

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: George B. Tschuck, secretary of the Bee Publishing Company...

Chicago seems to be hoodooed for theater fires this year. It seems that the Japs discovered the bear to be an animal that may be disguised and still keep in the ring.

When The Bee issues an extra it is safe to wager that an important piece of news therein contained justifies it.

With cable tolls from the far east almost prohibitive, the war correspondent must have a hard time of it indeed.

In seizing British coal-laden vessels Russian sailors may find that they have sold of something which they may need to release.

Having put its money into a market house, the city ought to see to it that it gets the full benefit of its investment.

It remains to be seen whether Viceroy Alexieff makes his headquarters on a special train as effective as the famous headquarters in the middle of another war.

The alleged wrecks which strew Port Arthur's coast are nothing compared to what will be left stranded on the democratic shore after the St. Louis convention.

At any rate we are being spared the periodic cannonading so regularly heard by lumbering ships of the Windward passage during our late unpleasantness with Spain.

Police Commissioner Lee Spratlan, in passing through Washington on his way to New York, desired it distinctly understood that his visit had no political significance. But—

The Missouri bandit who was pardoned by the governor of Kansas so that he could be taken to the scene of his raver crime probably has his own idea of executive clemency.

It will be hard to convince Missourians that Japan and Russia are really at war until one of the combatants opens a purchasing depot for mules within the borders of that commonwealth.

Frank Colpetzer is a prudent and sagacious business man and up to this time has been regarded as a fair politician, but many really much better politicians have made mistakes in writing letters.

In giving a mortgage as security for a loan from the federal government the Louisiana Purchase Exposition company is simply admitting that in a financial way it bit off more than it could chew.

A New York banker is appealing to the courts to tell him whether he is carried or not. Most men are able to find out without waiting for the aid of any tribunal outside of the domestic circle.

If former State Senator Frank Ransom had only known that the law of 1887, making gambling a felony, was null and void he would not have put himself to so much trouble in 1897 to get it repealed.

By promulgating its treaty with Corea guaranteeing that country its independence Japan has again proved itself ready to copy the best examples of western civilization. America's agreement with Cuba was the faintest absolute.

Agitation continues for an education test for incoming European immigrants. No one has been able to show, however, how an education test would keep out the really dangerous classes any better than the present laws prohibiting the entering of any criminals, defectives, dependents or contract laborers. Neither the smart crook nor the social firebrand has any fear of an education test.

ARRAIGNMENT OF JAPAN.

Russia has arraigned Japan before the world on the charge of having violated the law of nations. The first complaint of the Russian government was in regard to the attack upon its warships at Port Arthur before there had been a declaration of war, this being denounced as treacherous and in violation of the laws of civilized warfare. This is a mistaken view, according to the highest authorities on international law. Professor Woolsey, the foremost American authority, says that in modern times open declarations of war, formally made to the enemy, have ceased to be accounted necessary. The history of modern wars goes to show that hostilities begin long before the formal declaration of war. It was so in our trouble with Spain. Sampson beginning operations by seizing Spanish merchantmen. As a matter of fact, it appears that the first shot fired and the first act of war committed was the attack by a Russian warship on a Japanese man-of-war at Chemulpo, hours before the Japanese attack at Port Arthur.

Another complaint is that three days before the declaration of war the Japanese attacked Russian warships in the neutral port of Chemulpo. The fact appears to be that while this was a neutral port the first violation of its neutrality was committed by the Russians, which fully justified the action of the Japanese. According to the reports of that event the port was not entered by the warships of Japan, the engagement which resulted in the destruction of the Russian ships having taken place outside. It would seem, therefore, that Japan cannot fairly be charged with violating the neutrality of Chemulpo or contravening any principle of international law.

The circular of the Russian foreign minister dwells chiefly upon the invasion and occupation of Corea by Japanese troops, that kingdom having announced in advance of hostilities that it would observe strict neutrality. The world fully understood that in the event of war Corea would be a battleground, perhaps the chief one, and that its declaration of neutrality would not be respected by either belligerent. The simple fact is that Japan, having the advantage in position, has improved it by occupying strategic points in Corea and no government that can consider the matter fairly and impartially will question that, she did wisely. It is not to be doubted that had she not done this Russia would have occupied the hermit kingdom with a formidable army and thus obtained an advantage that possibly would have made her master of the situation. Japan has very large interests in Corea and is fighting in part to save that country from the grasp of Russia. She was therefore compelled to occupy it and it may be remarked that she was none too prompt in doing so.

It is stated that France sympathizes in this matter with Russia. That was to be expected. Possibly one or two other European countries may approve the Russian position. But it is likely that most of the governments, if they should express themselves in the matter, which is improbable, would acquit Japan of the charge of having violated international law.

HOW TO PROMOTE OMAHA'S GROWTH.

The most potential factor in building up a modern city are mills and factories that give permanent employment to wage workers. These industrial establishments need not all be large. On the contrary, a hundred small factories employing from ten to twenty artisans and laborers are worth more to a city than two or three big mills and factories that employ an equal number of workmen. Nearly all great manufacturing concerns in leading industrial centers have grown up from small beginnings and their gradual growth has made them so much stronger and more substantial. The failure of a few small manufacturing concerns by reason of mismanagement or financial distress cannot affect the city as seriously as would the closing down of a very large concern that employs hundreds or thousands of wage workers. To encourage, stimulate and help to build up its small factories would promote the prosperity of Omaha to a greater extent than giving a bonus or granting special privileges to one extensive concern, unless, indeed, its permanency is absolutely assured.

To promote the growth of Omaha every man and woman interested in its future should patronize home industry, even when they can purchase the commodities on sale here cheaper in some other city. It is an open secret that hundreds of thousands of dollars are taken out of Omaha every year by the "smart set" and circulated in the retail establishments of Chicago and New York, when by rights it should be circulated in Omaha.

To promote the growth of Omaha it is absolutely essential for its business men to stand together, shoulder to shoulder, in every conflict that affects the commercial interests and in every effort that would tend to promote the welfare of this community. The success that has attended the efforts of rival cities in the field naturally tributary to Omaha has been chiefly due to a lack of concord and co-operation on the part of Omaha merchants and manufacturers. General Manager Bancroft of the Union Pacific, who is eminently qualified to express an opinion on that subject, declared the other day that Omaha had by all odds the best distributing facilities of any city between Chicago and San Francisco. But these facilities can be of no advantage to Omaha, unless Omaha jobbers and manufacturers are placed on a fair footing in competition with those of rival cities.

Last, but not least, the growth of Omaha can be promoted by enforcing upon municipal, county and school authorities integrity, economy and business methods in the management of its affairs.

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There has been some criticism of the recent action of the Department of State, in regard to affairs in the far east, as showing a disposition to meddle too much in the troubles of other nations, but it is not to be doubted that a very large majority of the American people commend the vigilance and care shown by the government regarding American interests abroad and are proud of the success that has been achieved. The administration is deeply concerned in safeguarding our trade and surely this should have the approval of all our people. It is not meddling in the troubles of other nations to make judicious efforts to prevent those troubles injuring the commerce of our people and this is the aim of all that has been done. The government is simply attending to the interests of its citizens and it has no higher duty than this. American diplomacy has been wonderfully successful in recent years and the policies it has labored for are all in the interest of civilization and the world's progress.

LITTLE CAUSE FOR DEAR FLOUR.

An eastern paper expresses the opinion that existing conditions do not warrant dear flour. It points out that when war began with Spain there was a great demand for flour and the grain markets were very strong, but events soon showed the folly of such excitement over the commercial side of the war. Food sold, in a few weeks, at about the usual level and those who stocked up with flour for months in advance were losers by their supposed foresight. It is quite possible that similar conditions will be experienced now.

The fact is that neither of the nations at war buys a great amount of food-stuffs from this country. Japan about feeds its own people and the Russian empire exports much wheat and a good deal of other food, having within the past week shipped out nearly 2,000,000 bushels of wheat and 500,000 bushels of corn. Although her stock of grain is said not to be large, undoubtedly she has enough for her own use. Besides, Russia is not likely to draw so largely upon her agricultural producers for the war as to materially interfere with production. It seems a reasonable conclusion, therefore, that so far as the war in the far east is concerned it will not create an important demand for American grain and flour. More or less excitement in the market, however, is to be expected for a time as the effect of reports affecting the relations of other nations to the Russo-Japanese conflict.

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Some of the foreign correspondents note that American diplomacy never has been in better repute than at present, due to the fact that its objects are clearly defined, consistently advocated and presented to the European courts with tact and discretion. It is pointed out that the United States government, without having an alliance with any European power and acting independently and on its own initiative, has exerted great influence in the far east. The open door principle, observes the London correspondent of the New York Tribune, equality of privileges for maritime nations and the prevention of the breakup of the Chinese empire have been tenaciously and effectively maintained as the policies in which all progressive nations are interested. Free from entangling alliances and well disposed toward all the powers, the United States government has been in a unique position for making its influence felt and securing a respectful hearing for all its recommendations.

There has been some criticism of the recent action of the Department of State, in regard to affairs in the far east, as showing a disposition to meddle too much in the troubles of other nations, but it is not to be doubted that a very large majority of the American people commend the vigilance and care shown by the government regarding American interests abroad and are proud of the success that has been achieved. The administration is deeply concerned in safeguarding our trade and surely this should have the approval of all our people. It is not meddling in the troubles of other nations to make judicious efforts to prevent those troubles injuring the commerce of our people and this is the aim of all that has been done. The government is simply attending to the interests of its citizens and it has no higher duty than this. American diplomacy has been wonderfully successful in recent years and the policies it has labored for are all in the interest of civilization and the world's progress.

The fact is that neither of the nations at war buys a great amount of food-stuffs from this country. Japan about feeds its own people and the Russian empire exports much wheat and a good deal of other food, having within the past week shipped out nearly 2,000,000 bushels of wheat and 500,000 bushels of corn. Although her stock of grain is said not to be large, undoubtedly she has enough for her own use. Besides, Russia is not likely to draw so largely upon her agricultural producers for the war as to materially interfere with production. It seems a reasonable conclusion, therefore, that so far as the war in the far east is concerned it will not create an important demand for American grain and flour. More or less excitement in the market, however, is to be expected for a time as the effect of reports affecting the relations of other nations to the Russo-Japanese conflict.

Some people are disposed to complain because Omaha's growth is slow and steady rather than by fits and starts. That, however, is really the best evidence of the substantial character of the progress we are making as a city. Every forward movement is built on solid foundation with little danger of setback, and while the advance may not be so rapid it is much more secure. It is healthy growth rather than mushroom expansion, that counts in the long run and that produces lasting results. Every one who at any time had confidence enough to tie to Omaha has more reason now than ever before to have confidence in Omaha's future.

The suggestion that all that is necessary to secure the removal of the unused poles which disfigure Omaha streets is for the council to order the public service corporations to take them away is indeed provocative of mirth. The public has had the impression, derived from somewhere, that the orders between the council and the public service corporations usually follow the reverse course.

City Attorney Wright is acting as spokesman for the municipal authorities before the various improvement clubs to explain the new city tax levy. Mr. Wright could keep busy at this occupation and at the same time relieve City Treasurer Hennings by taking up a position of vantage in the latter's office and making explanations to the taxpayers as they come to pay their tax bills.

Attorney General Prout expresses the opinion that the law making gambling a felony is not valid. The average gambler would prefer not to take a chance on going to the penitentiary just to vindicate the attorney general's learned opinion.

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Apprehensions are felt that Canada has designs on Milk river in Montana whose water is all engaged for irrigation purposes on this side of the line.