

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROBEWATER, EDITOR.

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Net total sales \$67,473. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of March, A. D. 1904.

Perhaps after all "Smoot" is simply a corruption of "Smith" or vice versa.

A tip to Governor Mickey—avoid becoming entangled in the letter-writing habit.

Omaha now has milling-in-transit rates. The next thing is more mills and elevators.

The preliminary gubernatorial campaign is clarifying, but it is not altogether clear.

Building Inspector Withnell must have something to tell or he would not be soaverse to telling it.

To judge by the Tribby story, Herr Strauss is letting no opportunity for free advertising escape.

If we are to have a monument built for Commodore Barry, why not also build one for General Barry?

Officers of the navy who have trouble in getting their titles on straight can sympathize with the woman in a picture hat.

The pope is apparently determined to show that, despite present appearances, there was a time when France had saints.

General Miles might think more of that Iowa boom for the presidency if the boomers had any chance of delivering the electoral votes.

Never too late to help the Auditorium fund along. The Auditorium must be made available for use in time for the Ak-Sar-Ben carnival this fall.

The Dietrich investigating committee is getting its fill of "well defined rumors," but like the other "well defined rumors" the difficulty is to substantiate them.

With a little practice Secretary Cortelyou will soon be counted among the star orators of the cabinet, with demonstrated abilities that no one previously suspected.

Russia permits the impression to go out that it is playing a waiting game. Perhaps it hopes the Japanese will all die of nervous prostration after their strenuous work.

The United States Steel corporation fell down in its net earnings for 1903 as compared with 1902 by \$25,000,000. The collapse in its stock values was not without a moving cause.

The sultan cannot be such a bad fellow, for he will permit Christians to meet in Jerusalem. Imagine what would be said in America if the Moslems should start an active propaganda in this country.

Senators listening to the testimony in the Dietrich inquiry declare their willingness to waive the narration of the postoffice location fight at Hastings. They have all been up against postoffice location fights of their own.

Governor Mickey has been allowed to select the delegation to the state convention from his home county without a dissenting vote. If the governor can put the opposition to him in other counties to sleep as easily he will have a clear field for a walk-away.

Robert E. Lee Herdman declares that he wants Mr. Bryan to head the Nebraska delegation to St. Louis, in order that Bryanism may be represented in the democratic national convention. Mr. Herdman's concession is great and Mr. Bryan should be duly thankful.

The engagements in the Orient so far disclose the fact that the Japanese gunners are far superior in marksmanship to the Russian gunners. What is more, the Japanese have the guns to unlimber, while if they keep up their initial pace the Russians will not have anything soon with which to answer back.

NEW TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAY.

The Canadian project for the construction of a transcontinental railroad having its eastern terminus on the coast of New Brunswick and its western at Port Simpson on the Pacific seems likely to be accomplished. Recently the shareholders of the Grand Trunk railway had a meeting in London, at which they ratified the agreement entered into with the government of Canada last year for the extension of the Grand Trunk line to the Pacific. Under this agreement the government undertakes to build the line from the coast of New Brunswick to Winnipeg, by way of Quebec and lease it to the company for a term of fifty years. The western division, from Winnipeg to the Pacific coast, is to be built by the company itself, but the government will guarantee 75 per cent of the principal of a bond issue, though not to exceed \$13,000 a mile for the prairie section and \$30,000 a mile for the mountain section of about 500 miles. The government is also to give material aid toward the construction of the line in the form of land grants.

The agreement provides that the new railroad shall be operated as a common highway. A common transcontinental highway is a novelty, but it is noted that the principle has been successfully tested in a minor way in the case of the air line division of the Grand Trunk railway from Detroit to Niagara Falls, a distance of 230 miles. That division is jointly operated by the Wabash and the Grand Trunk systems and the results have been satisfactory to both companies. There seems to be no good reason why it cannot be successful on a more extensive scale. It is a very important enterprise, which the promoters expect will result not only in a great development of the Dominion in population and industries, but also in increasing its foreign trade. In recommending the project to the Canadian Parliament the premier urged among other things that it would make Canada independent in its foreign trade of the bonding privilege of the United States and enable it to compete successfully for the future trade of the Orient. The incentive to the enterprise is the development of the commercial power and the commercial independence of the Dominion and its promotion is an expression of strong faith in the future of that country.

How much of a competitor the proposed line would be to the American transcontinental railroads it is not possible to foresee, but the route laid out will be the shortest and most direct from London to Japan and China, an advantage which would doubtless enable the Canadian road to draw trans-Pacific trade from American roads. There is some opposition to the project on the score of the large expenditure involved, but there appears to be every probability of its being carried out.

CHANCE FOR CONSULAR REFORM. It is said that there is favorable promise of legislation at the present session of congress for a reorganization of the consular service. The bill of Representative Adams, which has been favorably reported on by the house committee on foreign affairs, is likely soon to be taken up for consideration and if so it is believed it can be passed in the house, though there is not so much confidence that it would be adopted by the senate. It is a conservative measure, seeking to improve the consular service by a reorganization and classification of the salaries of the consulates, in order that a more equitable system of pay may prevail. Consuls are to be appointed by the president on the recommendation of members of congress, as usual, and they will not go in for life.

The measure does not go far enough to satisfy those who would free the consular service from all political influence and place it under the merit system, but so far as it does go it would undoubtedly effect improvement and it is perhaps expedient to move gradually toward the attainment of a complete reform. At all events it is an obvious fact that a majority of members of congress are not now ready to relinquish the consular patronage, comparatively small though it is. This remnant they show a disposition to tenaciously cling to and the Adams bill does not propose to deprive them of it, a fact which encourages hope of its adoption. Meanwhile there are no complaints being heard, it is gratifying to note, in regard to the consular service. It is admittedly efficient and unquestionably is doing good work in promoting American trade. The serious question is as to how long it would continue efficient and useful in the event of a change in the political administration of the government, making the service again the prey of politicians.

MAKING RAILROADS PAY THEIR SHARE. Under the new revenue law county assessors will be required to appraise all real and personal property at its true value and assess the same at one-fifth. This is by no means an innovation, so far as the practice is concerned, but simply an effort to secure uniformity in assessments and make property of every description to contribute its just share toward the maintenance of government.

Under the old revenue law assessors were required to return all property at its true value, but by common consent and general depravity assessors and owners of taxable property did not scruple to make sworn returns at any value from 5 to 50 per cent of the actual values. This profligate system of valuation was taken advantage of by the railroads and acquiesced in by state boards of equalization for the benefit of these corporations.

While the average assessments in the state ranged from one-fifth to one-tenth of the actual value of property, the property of the railroads was assessed at one-thirtieth of its market value for state and county purposes and at less than 3 per cent of its actual value in such cities as Omaha and Lincoln.

The spontaneous appearance of ex-Congressman Andrews at the state capital would indicate that another Richmond is preparing to enter the senatorial battleground. Mr. Andrews is still able to qualify as a resident of the South Platte.

Several eminent educators in these parts and a great many from other parts appear to be ambitious to fill the Pearce brougous, but the school board should be in no hurry. There is no danger that the schools will deteriorate or suffer in any way even if the place remain vacant from now until September.

Congressman Hitchcock has pledged himself in favor of an appropriation to build a couple of monuments to Hibernian naval heroes, but he still stands firm in opposition to building battle-ships. How he would fabricate naval heroes without battleships has not been explained.

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STATE PRESS COMMENT.

Fremont Herald: With the coming of spring the Herald will cheerfully accept power canals and hay markets on subscription.

Pender Times: Superintendent of Schools Pearce of Omaha has been elected to a like position in Milwaukee. This is a case of Milwaukee's loss and Omaha's gain.

Columbus Times: Most of the names one sees in the war news of the day have a familiar look. In applicants for liquor license in the city of Omaha.

North Nebraska Eagle: A country hog that goes to the large packing houses at 4 cents a pound and comes back breakfast bacon at 22 cents a pound, is not the only hog in the transaction.

Grand Island Independent: Mr. Summers is still hearing from The Bee occasionally. And the fact that he is still hearing will be an important engagement, on land, pretty quick. The Bee has been maneuvering for some time to cut off the enemy's supply and there are indications of the ultimate success of its plan.

Valley Enterprise: If the commissioners in the various counties along the Platte river could be on their guard and have more than dynamite on hand as soon as the ice began to break, less bridges would be lost. Men were dynamiting ice at the railroad bridge two days before it was started at the new wagon bridge, thus the cause of its damage. The old adage is still true, "a stitch in time saves nine."

Perplexities of Youth. Detroit Free Press. Between the depiction of married bliss by the Mormon leaders at Washington and the declaration of a Detroit, eight times married, that a man is better off single, the average youth finds himself in doubt as to what course to pursue.

Where Japan Got the Edge. Cincinnati Enquirer. The Russians are reported to be displeased with the tone of the United States. Don't mind a little thing like that. Probably some of the editors have been chums of Japanese students at college. Russia should send some of her boys over here to be educated. They may be real nice fellows.

New York Not the Battleground. Philadelphia Press. New York democrats are taking themselves seriously as a matter of habit. New York was once decisive of a presidential election. It is so no longer. The solid south and New York, and even New York, can carry the country. The west and central west have grown. Ohio, Indiana or Illinois must be added to New York and the two small states which have often gone with it before democratic success is possible. New York alone is not enough. It has lost the place it once held. A candidate who suits New York and can carry New York is not enough, unless he can also detach at least one of the great central states. Bryan, Bryanism and populism are strong enough in Ohio, Indiana or Illinois to make it certain that a candidate opposed by Bryan can carry no one of them for the democratic party.

DO YOU HEAR THE GROANS? Early Effect of the Prospect of White Hearst's Nomination. Springfield (Mass.) Republican (ind.). Democrats of standing and sanity are groaning at the prospect of the nomination of a happening as Hearst's nomination, as well they may, for the matter much concerns them. They are not doing well to "lie down" and permit the paid Hearst propaganda to push its way over the country. Such a campaign as this young man is pushing is costing a pile of money, but he has the ample bags from which to draw it. The effort everywhere is to hire men who are wanted to political work of that sort, and to enlist them in a "still hunt." Thus, two of these men have invaded Springfield, prepared to work in the dark.

It is not necessary to say anything, when laughing long and loud over it and showing it to his friends. They all said it was good—very good. Then Mr. Bennett wrote a cablegram to the big chief of Herald Square, telling him to give the reporter who wrote the story a \$50 bonus. This would be a fine thing to do in any newspaper office in New York except the Herald. Bennett is always doing these things. Mr. Hearst or Mr. Pulitzer do not throw fits any more, but a good man in the newspaper line is always sure of a steady job men are going up.

Most of the department stores in New York now have in their regular employ a number of what are known as "shopppers." The woman engaged for this work must dress well, be of distinguished appearance and must be thoroughly familiar with the goods in the store. Her work is to go about the store to store and find out the prices of rivals. She must keep her eyes alert for new wrinkles practiced to allure trade. If sales are in progress she must inform her employer as to how they are "going." For convenience must be elastic enough to stretch a plain line into "business diplomacy" and she must be careful, above all, not to be spotted as a "shopper." This would end her usefulness at once. Men are very rarely employed as shoppers.

Returning from a visit to the land of his birth, to the land where he has spent forty-two years of his life, though without becoming an American citizen, James Devaney, an aged Irishman, is held at Ellis Island, a veritable "man without a country."

When Devaney originally came to this country he made application to become a naturalized citizen, but later he was so busy with other matters that he neglected to ask for his full citizenship papers.

The other day when he returned from a brief trip to Ireland, the immigration officials were compelled to send him admission because he may become a public charge.

He is likely to be sent back to Ireland, and it is quite as likely that he will not be permitted to land there, for his consular residence here has led him to forfeit his Irish citizenship.

Any Old Thing Goes. Louisville Courier-Journal. The Courier-Journal has no purely individual likes or dislikes to overcome. If it had the power directly to place a man in the White House it would place Mr. Roosevelt because it is tired of the muck-rump business and of his leadership and wants at the head of affairs a democrat of tried, trained and proved ability. It has freed its mind about Mr. Cleveland, Mr. Bryan and Mr. Hearst. It is its purpose to support the nominee. Now let the battle go on!

Value of Little Things. Engineering Review. The greatness of little things finds frequent illustration in railroad operation. A case has just been discovered where nine years ago an error of 5 cents was made in the computation of rate-sheet between two points. It was found upon investigation that as a result of this error the two railroads operating between the two points have lost over \$1,000 during that time.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Hipples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. Appendicitis is the most fashionable epidemic raging in New York at present. Pneumonia is more conspicuous, but the doctors render it disagreeable and therefore undesirable. No such feeling attaches to the appendix, hence the doctors are cutting much cuticle, also the cake. Operations have become so common that people are not nearly so shocked as they used to be when told that friends are in the hospital undergoing the surgeon's knife. Physicians say that high living is responsible for the prevalence of the disease in the metropolis, and advise people not to eat rich food all the time.

Except for half-hour intervals the sun has not shone upon New York for eight days. During that period a cold, drizzling rain has fallen from all directions. Pneumonia is raging and the person without a cold or a wheeze of some kind is an exception. The worst sufferers have been the 15,000 or more victims of drugs. Many morning sicknesses driven to suicide and more than a dozen suicides were first described as murders. Drug victims are the first to feel the effect of cold, wet spells. The tendency is usually toward suicide or an overindulgence, which is equivalent to suicide. Bellevue is crowded with these unhappy creatures and the little procedure alone toward the deadhouse over the river have been very numerous of late.

In saving his aged grandmother from death by a Third Avenue car, 8-year-old Charles Ryan of 383 East One Hundred and Seventeenth street was struck by the car and severely hurt about the head. He was taken to the Harlem hospital, where his wounds were treated. The doctor told him he had better spend the night at the hospital.

"Not much," said the boy. "Do you think I am going to let grandma go home alone? Not for me. I go with her," and he marched out holding his grandmother's arm.

The grandmother was Mrs. Mary Ryan, 75 years old. The boy insisted on going out with her on an errand because it was too dark for her to go alone. Ryan and his grandmother were crossing on the "far side" of the street when the car struck at high speed. Ryan had hold of his grandmother's arm and pulled and pushed her out of danger.

While he was doing that the car struck him and rolled him over and over. He was senseless for a few minutes, but the first thing he said when he revived was: "Where's grandma?"

"I'm here safe through you," she replied. "And sure it's a fine broth of a boy you are."

Walking was never so fashionable in the metropolis as it has been this winter. Men and women who heretofore would never have thought of walking except where and when they had to ignore street cars and leave their horses and carriages in stables, hurry along Fifth Avenue, Broadway or through the parks at a pace which looks as though they meant business.

It is not walking, but others get to get fat and still others to create a good circulation—so they say. The truth is, they walk because it's the fad. But, fad or no fad, it has its advantages.

"About a month ago," says a letter to the Pittsburgh Dispatch, "a young lad invaded the gallery of an uptown theater and during the performance was in progress he opened fire on the actors with a beam shooter. One in five of the pellets discharged hit the mark and some of them smashed the incandescent bulbs. The result was that something like a panic was precipitated. A bright young man employed on the staff of the Herald happened to be in the audience and he wrote an even column on the incident. Some people thought it was a waste of space, but James Gordon Bennett, the boss of the job, who is a chronic European, happened to see it in the paper. He thought the lad was too good to lose. He laughed long and loud over it and showed it to his friends. They all said it was good—very good. Then Mr. Bennett wrote a cablegram to the big chief of Herald Square, telling him to give the reporter who wrote the story a \$50 bonus. This would be a fine thing to do in any newspaper office in New York except the Herald. Bennett is always doing these things. Mr. Hearst or Mr. Pulitzer do not throw fits any more, but a good man in the newspaper line is always sure of a steady job men are going up."

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"Woman is naturally of a clinging nature," observed he. "Yes, but she isn't to be compared with a man when it comes to holding on to a \$5 bill."—New Yorker.

Washington was asked why he had cut down the cherry tree. "Because," he replied, "Andrew Jackson is going to monopolize the pickery. It is thus, I think, precluded, forewarned, did he lay out the ground of his career."—Judge.

HYMN BEFORE ACTION. The earth is full of anger. The seas are dark with wrath; The mountains are in flames; Go up against our path! Ere yet we loose the lightning— Ere yet we draw the blade, Jehovah of the Thunders, Lord God of battles, aid!

High lust and froward bearing, Proud heart, rebellious brow— Dear ear and soul uncaring, We seek Thy mercy now! The slinger of the lightning— Thee, the foe that passed Thee by, Our times are known before thee— Lord, grant us strength to die!

For those who kneel beside us, Let others not think own, Who lack the lights that guide us, Lord, let their faith be strong; If wrong we did to call them, By honor bound they came; Let not our sin beget them, But deal to us the blame.

From panic, pride and terror, Revenge that knows no rein— Light hearts and lawless error, Protect us, O our God, from all; Cloak Thou our unfeeling, Mar our sin's enticing breath, In silence unweaving, To taste Thy lesser death!

Ab, Mary, plead with sorrow, Remember, reach and save; The soul that comes tomorrow, Before the God that gave! Since each was born to grieve, Let us be true to thee, True comrade and true foe, Madonna, Intercede!

E'en now their vanguard gather, E'en now their ranks are true; As Thou didst help our fathers, Help Thou our best today! Forbid of sins and wonders, In life, in death made clear— Jehovah, Thy redeemed, Lord God of battles, rear!

INDIGNATION OF THE TRULY GOOD.

Philadelphia Ledger (ind.): The Bristow report does not accuse any of the congressmen implicated of actual fraud, but rather of irregularity, which is a word that in these cases seems to cover a multitude of sins.

Chicago Tribune (rep.): There are representatives who fear that the report will interfere with their prospects for re-election and re-election. As they cannot go before their constituents and deny the truth of its statements they feel obliged to abuse its author or to defend the really indefensible practices it sets forth, or to remain silent. Those who have said nothing have been shrewd.

New York World (dem.): Indignant virtue is rampant in Washington. The congressmen whose characters have been speckled by the Bristow report were throwing tomatoes yesterday and they were particularly whom they hit. There is no more talk about hushing up the investigation—it will go on now until everybody has been either cleared or damned. All of which will be entirely satisfactory to the public.

Kansas City Star (ind.): The country is not in a mood to stand an attack upon the men who have driven out the hoodlums. The very anger of congressmen under the recent exposures is accepted by the people as a semi-confession of guilt. The galled jade always winces. If representatives are guiltless, why this explosion? Bristow, the nation, the embodiment of official integrity. If the squealing congressmen know what is good for them they will let him alone.

Chicago Inter Ocean (rep.): Indignation exhibited by congressmen who visited the Postoffice department regarding their inclusion in the Bristow report is much less than by the subordinate officials in Washington. One of these gentlemen remarked that the situation recalled an incident in which a spoiled child and a bumble-bee played the principal parts. "The congressmen who are now howling," said an old politician, "were clamoring for the publication of the records of the department regarding increase of allowances and rentals made by Beavers upon their solatiation. Here is where the bumble-bee comes in. The spoiled child had set up a wild howl, and the mother called to the nurse to learn the cause of the trouble. 'Willie wants a bee,' replied the nurse. Then give it to him instantly," commanded the mother. Presently there came from the nursery a wild wail, and the mother shouted, 'Why don't you give Willie the bee?' 'I did,' said the nurse."

A CABLE NOT CONTRABAND. Russia's Objection to the Line from Guam to Japan. Philadelphia Press.

The dispatch recently sent from St. Petersburg to the effect that Russia would protest against the United States in permitting a cable to be laid from Japan to Guam, there to connect with the line running to this country, may have had no good foundation, and yet it has attracted wide attention. The only ground of protest would be that such a line violated the neutrality law. But it is not easy to see how a protest could be based on that ground.

Russia recently issued a proclamation defining what is contraband of war, and while it is unprecedentedly long and includes articles concerning which differences may arise, there is nothing said about a cable. The proclamation for the most part includes only articles that could be used in actual hostilities. A cable that would connect with the army in the field, or be brought into active use for war purposes in other ways, might be objectionable. But a cable to Guam would be in the direction opposite to where the war is carried on, and would be far removed from hostilities. It would be controlled by civil authorities and merely be the means of communication between far distant countries. Its primary object would be for commerce. Orders for military goods might be sent over the cable the same as they are sent by mail, but that would not make the cable contraband.

No permission has been granted by the United States government for the landing of this cable, and a desire to be accommodating to Russia may delay action, though there is no reason apparent why the United States should deprive itself of the advantage of the cable. Russia has little to gain to discover faults in the way violation of neutrality that do not exist. The complaints against the commander of the Vicksburg at Chemulpo were found without good foundation, and so with other matters. The United States will rigidly uphold its position as a neutral, but the sympathies of the people cannot be controlled. As a rule the war or Japan because it promises the "open door."

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W. H. Years, the Irish poet, was asked the usual question as to what impressed him most in America. "The fact that I see here," he replied. "We have none at home."—New York Times.

"Woman is naturally of a clinging nature," observed he. "Yes, but she isn't to be compared with a man when it comes to holding on to a \$5 bill."—New Yorker.

Washington was asked why he had cut down the cherry tree. "Because," he replied, "Andrew Jackson is going to monopolize the pickery. It is thus, I think, precluded, forewarned, did he lay out the ground of his career."—Judge.

HYMN BEFORE ACTION. The earth is full of anger. The seas are dark with wrath; The mountains are in flames; Go up against our path! Ere yet we loose the lightning— Ere yet we draw the blade, Jehovah of the Thunders, Lord God of battles, aid!

High lust and froward bearing, Proud heart, rebellious brow— Dear ear and soul uncaring, We seek Thy mercy now! The slinger of the lightning— Thee, the foe that passed Thee by, Our times