

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily (without Sunday), One Year, \$5.00; Daily (with Sunday), One Year, \$6.00; Sunday (without Daily), One Year, \$2.00; Sunday (with Daily), One Year, \$3.00; Single Copies, 10c.

OFFICES: Omaha—The Bee Building, South Omaha—City Hall Building, Twentieth and M streets. Council Bluffs—201 First Street. Chicago—164 Park Building. New York—205 Park Row Building. Washington—521 Fourteenth Street.

CORRESPONDENCE: Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to Omaha Bee, editorial department. Remittances: Remit by draft, express or postal order payable to The Bee Publishing Company.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George F. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the following is a full and complete statement of the circulation of the Omaha Bee during the month of January, 1904...

Net total sales, 883,308; Net average rates, 28,493; Total circulation, 1,000,000.

Published by The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha, Neb., at the Bee Building, South Omaha, Nebraska.

The man who oils the big water works pump has not yet been pumped by the apparatus.

If a plank sidewalk is a permanent sidewalk, of what material should a temporary sidewalk be built?

When the South Omaha police judge pronounces a city ordinance unconstitutional, it must be unconstitutional.

The preliminary state campaign is becoming interesting. It may become exciting before the 18th day of May.

The retail hardware dealers want to turn the clock backward, but the ratchet wheel of progress only turns one way.

If Turkey and Bulgaria do not take the opportunity to wipe out old scores they will miss the chance of their life.

The Japanese declaration of war is probably the first instance of such a proclamation without an appeal to heaven.

Another Richmond in the field. If this keeps on every county in the state except Douglas will have its candidate for governor.

It is to be hoped that Great Britain will not be required to take part in the present war, for Alfred Austin is still poet laureate.

Before declaring its neutrality the king of Korea should learn from the American minister something about Governor Magoffin of Kentucky.

A consignment of Egyptian mummies has been shipped to the St. Louis exposition. No wonder its gate receipts had to be mortgaged for \$4,500,000 to the government.

It is now intimated that the powers will set Roumania to watch Bulgaria in order to avoid trouble in the Balkans, but who is to watch Roumania is not yet decided upon.

St. Louis is to be congratulated upon getting its bill for a loan through both branches of congress, the more so from the fact that the security is so exasperatingly intangible.

Omaha and Kansas City are neck and neck in the race for supremacy as pork packing centers. Each of the two cities is credited with packing 580,000 hogs since November 1.

Upon learning of his election as president of Colombia, General Reyes immediately went to Paris. He probably intends to wait until the fighting power of his rival candidate can be demonstrated.

It was quite unnecessary to announce that Russia does not like the plan of Secretary Hay for the preservation of the integrity of China. "No thief ever felt the halter draw with good opinion of the law."

Life in the Latin-American republics is not without some recompense. Honduras is the second within the month where the president has sent worthy congressmen into retirement until they learn better manners.

AMERICAN NEUTRALITY.

The decision of our government to observe absolute neutrality in the Russo-Japanese war is in accord with the traditional policy of the United States. While this country has very important interests in the far east which it will not fail to carefully look after, it will maintain complete impartiality toward the nations engaged in war and respect to the fullest extent the obligations imposed by international law.

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There is in this no inconsistency with the position of neutrality. Russia and those who sympathize with her may regard it as favorable to Japan, but the unquestionable motive of our government is to conserve world interests, regardless of either of the nations engaged in hostilities.

Notwithstanding the 60 per cent increase in the levy of 1904 over that of 1903, there is every indication of another large overlap before the end of this year. The charter limits the amount of expenditures from the general fund to \$255,000.

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The naval appropriation bill has been reported to the house, accompanied by a report in which the expediency of further additions to the navy is strongly urged. In the senate recently the democratic leader, Mr. Gorman, took a position hostile to further naval construction, or at least to any material increase of our sea power.

The house report affirms that public sentiment is in favor of continuing the policy of building up the navy, that if we stopped now we would be left behind the leading countries of the world, and that "foremost and above all must stand considerations of national defense, maintenance of our foreign policies and protection of American citizens everywhere."

It is not to be doubted that this is in accord with general popular sentiment, which is very likely to be strengthened by what is transpiring in the far east. There is no disposition here to enter into rivalry with any other nation for superiority in sea power.

The bill reported in the house carries appropriations aggregating a little over \$90,000,000 and authorizes the construction of one battleship, two first-class armored cruisers, three scout cruisers and two colliers. The sum provided for in the bill is large, but most of it is for vessels now being built.

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THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM.

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Aetna Insurance Co. Established 1819. President Clark Wires: "Baltimore Losses about \$500,000. All losses will be paid promptly in CASH."

AETNA IN GREAT CONFLAGRATIONS \$3,852,000 losses paid in the great Chicago fire Oct., 1871 \$1,635,000 losses paid Boston fire November, 1872 \$240,000 losses paid St. John fire June, 1877

The Aetna has Paid Over NINETY-SIX MILLION DOLLARS for Losses Since Its Organization.

Total Assets Jan. 1, 1904, \$15,190,888.15 Northwestern Department. New York Life Building, Omaha, Nebraska.

W. H. Wyman, General Agent. W. P. Harford, Asst. General Agent. JOHN W. ROBBINS, Sole Agt. 1802 Farnam St. Omaha. Ohio Knox, Agt.; John I. Lutz, Agt., Council Bluffs, Ia. T. J. O'Neill, Agt., South Omaha.

JAPAN AND THE JAPANESE. Some Facts About the Island Empire of the Orient.

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SAID IN FUN. Colonel Ritchey Gruff—

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