candidate this year or control the national convention of this year.

ELOQUENT AND UNANSWERABLE. Baltimore American. President Roosevelt elected to the vice presidency (with the constitutional eligibility to the presidency in certain events) on a platform that was pledged to pursue a course inimical to the trusts. Today the trusts are in sore distress, and more has been done against them than in any previous administration.

WHAT THE JAPANESE YEN IS. London Chronicle. When the public reads that 100,000,000 yen have provisionally been set apart for Japan for war purposes, it may perhaps put an exaggerated estimate on that amount. Although Japan has a gold standard, the yen is of silver currency, and fluctuates with the price of silver, so that the moment 100,000,000 of them means scarcely more than £10,000,000.

THE USE OF A CRANK. Lessons Drawn from the Life of George Francis Train. Collier Weekly. "People called me insane," said the late George Francis Train, "and I don't blame them. What would a village of peanuts say if some day a cocoanut rolled in among them?" He said in founding the Union Pacific and introducing the tramcar system into England, and in his public speeches, and even his queer autobiography, show how lucid a crank he was and how serviceable. For crank he certainly was—"champion crank," as he liked to call himself—and yet society could have better spared some sinner people.

PUBLIC INTEREST IN MR. HANNA. Detroit Free Press (dem.). The American people in general have come to feel a deep interest and real affection for Mr. Hanna. Even those who cannot bring themselves to approve of his political methods have watched with no little satisfaction the broadness of his sympathies and the development of his intellect under the fostering conditions of official life.

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THE SECRETARY OF WAR HAS APPROVED THE DESIGN OF THE NEW MEDAL OF HONOR recommended by General G. L. Gillespie, U. S. A., and General Horace Porter, representing the Medal of Honor Legion. The design, before adoption, was submitted to well known artists in Paris as well as this country, with the result that the new emblem possesses the artistic quality in keeping with the service for which the medal stands. The design consists of a five-pointed star, the metal being light gun metal. The words "United States of America" and "Valor" appear in raised block letters. The ribbon is of blue, bearing in irregular order thirteen white stars, and is attached to the back of a suspended eagle. The name of the person and the service rendered will appear on the back of the medal, which is of smooth surface for that purpose.

THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE ARMY IS ACTING AS A CENTRAL BOARD IN LOOKING OVER FINALLY THE EXAMINATION PAPERS OF THE TWENTY-NINE candidates from civil life who have appeared before the army boards to determine their qualifications for appointment as section or lieutenant in the army. The forty additional candidates who are now undergoing examination may be included on the list as competitors with the first twenty-nine who were examined, though there is some question of this, for the reason that the examinations were not identical for the two groups.

THE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF THE ARMY IS IN RECEIPT OF SOME PRELIMINARY REPORTS FROM SUBSISTENCE OFFICERS ON THE EXPERIMENTS MADE AT VARIOUS POSTS WITH HASH. Of every article of food the commissary general receives reports and no final conclusions are possible until the reports from company commanders are received in Washington. The comments of the subsistence officers are favorable to the article, the trial of which was made at various posts, and the commissary general is inclined to believe that the hash is intended for issue in the field and it was conceived of as a judicious move to have the soldiers acquainted with the article so that they would not regard it, when issued to them in time of war, as an experiment.

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STATE CANDIDATES. Blair Pilot: Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction McBrien is a candidate for the republican nomination for state superintendent. Mr. McBrien has proved his ability by years of experience and has had a very successful career in the school rooms of Nebraska.

WAIFS OF THE WITS. "Remember," said the man with the red face and angry eyes, "the worm will turn." "Well," answered the cold-blooded citizen, "let him turn, but the worm will turn." "What is the principal occupation of a modern municipal official?" "Dodging responsibility."—Chicago Post.

"I'll sell you that property," said the real estate agent, "for \$500 per square foot." "Well, well," remarked the inventor, "you were born on February 2, weren't you?" "Yes, No, Why?" "Well, then, ground hog day, you know."—Philadelphia Press.

"Papa, you and mamma want me to marry Cousin Jack, don't you?" "Yes, child." "And he tells me his people are all in favor of it. Is there any law against fourth cousin marrying?" "No, child, but the amount is small." "Well, then I shan't marry him."—Philadelphia Press.

"Do you estimate a man's success by the amount of money he saves?" "Not exactly," answered Senator Sorghum, "but the amount he gets hold of and spends has something to do with the popular impression on the subject."—Washington Star.

"Quite an elegant wedding, wasn't it?" "Elegant! It will take her father a year or more to square up for it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"The thermometer at the first drug store registered 12 degrees below zero this morning, while the next drug store, only half a block farther on, showed 4 below," remarked Cuzco. "Yes, there's some competition between drug stores now," explained Cawker.—Detroit Free Press.

"WHEN I WAS A MAID." Chicago Chronicle. When I was a maid, I never listened to men. My mother cried, "Girl, never listen to men." Her lectures were long. But I thought her quite wrong. And I said, "Mother, whom should I listen to then?"

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