

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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THE PEOPLE AND THE RAILROADS.

Every railroad corporation employs high-salaried lawyers and well-paid tax agents to exert all their eloquence and influence upon city, county and state boards of assessment to keep down the railroad taxes. It is perfectly natural that the State Board of Railroad Assessment should be beset by railroad tax agents, lawyers and lobbyists on the very first day of its session, and it was not at all surprising that these men, enforced by the heavy guns of the law departments should be on hand on the closing day with misleading arguments and confusing figures. That is what these men are paid for and they would not be earning their salaries had they neglected to avail themselves of the opportunity offered.

What Pools Partyism Makes.

Colorado's so-called democratic convention endorsed the Kansas City platform, named the dixie murders at Springfield on the republican legislature for failure to pass an eight-hour law and commended Bryan as the leader of the democratic party. No arrests.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

Morocco is a little larger than the German empire or France. Its southern boundary, on the Sahara desert, is undefined. The best authorities place the area at about 750,000 square miles. That is more than five times the size of Ohio. The population is unknown. It is probably not less than 4,000,000. Some estimates run as high as 6,000,000. It is hardly so large as that, but it may reach 6,000,000 or 7,000,000. That means a density of population about equal to the average for Minnesota or Arkansas.

THE SITUATION IN THE WEST.

Things are shaping themselves among the republicans in the middle west in a way that will be very demoralizing to the republican minority. The republican national committee next week will have an easy task in the settlement of the Wisconsin wrangle. It is now confidently said. Both sides in the feud have submitted their statements to the committee, and a basis of accommodation will be reasonably certain in a national convention. Both sides are anxious for the settlement as a representation in the national convention is acceptable to both sides, to one side or to neither side, there is not the faintest possibility for harm to the Roosevelt ticket. Each faction wants Roosevelt. They are anxious to get on with the settlement of the national ticket, whatever sort of an adjustment is made by the national committee or the national convention. Each side has made it plain that it will abide by the action of the convention, whatever that chances to be, although the matter is going to the national courts, which will have the final word in the settlement.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Circulation figures. Includes entries for 1904 and 1903.

THE OREGON LESSON.

Signs of an anti-republican uprising are not particularly manifest in the Oregon returns, remarks the Springfield Republican. Certainly the democrats will not find any comfort or encouragement in the result of the election in that state. The republican majority is somewhat larger than had been expected and very conclusively shows that the democratic attacks in congress upon the national administration have had no unfavorable effect upon republicanism in that section of the country. Popular sentiment in Oregon may be accepted as representative of most of the Pacific coast and in that view it seems quite safe to count that section as secure for the candidates of the Chicago convention. National questions entered into the Oregon campaign and were very thoroughly discussed. President Roosevelt and republican policies have been endorsed by the largest majority ever given in that state, about 20,000. It gave McKinley 2,100 plurality in 1896 and 13,000 in 1900.

THE COLORADO SITUATION.

The latest report from the scene of disturbance in Colorado states that there is less excitement and that work is being resumed in nonunion mines. The deplorable events of the last few days in the mining region have commanded national attention and there will be a very general feeling of gratification at the promise that there may not be a repetition of the violence that marked the first two days of the present week. While the responsibility for this lawlessness has not been fixed and possibly will never be, it is universally deplored and condemned and there is a quite general sentiment that had a wise and judicious course been pursued it might have been prevented.

BRIBERY IN BUSINESS.

Can Certain Common Evils Be Eradicated by Statute? Springfield (Mass.) Republican. One of the measures passed by the present Massachusetts legislature is attracting attention outside of the state. It is the one which provides that: "Whoever gives, offers or promises to an agent, employee or servant any gift or gratuity, whatever with intent to influence the action of his principal, or to induce an employee or servant to accept or to refuse a gift or gratuity or promise, under an agreement or with the understanding that he shall act in any particular manner in relation to his employer's business, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, or imprisonment for not longer than one year."

Increasing Friendliness.

The British "friendly mission" to Tibet is now getting reinforcements—merely to make it more friendly of course.

Just now, in the hands of General Bell, the bull-pen is mightier than the sword.

Governor Herrick of Ohio should send without delay his recipe for stopping mining troubles to Governor Peabody of Colorado.

It will be well to remember that court decisions are not for a particular case, but for all cases that may arise under similar circumstances.

It is to be hoped the Wisconsin club formed in Omaha has no intention of pointing with pride to the present political situation in that state.

The man who carried the first United States mail from the Missouri river to Santa Fe died yesterday in Kansas City. The mighty west is very young.

Russians who are fortifying St. Petersburg and the approaches of the Neva do not seem to have much faith in the tales of the strength of Fort Arthur.

Fifty years hence they will say, "There were giants in those days," just as we say today that the pioneers of 1854 loomed up above the present generation.

Just to keep in the limelight Kansas announces the coming of another flood. The high water habit seems to have become chronic in the prohibition commonwealth.

While we are celebrating fifty years of Nebraska's progress by looking backward, we must not let the habit become so fixed as to prevent us from looking forward.

As Colorado has begun to count the cost of the present reign of terror in the mining districts, which is placed at not less than \$22,000,000, it may be hoped that the end is in sight.

Japanese merchants who have followed the armies to the mainland say they must leave, as the Chinese understand them—another complaint of cheap Chinese labor which cannot be gained.

The supreme court refuses to relieve the insurance companies from their obligation to pay city taxes in Omaha, but perhaps some more accommodating district court can be found to come to their rescue.

Some of our territorial pioneers seem to be only just waking up to a realization of the honorable distinction that was thrust upon them by their residence in Nebraska before the attainment of statehood.

The thing for the school board to do is to restore the list governing the teachers' permanent list as originally adopted—namely, safeguarding tried teachers from dismissal except for cause and after hearing.

King Edward surrenders the Cape May cup which he won while Prince of Wales, saying his cutter is too antiquated to make a defense. Evidently the king is not as eager for advertising as his friend, the Irish baronet who sells tea.

Americans have been so often, justly or unjustly, accused of being filibusters and agitators that it is gratifying to hear that it was through the active efforts of American citizens that the last revolution in San Domingo was brought to an end.

Another million-dollar telephone company has filed articles of incorporation in the secretary of state's office to do business when \$25,000 of capital stock is paid up. The rest is doubtless reserved to represent franchise values when such privileges shall have been obtained. Yet we are told that there is no such quality as value attaching to a franchise.

In short, President Roosevelt has fear-

lessly asserted his convictions in dealing with all public questions and the people believe in him. Even those who have been disposed to criticize him because their private interests may have been affected by the policy of the administration will come to a sober second thought before November. Thoughtful and unprejudiced men are not influenced by the cry that Theodore Roosevelt is "unsafe." They recognize the fact that the action taken in the Northern Securities merger contributed to the elimination of wind and water from over-exploited securities in many lines and settled business on a healthier basis, while every other move against combinations has been in the interest of the legitimate and conservative business of the country. The policy pursued has unquestionably been of incalculable benefit to the whole country.

There can be no doubt that President Roosevelt will steadily grow in strength before the people from the day of his nomination at Chicago until the votes are cast on November 8.

As a matter of fact, the invitation extended to all the people interested in railway taxation to appear before the board in a three hours' wordy debate with tax agents and railroad lawyers was manifestly perfunctory and not calculated to subvert any good purpose. The taxpaying citizens who appeared for the people in the early part of the session were bombarded by the swarm of tax agents with all sorts of questions, whop by rights the board alone should have participated in the discussion. For four weeks the railroad tax agents and lawyers have been in attendance on the board from morning till night, day in and day out. It is an absurd proposition to expect people to come and argue with these hired tax fighters for two or three hours merely for the sake of placing the board in position to say that everybody has had a chance to be heard. A two hours' joint debate on railroad taxation would have been a farce. There was no necessity for further argument on one side or the other.

The railroad tax agents and lawyers surely have had their hearing and The Bee has supplied ample information for the board to contradict their pretensions, misleading figures, illogical reasoning and preposterous claims. Now that the argument is closed it is to be hoped that the men elected by the people will do justice by the people without fear or favor. Nobody asks the board to overreach itself and assess the railroads for more than the actual value of the tangible property and franchises. Nobody in Nebraska wants to oppress railroads or injure railroads. All that the people ask is that the railroads shall bear their just proportion of the cost of government.

The fact that the railroads represent one-fifth of the wealth of Nebraska should not entitle them to special consideration any more than if they represented only one-one-hundredth or one-one-thousandth part of the wealth of the state. The railroads of Nebraska take out of this state more than \$40,000,000 a year for freight and passenger charges and fully \$15,000,000 of this amount is distributed in the shape of dividends to their stockholders. It will not be imposing any great hardship and surely do no injustice to these stockholders if a small fraction of the dividends is demanded for the maintenance of state, county and municipal governments.

PEOPLE AND PRESIDENT.

One of the newspapers of the country whose independent position in regard to political parties gives special weight to its opinions is the Philadelphia Public Ledger. In a recent issue that paper said of Theodore Roosevelt that he appeals to the imagination of his countrymen. "They know him to be honest, many, courageous, not afraid to speak the truth as he knows it, nor to do what is right as he sees it. He has proved his patriotic zeal, his ability, in peace and war. He was a brave soldier; he was and is a good citizen, an upright public servant. Somewhat impulsive, impatient of control, it is true, but what has he done as president of the United States for the doing of which the country should not sustain him?"

This question the opponents of the president will find difficulty in answering. They charge him with exceeding his constitutional authority, but they utterly fail to sustain the charge. They allege that he has attempted to dictate and control legislation, but they do not support this with any evidence, or show that he has gone beyond his constitutional right and duty to make recommendations to congress regarding legislation. He earnestly urged the ratification of the treaty with Cuba and called a special session of congress for that purpose because he believed the honor and good faith of the United States required that this be done. There was no dictation to congress. The course pursued in the Panama matter was prompted by a high sense of national interest and is approved by a great majority of the American people. Had the new republic in the isthmus not been recognized can there be any doubt that we should still be dickering with the greedy and unscrupulous politicians of Colombia? As it is our government has secured all the concessions desired and is ready to proceed with the work of canal construction. The people cannot be induced to condemn the president for this. The course of the administration in regard to the enforcement of the anti-trust law has been judicious and for the most part successful.

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It has been explained that the bill aims at the practice of provision supply houses in giving gratuities to the purchasing agents of hotels, etc., but it is obviously broad enough to cover the whole field of trade, and no one needs to be told that this field today is crowded with such practices.

For example, let the purchasing representative of a hotel mercantile firm go to New York for a supply of a certain class of goods. He has but to put himself in touch with the salesman of any supply house to find himself the object of the most flattering attentions. Cigars, wine, dinners, amusements, slumming or any other such gratification likely to prove agreeable are forced upon him with such generous assiduity that he has little time, even though an inclination has been preserved, to seek the terms of competing houses. Thus is the purchasing agent "nailed," and not only his present order made secure but his future patronage enlisted. It seems to be the policy of the salesman of many of these supply establishments are authorized to draw liberally upon the concern for the cost of employing such influences to obtain orders, and it must be therefore, that houses which refuse to adopt such methods are placed at a disadvantage in the competition for business.

It is all most objectionable and most demoralizing, being nothing more than a resort to petty bribery for the winning over of trade. Sellers cannot long indulge in such practices without finally disposing both of their goods and of their souls, and so competition in trade is reduced from a legitimate to an illegitimate basis, where all sorts of trickery and dishonesties must be resorted to to make good the losses from these parasitical depredations.

But what can be done to stop the abuse is not clear. We should suppose at first sight that the measure adopted by the Massachusetts legislature would not be the paper who said that scarcity of fools never did a community any harm was wrong; it is the scarcity of fools that has caused the discharge of 7,500 clerks from the Wall street brokers' office.

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Illinois, too, turns out to be as hostile to democratic chances as it was four years ago. The nomination of Deneen for governor has not left any scars on the party. All factions have accepted the situation. It is safe to say that all of the recent aspirants for the candidacy, including Governor Yates, will be on the stump for the state as well as the national ticket in the campaign. Nobody hears of any disturbance in Ohio any longer. The Foraker and the anti-Foraker elements of the party have settled their differences. Both sides will be active in the canvass in booming the presidential and the state nominees. A sufficient margin is in Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio to allow the republicans to win, even if they should lose many of the votes of New York. Nobody, however, believes that the republicans in any of those states will lose any votes. The party is harmonious and enthusiastic. The only aggressiveness that is shown is directed against the common enemy. This year is as bad for the democracy in the middle west as 1896 and 1900 were. No republican leader now, whatever his recent factional affiliations may have been, looks for a smaller majority in Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio than 1900 furnished.

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Can Certain Common Evils Be Eradicated by Statute? Springfield (Mass.) Republican. One of the measures passed by the present Massachusetts legislature is attracting attention outside of the state. It is the one which provides that: "Whoever gives, offers or promises to an agent, employee or servant any gift or gratuity, whatever with intent to influence the action of his principal, or to induce an employee or servant to accept or to refuse a gift or gratuity or promise, under an agreement or with the understanding that he shall act in any particular manner in relation to his employer's business, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, or imprisonment for not longer than one year."

It has been explained that the bill aims at the practice of provision supply houses in giving gratuities to the purchasing agents of hotels, etc., but it is obviously broad enough to cover the whole field of trade, and no one needs to be told that this field today is crowded with such practices.

For example, let the purchasing representative of a hotel mercantile firm go to New York for a supply of a certain class of goods. He has but to put himself in touch with the salesman of any supply house to find himself the object of the most flattering attentions. Cigars, wine, dinners, amusements, slumming or any other such gratification likely to prove agreeable are forced upon him with such generous assiduity that he has little time, even though an inclination has been preserved, to seek the terms of competing houses. Thus is the purchasing agent "nailed," and not only his present order made secure but his future patronage enlisted. It seems to be the policy of the salesman of many of these supply establishments are authorized to draw liberally upon the concern for the cost of employing such influences to obtain orders, and it must be therefore, that houses which refuse to adopt such methods are placed at a disadvantage in the competition for business.

It is all most objectionable and most demoralizing, being nothing more than a resort to petty bribery for the winning over of trade. Sellers cannot long indulge in such practices without finally disposing both of their goods and of their souls, and so competition in trade is reduced from a legitimate to an illegitimate basis, where all sorts of trickery and dishonesties must be resorted to to make good the losses from these parasitical depredations.

But what can be done to stop the abuse is not clear. We should suppose at first sight that the measure adopted by the Massachusetts legislature would not be the paper who said that scarcity of fools never did a community any harm was wrong; it is the scarcity of fools that has caused the discharge of 7,500 clerks from the Wall street brokers' office.

Gain Offsets the Cost. New York Tribune. No doubt the predictions so freely made public in Europe, Asia, America and Africa, that the capture of Fort Arthur by assault would cause an enormous loss of life are well justified. But what do the Japanese care? The subjects of the mikado count it

As a gain to be shot down in the service of their ruler and their country.

What Pools Partyism Makes. Chicago Chronicle. Colorado's so-called democratic convention endorsed the Kansas City platform, named the dixie murders at Springfield on the republican legislature for failure to pass an eight-hour law and commended Bryan as the leader of the democratic party. No arrests.

Other Lands Than Ours. Morocco is a little larger than the German empire or France. Its southern boundary, on the Sahara desert, is undefined. The best authorities place the area at about 750,000 square miles. That is more than five times the size of Ohio. The population is unknown. It is probably not less than 4,000,000. Some estimates run as high as