

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

K. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Circulation. Rows include State of Nebraska, Douglas County, Omaha, and various other locations from 1903 to 1904.

Net total sales, \$63,200; Net average rate, \$28,493. G. B. TSCHECHUCK, Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 23 day of February, A. D. 1904. H. B. HUNNAGE, Notary Public.

These far-away wars are the wars that fatten the pocketbooks of the telegraph and cable companies.

South Omaha has a whole month's municipal campaign ahead of it. It is a trifle early for the contest to warm up, but it is sure to be sizzling by the first of April.

With Omaha real estate picking up so noticeably now, just imagine what activity it would experience if the 1904 municipal tax levy were no greater than the 1903 levy instead of being 60 per cent higher.

As if the loss of the state capitol were not in itself enough of an affliction, Governor LaFollette of Wisconsin has given it out that he will call an extra session of the legislature shortly to deal with the problems presented.

Prophet Dowds seems to be encountering no better reception in Australia than he met with on his late excursion into New York City. The modern Elijah ought to undertake to prophesy some better fortune for himself.

When people offer to give away something for nothing, it is a safe plan to look upon the gift with suspicion. This applies particularly to newspapers that give away free advertising space because they cannot sell it at any price.

One advantage enjoyed by Oriental nations when they go to war is that they are under no necessity to improvise a telegraphic cipher to keep their information to themselves. All they have to do is to send their dispatches in native dialect.

From all accounts they must have been having strenuous times in the Des Moines district over the nomination for representative in congress. War news from Japan could at no time have been exciting enough to detract attention there from the political fight in course of culmination.

The taxpayers will agree with the chairman of the city council finance committee that the laborer is worthy of his hire even when occupying a soft berth in the city hall, but they still see no reason why the city should hire more laborers than are absolutely necessary to do the work.

Predictions are made for extensive railroad building by lines convergent in Omaha, which will enlarge the territory within reach of Omaha jobbers and manufacturers. Anything that will give Omaha a bigger sphere in trade circles is sure to interest our people and receive encouragement from them.

Cuba has just gone through the first congressional elections entirely under Cuban control, everything being conducted as quietly as could possibly be. The peacefulness of Cuban politics would indicate that the island is not yet educated up to the mark of citizenship that would justify it in asking for annexation to this country.

The medical profession is urging upon President Roosevelt the appointment of a medical man on the Panama canal commission on the theory that the construction of the canal is almost as much a problem for medical science as it is for engineering science. Pretty soon canal building will have to have a place in the courses of instruction in every medical college in the country.

After having been admonished in these words, "Remember you are dying for the sake of your country," the Japanese participants in the sortie into Port Arthur harbor all came back safe and sound with the exception of one man accidentally killed. If only all had met their deaths this heroic speech would have been much surer of immortality in the school histories of Japan.

THE FAR EASTERN CAMPAIGN.

Public interest in military operations in the far east is not being rewarded by very much information as to what is going on, owing to the great care which both belligerents are taking to keep their movements secret. However disappointing this policy may be to people everywhere, there can be no doubt as to its wisdom. As explained by the Japanese minister to England, the observance of a strict censorship by Japan is in the highest degree necessary. To get in the first blows, said the minister, means more to Japan than it has ever meant to any belligerent and to insure this it is vital for that country to demand a degree of secrecy which has not been necessary in any recent warfare. "Even at the risk of alienating temporarily the friendship of the press of the world," he said, "we must prevent even a whisper of our real intentions." The Russian censorship has been modified to some extent, so that certain information is sent out from St. Petersburg, but as to the trustworthiness of this there is always more or less doubt, particularly when the information alleges disaster to the Japanese. A few days ago it was reported from this source that several of the warships of Japan had been sunk in an attack on Port Arthur, when the fact was that the vessels sunk were barges loaded with stone with which the Japanese intended to close the harbor. There have been other reports from Russian sources equally unreliable.

What the waiting world can be confident of is that there is a very busy time in the theater of war and especially in Korea, where Japan is said to now have a large part of her army. According to the latest advices the Hermit kingdom is completely under the control of Japan and the government of the former is rendering every assistance in the military operations. If this be true it of course puts an end to Korean neutrality, though of course this has nowhere been seriously regarded. It was seen to be inevitable that that country would be the battleground of the war, at any rate in the beginning of hostilities, so that its declaration of neutrality was merely perfunctory and quite meaningless.

It is probable that a battle will be fought on Korean soil within a short time and it is said that the Japanese arrangements show great perfection of detail. It is possible, however, that Russia will not at present make any aggressive movement, on a large scale, but will remain in a defensive position and compel Japan to take the offensive, in the meantime reinforcing her Manchurian army as rapidly as possible. This is now her indicated policy, but of course events may compel a change. It is little purpose, however, to speculate regarding the possible plans of either belligerent or what the course of the campaign may develop. All we can be sure of is that both are actively preparing for the clash of the armed forces and there is every reason to expect that when it comes it will make a new record in the history of warfare for desperate and determined fighting.

CONGRESS HAS NOT YET DONE WITH PANAMA. It appears that a number of doubtful points must be cleared up before work on the canal can proceed under American auspices. The principal thing is to provide a form of government for the territory over which the United States will have control on the isthmus. For this purpose a bill drafted by Senator Kittredge of South Dakota is now before the senate committee on Inter-oceanic canals and will be taken up for consideration at once. This measure provides for the supervision of the strip, establishing what is in effect a national government, with power vested in a board of governors, consisting of three members. They are to have legislative, executive and judicial functions, including the power to raise revenue. All funds raised by taxes and other measures are to be retained and disbursed by this board for proper purposes.

The measure contains the bill of rights of the United States constitution, with some additional restrictions. No franchise rights, privileges or concessions granted by the board of governors shall be valid until approved by our congress. All laws passed by the board may be annulled or altered at any time by congress. The board is given power to establish and maintain a police force to properly protect the canal route, to acquire and buy lands, to borrow money and issue bonds, etc. It is also to have authority to make laws and regulations for the administration of justice. The treaty with the Republic of Panama establishes in the United States the exercise of sovereignty in the canal strip to the exclusion of Panama, so that there will be no opposition on the part of that republic to the provisions of the Kittredge bill, and there seems to be no good reason why the plan of government which it proposes for the strip should not be carried on in entire harmony with the Panama government, whose independence will not be in the least interfered with.

It is suggested that further legislation may be necessary before the canal payments are made, though it is the opinion of some that the Spooner law is sufficiently elastic to permit the secretary of the treasury to hand over to Panama the \$10,000,000 which that act stipulates shall go to Colombia. On the other hand are some who urge that if this is done complications and embarrassments will surely follow. It certainly seems desirable that any danger of this kind should be avoided, which can easily be done. None of the required legislation is likely to cause extended discussion and will probably be disposed of within the next week or two. There is now no disposition in any quarter to delay the enterprise.

If its experience with the Pacific railroads is any criterion the United States can better afford to build the railroads

HITTING AMERICAN TRADE.

That popular sentiment in Russia is at present unfriendly toward this country is shown in the fact that even in commercial circles there a disposition is being manifested not to deal with Americans. A St. Petersburg dispatch of a few days ago stated that orders for American goods had been countermanded, the only explanation given being that the prospective purchasers did not desire to buy goods from this country under the present circumstances. Our consul general had been appealed to in the case of an American firm which had a large contract for school supplies, the contract having been peremptorily canceled. The consul notified the State department of the public feeling in Russia and the great prospective damage to American trade unless measures were taken to allay the irritation.

It is not easy to see what measures our government can take to reassure the Russian people. One cause of their unfriendly feeling is stated to be the action of the captain of the gunboat Vicksburg at the time of the naval fight at Chemulpo. He declined to join with the commanders of other foreign warships in a protest against the fighting that resulted in the loss of two Russian warships. It is understood he sustained by the Navy department. But it appears that Russia regards the action as unfriendly and there is nothing our government can reasonably be expected to do to remove that feeling. It is also complained that the Vicksburg's captain refused to take aboard his ship sailors from the Russian warships sunk by the Japanese. He states to the department that he was among the first to offer assistance to the Russian sailors and that he sent medical aid as well as boats to the assistance of one of the cruisers. He declined to take them aboard his vessel because they were practically Japanese prisoners and our naval authorities say he was justified in declining to receive them.

Loss of trade with Russia is matter of regret, particularly when it is the result of unfriendly feeling. But we are unable to see what measures our government can take to dispel this feeling. Doubtless as the war progresses Russia will learn that the United States holds an absolutely impartial position toward the belligerents.

FIND THE COUNTY'S FLOATING DEBT.

Figures taken from the county records show that in round numbers \$107,000 of interest bearing warrants are outstanding against Douglas county and \$157,000 of additional claims have been added and await the issue of warrants in payment. The warrant indebtedness is bearing 7 per cent interest and the unliquidated claims will begin to draw interest as soon as the coming tax levy gives the county board authority to draw warrants against its proceeds.

In a word, Douglas county has a floating debt of \$264,000 on which it is paying interest, or about to pay interest, at an unnecessarily excessive rate. By finding this floating debt Douglas county taxpayers can reduce the interest charge from 7 per cent to 3 1/2 per cent. In other words, they can cut the interest in two and the saving on \$200,000 would amount to \$7,000 every year.

Authority to fund the debt, however, can be secured only by a vote of the people either at a general election or at a special election. In view of the fact that the coming election involves national issues and the law requires a two-thirds majority of all ballots cast, it would hardly be safe to submit such a bond proposition next November. A special election, requiring only a majority of the votes on the proposition, would entail an expense of about \$3,500—equal to the saving of interest for one year on the \$100,000 of warrants already issued.

It is said that certain bond brokers, who did a profitable business in Douglas county's last bond issue, have been feeling out the ground for a contract to convert these warrants into funding bonds on a 3 1/2 per cent basis with a small bonus added. The ostensible purpose is to repeat the performance of purchasing Douglas county bonds at private sale and turning them over forthwith to the state school fund on the basis of school fund investments.

There is no good reason why Douglas county should not transact its business with the State Board of Educational Lands and Funds direct without the mediation of a warrant broker to take off coupons from the bonds in transit. The school funds now hold nearly \$1,750,000 of state warrants, which are constantly maturing, as well as county bonds shortly to become payable, so that there should be no difficulty in effecting the sale to the state board on reasonable terms.

The sooner the funding is consummated the sooner the rate of interest will be reduced and the sooner will the saving inure to the benefit of the taxpayers. It behooves the members of the county board to look carefully into this matter at once and if it appears to them as a business proposition to set the machinery in motion at once.

In a printed communication responding to pulp criticism of public officers, City Attorney Wright hits one nail on the head by expressing regret that the desire of these clerical reformers to know what is being done in municipal matters seems to be confined to the occasions on which they are talking to their congregations when an inquiry at the city hall might bring the information answering satisfactorily the questions they propound in a manner calculated to impugn the honesty of the authorities. When Omaha is arraigned as the most vicious, or the most lawless, or the most wicked city in the world, it is simply the outcrop-

THE GOVERNORSHIP.

Stanley Pickett: The World-Herald and Schuyler Quill both favor Governor Mickey's renomination for governor. And after he is renominated, then what? Winslow Tribune: Governor Mickey says he is not losing any sleep over his defeat for renomination, but it's a penny to a pound that he has some horrible nightmares.

Hardy Herald: A lot of republicans in this section would like to see A. E. Cady of St. Paul come out as a candidate for the governorship. Then we would know who our candidate really is.

Beatrice Sun: J. B. Dinamore appears to be slated for the office made vacant by the election of Mickey. Dinamore lives at St. Paul and is a larger man than has occupied the chair of governor for some years.

Syracuse Journal: The worst that can be said of Governor Mickey is that he does not seem to realize the dignity that attaches to the office of governor. There can be no objection raised to his administration of the affairs of his office, unless the railroad feel aggrieved.

Journal Herald: Governor Mickey must have been too straight and honest for some editors by the way they clamor for a new candidate for governor. Mickey has made a good governor and will be renominated and elected. Just because he cannot be "worked" is no reason for opposing him.

Chapelle Register: State Senator W. H. Harrison of Grand Island is the last year so far in the gubernatorial race. Mr. Harrison is a strong man and if Governor Mickey is to be turned down, Harrison would be a very desirable successor, as he has the ability to give the state one of the strongest and best administrations we have ever had.

Madison Chronicle: The Harrison boom for the office of governor is being worked hard, but we do not believe that many of the papers that have been receiving the printed laudations of the candidate are being sent out as using them to any great extent. Governor Mickey has done nothing that would debarr him from being the choice of the party again this fall.

Bancroft Blade: W. H. Harrison of Grand Island has announced his candidacy for the governorship of Nebraska, subject to the action of the republican state convention. Mr. Harrison has received good reports from the leading papers of the state. His record as a state senator shows to be decidedly in his favor as a possible candidate for the next gubernatorial contest.

Emerson Enterprise: In the contest for the republican nomination for governor it seems to be Governor Mickey against J. B. Dinamore of St. Paul and W. H. Harrison of Norfolk are others mentioned. They are all good men, any one of whom would make a winning candidate if selected, but Governor Mickey has given a pretty satisfactory administration and has a strong following.

Atsaworth Star Journal: The only objection that has yet been made to the renomination of Governor Mickey, so far as the Star Journal is informed, is that he is "too religious." It is easily understood how this is a real objection in the minds of some people; and yet there are a good many people who have a respectable portion of the people, too, who do not mind a little thing like that. The opposition ought to bring up something more to the point.

Loup Valley Queen: The fight for the governor's chair is waxing warm. We believe that a man can be found who will fill the place equally as well as Mickey has, and at the same time will not allow his personal "morality" to be the advance agent of all he says or does. We admire morality, but we do not think a good Christian man has to tell the people about his morals every time he opens his mouth. Mr. Mickey has not the following he had two years ago.

Blair Pilot: Before giving Governor Mickey their support for renomination it would be well for republicans thus inclined at this time to investigate into the strength and force of the opposition to him. It would be well for Governor Mickey himself to investigate, and to make an effort to say that there is more opposition in the republican ranks at this time to the renomination of Governor Mickey than has ever existed against any republican for any office in the state.

North Platte Tribune: A number of state papers are including C. F. Iddings of this city in the list of candidates for the gubernatorial nomination, but Mr. Iddings is not a candidate. It is true that his name was mentioned, and many influential republicans in all portions of the state insisted that he become a candidate, but he declined on the grounds that his personal interests demanded his attention. Mr. Iddings would make a strong candidate by reason of his well known ability and wide acquaintance, and if in the future he should consent to be named, it would be well to have the endorsement of a majority of the convention and at the polls.

St. Paul Republican: Viewed in the cold light of political expediency Governor Mickey's renomination would be a grave mistake. Two years ago he squeaked through by a very small margin, while the rest of the ticket was elected by majorities ranging from 11,000 to 15,000. To be exact, Mickey had a plurality of 5,355, while the average plurality of the other seven state candidates was 14,262. Mickey fell short of polling his full party strength by almost 9,000 votes. In this connection the vote in Polk county, Mickey's home for thirty years, is interesting reading. Incredible as it may appear Mickey actually polled a smaller vote in that county than any other man on the state ticket. His opponent, W. H. Harrison, polled far the largest vote of any man on the fusion ticket and Mickey's defeat in Polk county was overwhelming. Again, to be exact, let the Polk county figures speak for themselves:

Chicago Record-Herald: Chicago meat agents have failed to sell goods to Russia. Down with the Muscovite!

Chicago News: Admiral Togo has called five times at Port Arthur and each time the Russians sent out word that they were at home, but not receiving.

Washington Post: In reply to Russia's charge that Japan has fractured the international code of ethics, Japan might ask what became of Russia's promise to evacuate Manchuria on October 5, 1903.

Chicago Record-Herald: The Korean army has been ordered to join the Japs in the field. In order to cause panic among the Korean soldiers it will only be necessary for the Russians to shoot their hats.

Detroit Free Press: Whether the Japanese are victorious and the Russians repulsed, or the Russians are victorious and the Japanese repulsed, depends mainly on whether the news comes by the way of London or Paris.

St. Louis Globe Democrat: Russia's boast that it defeated Japan's fleet by sinking four hulks in the harbor channel at Port Arthur reminds one of the man who held his adversary down by "inserting his nose between his teeth."

Indianapolis News: General Kouropatkin may know his own war times, and his ordinary man is not impressed with the idea that a week's fast is a good thing to put a warrior in training for a stiff fight.

Cincinnati Enquirer: It is reported that the Japanese have been eating American meat. Well, these are war times, and it is not surprising that a discriminating person as Cassius that a change of diet had a great effect on so eminent a statesman and warrior as Julius Caesar.

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON.

Current Events Gleaned from the Army and Navy Register. The commissary general of the army is in receipt of reports from substitute officers who had to do with the recent experiments with hash. The comments are nearly all in approval of the method of cooking and serving this article of army food.

A protest against the employment of the army in the military occupation of Panama has been filed at the White House. The remonstrance has come from a number of senators and representatives, added to which is an expression of opinion in the same line from Admiral John G. Walker, U. S. N., retired, who is to be head of the Canal commission. Admiral Walker told the president that he believed the 60 marines remaining in Panama would be sufficient for all police purposes, and that a larger force, especially one drawn from the army, would not add to internal security or contribute materially to the preservation of law and order. There is a bare possibility that these opinions from such influential sources will eventually prevail to revoke the orders issued to the Third Infantry, news which would be more grateful than otherwise, undoubtedly, to the officers and men of that regiment.

Russia is yet to be heard from regarding the military attaches from this government to accompany its fighting force in the field. The Japanese acquiescence in this matter may have some effect at St. Petersburg, but, of course, precedents of that sort do not always count. The War department has been informed, however, that a decision in the matter may be expected from the Russian government about March 15, by which time it will be known whether or not Captain Carl Reichmann, Seventh Infantry; Lieutenant Colonel James T. Kerr, adjutant general's department and general staff; Captain George C. Gatley, artillery corps, and Captain William V. Judson, corps of engineers, are to go with the Russian army. It is also known that a Japanese soldier in this capacity he will be succeeded in turn as chief of the first division of the general staff by another officer. His detachment from duty in Washington will leave as senior in that division Lieutenant Colonel Crosby P. Miller of the quartermaster's department.

It has been recommended by Quartermaster General Humphrey that the army regulations be amended in a direction which will be appreciated by younger officers. This is the provision of a substitute for the board of survey. The new proposal will greatly reduce what has always seemed an unnecessary and cumbersome amount of paper work in the army. The new provision will bear the same relation to the board of survey that the summary court does to the old garrison court-martial. It is expected that the new order of things will greatly facilitate the work of passing upon shortages and losses.

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Officers and men thrust from severe winter weather into the other extremity of a tropical climate are destined to feel the effect of the transfer and there is certain to be sickness with results quite as disastrous as any of the stages of the typhoid. The medical department is prepared to meet such a demand upon its commissioned personnel and its excellent hospital corps, and it does not propose to be found lacking in the full complement of trained assistants in Panama or anywhere else our troops may be required by the surprises of diplomacy or the expansion of commerce.

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A defender of Russia steps to the front to say that the downtrodden people of the empire are not discontented, but are jovial and pleased with their lot. This is the worst thing that has been said about the Russian character.

Lord Monson, who has been visiting the United States and Canada, and is at present in Morristown, N. J., says he has not been favorably impressed with his visit to this country, and considers Canada far preferable to the United States as a place of residence.

William M. Stewart, the senior United States senator from Nevada, was elected to that body when the state was admitted to the union in 1864. Forty years have elapsed and Mr. Stewart is still senior senator, although he has not held the position continuously.

Many men charge high to be interviewed. Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, professor of music at Cambridge university, said it required a fee of \$100 to get him to "open up." W. G. Grace, the cricketer, demands \$50 for an interview and the rates set by W. S. Gilbert and Sir Robert Ball, the astronomer, are nearly as high.

LINES TO A LAUGH. The Debutante—I think she's just as pretty as she can be. The Wallflower—Most girls are.—Detroit Free Press.

Kicker—Lucky fellow, Jones. Hooker—Yes, he dreamed he spent a day in Japan. What for? The publisher is bringing out his promised illustrated study of the Country—New York Sun.

"Where did he pick up that peculiar drop of the left eye?" "He used to run a soda water fountain."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"How do you feel about the situation?" "I feel," answered the emperor, "like the sole occupant of a badly fastened chicken coop when several people in the vicinity have announced their fixed determination to have potpie for dinner."—Washington Star.

"Young Spenderly has been flying high since the death of his millionaire uncle." "Yes, he has found it smooth sailing since he came into his heirship."—Town Topics.

He—Oh, I wouldn't take you to that show, my dear, the dialogue is too spicy. She—The "What for" music is for me. Usually when I go to the theater with you the only thing spicier about it is your breath after you've been out between the acts.—Philadelphia Press.

Upardoon—Look at the advantage the Russian soldier has in point of state. Atom—You lunkhead, that's where the Japanese soldier has the advantage. It costs only half as much to feed and clothe him.—Chicago Tribune.

Judge—You were present when the assassin took place? Witness—Yes, your honor. Judge—And did you take cognizance of the bartender of the place? Witness—I don't know what they called it, but I took what the rest did.—Yonkers Statesman.

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Many men charge high to be interviewed. Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, professor of music at Cambridge university, said it required a fee of \$100 to get him to "open up." W. G. Grace, the cricketer, demands \$50 for an interview and the rates set by W. S. Gilbert and Sir Robert Ball, the astronomer, are nearly as high.

LINES TO A LAUGH. The Debutante—I think she's just as pretty as she can be. The Wallflower—Most girls are.—Detroit Free Press.

Kicker—Lucky fellow, Jones. Hooker—Yes, he dreamed he spent a day in Japan. What for? The publisher is bringing out his promised illustrated study of the Country—New York Sun.

"Where did he pick up that peculiar drop of the left eye?" "He used to run a soda water fountain."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"How do you feel about the situation?" "I feel," answered the emperor, "like the sole occupant of a badly fastened chicken coop when several people in the vicinity have announced their fixed determination to have potpie for dinner."—Washington Star.

"Young Spenderly has been flying high since the death of his millionaire uncle." "Yes, he has found it smooth sailing since he came into his heirship."—Town Topics.

He—Oh, I wouldn't take you to that show, my dear, the dialogue is too spicy. She—The "What for" music is for me. Usually when I go to the theater with you the only thing spicier about it is your breath after you've been out between the acts.—Philadelphia Press.

Upardoon—Look at the advantage the Russian soldier has in point of state. Atom—You lunkhead, that's where the Japanese soldier has the advantage. It costs only half as much to feed and clothe him.—Chicago Tribune.

Judge—You were present when the assassin took place? Witness—Yes, your honor. Judge—And did you take cognizance of the bartender of the place? Witness—I don't know what they called it, but I took what the rest did.—Yonkers Statesman.

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