

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. I, George E. Tschuck, secretary of the Publishing Company, being duly sworn, depose that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of July, 1904, was as follows: Daily Bee, 29,750; Sunday Bee, 11,170; Evening Bee, 28,750; Total, 69,670. Less unsold and returned copies, 10,198. Net total sales, 59,472. Daily average, 200,582.

When that trolley line is built to Fort Crook it will not be a far step to extend it to Plattsmouth. Nebraska's member of the democratic notification committee comes back with information that Judge Parker had a compliment for Mr. Bryan. That is more than Mr. Bryan has had for Judge Parker.

Kourpatkin is not doing much fighting these days, but his troops are getting plenty of outdoor exercise. The men ought to come back from the war looking healthy and strong after their long run.

Although its new high school building has not yet been occupied, the South Omaha school board is already figuring upon room for an annex. South Omaha evidently believes in expansion if not in annexation.

Whether or not both sides would like to see an end to the beef strike in Chicago, the public is tired of both the price and the favor of some of the beef which has found its way into market since the first week of the strike.

The call for a republican judicial primary in this district as posted on telegraph poles is addressed "To Whom It May Concern." Hilbert calls for republican primaries have been addressed "To Republican Voters."

The czar of Russia, after much difficulty, has at last found General Glazoff willing to accept the office of minister of public instruction. Office holding in Russia has become so hazardous that available candidates evidently prefer to go to war.

Henry G. Davis, the vice presidential candidate on the democratic ticket, decided to receive the official notification of his nomination in White Sulphur Springs. The result of the election next November will probably elicit from him "blue, sulphurous fumes."

Lincoln business men are moving vigorously against the burden imposed by the increased coal rate. This is one place where Lincoln and Omaha should be able to work together as the new coal toll affects the one the same as the other. Get together and the railroad autocrat may be induced to come down.

Tom Blackburn has not yet found fault with the judicial committee for constituting itself a canvassing board in the judicial primary, or with the congressional committee for making its chairman the final arbiter of the returns on preferential vote. The only committee that can err in his eyes is the county committee.

Republicans ought to be able to elect their entire legislative ticket in Douglas county this year, and they can do so if their ticket is made up exclusively of men who can command public confidence. The people, however, cannot be expected to put confidence a second time in men who have betrayed their confidence once.

South Omaha strikers started out with the evident intention of making a record for orderly conduct, but they are in danger of losing the prestige they gained if they do not keep the unruly element in better discipline. Nothing hurts trades unionism as a whole and the cause of strikers in particular, so much as lawlessness and violence.

Eastern society has a new way to keep its wealth before the public gaze. This is the jewel robbery fad, in which the owner's name is kept in the background until curiosity is thoroughly whetted, when the gems are suddenly found in the safe, the coffin or some other convenient place. The New York detectives are making a few extra pennies during the fall crozier months by working on several such cases.

WHERE THE FIGHT WILL BE MADE.

The decision of the democratic national committee not to have a western headquarters determines the fact that the efforts of the party managers will be centered in the east and most of the money expended in the campaign will be in that section. The fight will rage more furiously in New York than elsewhere, for the democrats realize that their cause is hopeless without that state. Even with its threat in only partially won, for in addition to the south they have got to carry several commonwealths like New Jersey, Connecticut, West Virginia, Illinois, to reach the goal of their ambition. The south gives them 151 electoral votes of which they are sure. With Maryland and West Virginia, which they are confidently counting on, they will have 167. They have got to win 230 to triumph. Where are those votes to come from?

There is as yet no evidence of democratic interest or enthusiasm anywhere and the claims put forth by some of the managers are of no moment and fail to make any impression upon the masses of the party. The speech of Judge Parker accepting the nomination, if it has not fallen quite flat, certainly has not proved an inspiration to the party. Its judicial calm and colorless conservatism are a disappointment to many of his party, who had expected a stirring appeal to the country, something that would have aroused the rank and file and given them matters to think and talk about—in short an aggressive utterance that would have awakened the interest and zeal of the party. As it is, democrats have little to say about the speech, even the organs, while commending it, manifesting only a placid indifference. The democratic party cannot hope to win without making an aggressive campaign and there is nothing about its candidate to stir it to aggressiveness. There is little in the situation at present to encourage democratic hopes.

HOWELL'S LATEST MANIFESTO. R. B. Howell's latest manifesto on the water works problem forcibly recalls Howell's first manifesto to the taxpayers and water consumers of Omaha in the fall of 1896, when he occupied the position of city engineer. Howell's first manifesto precipitated an episode which will always remain memorable in the annals of Omaha. At the instance of Engineer Howell, former Mayor W. J. Brought issued invitations to prominent citizens and taxpayers to meet in the council chamber on Monday, December 14, 1896, to discuss the water works question. A summary of the proceedings of this memorable meeting are embodied in the following extract from the files of The Bee:

Mayor Brought called the meeting to order and introduced W. A. Saunders, president of the city council, as chairman. The mayor then requested City Engineer Howell to read the report which he submitted to the private meeting held in the mayor's office one day last week. He also declared his belief that the city should own its own water works plant and should acquire this ownership at the earliest date possible, and he also made a serious charge against the city engineer, which he submitted to the private meeting held in the mayor's office one day last week. He also declared his belief that the city should own its own water works plant and should acquire this ownership at the earliest date possible, and he also made a serious charge against the city engineer, which he submitted to the private meeting held in the mayor's office one day last week.

On motion of John Steel a vote of thanks was tendered the city engineer for his report, and the question was declared open for discussion.

J. O. Corby wanted to know how the action of the water company in donating 150 hydrants to the city would help the people who had to pay water rates. He wanted an arrangement by which the rates to the consumers would be put down somewhere near the rates charged in other cities.

E. Rosewater created something of a sensation by charging that the report of Mr. Howell had been prepared by interested parties and also made a serious charge against the city engineer, which he submitted to the private meeting held in the mayor's office one day last week.

Mr. Rosewater repeated his statement and read several paragraphs from the report which he presented to the committee, most carefully prepared. He then asked the audience if that was what an engineer would write. Continuing, Mr. Rosewater said that while he was opposed to the proposition, he did not want to go to the other extreme and try to deprive the water company of its rights, either as an individual or a corporation. He had been told by Mr. E. L. Bierbower, one of the receivers of the company, that Mr. Howell had come to the city and suggested that he would sell the water works to the city for a certain price, which would pay him \$100,000.

Mr. Howell declared that this was the first time that his integrity had been questioned. He asked the committee to be appointed and that the charge be fully investigated. If it were found to be true, he said he desired to be dismissed from the service of the city. The motion to appoint the committee of investigation was carried, and a subsequent motion to reconsider was lost by a close vote.

As a sequence of this episode, an investigation did take place, resulting in a majority and a minority report. The majority simply censured Engineer Howell for indirectly making an improper demand upon the water company, while the minority roundly accused him. The position of Engineer Howell

was at that time summed up editorially by The Bee as follows: VICTIM OR IMPORTER—WHICH? There is a common adage that the man who travels on a straight road is never lost. If City Engineer Howell were "honest in his dealings and in his office," he would have had no occasion for hiring a lawyer. Engineer Howell was educated in the United States Naval academy, where a man is taught to consider his word of honor as the essence of integrity. How has Engineer Howell stood that highest test of honesty? He stood up in the council chamber before an audience of the best citizens of Omaha and upon his honor as a man and an officer declared positively that he had ever approached anyone connected with the water works with any proposition to place Mr. Wiley on the pay roll of that company or had ever had any conversation with anyone upon that subject. He stood up in the city council chamber before T. Clarke and Curtis Turner, the committee originally appointed to investigate the charges, and made not only a sweeping and general denial, but also a specific denial of every allegation in the charge against him. Would an honest man sell a deliberate falsehood, even though he were not under oath?

When confronted by three credible witnesses, giving testimony under oath, who each affirmed that Howell had made the proposal to put Wiley on the water works company pay roll and repeatedly conversed with them about it, Mr. Howell again made a general denial, but finally admitted, as his attorney puts it, that he had "temporarily asked for a place for his friend at a paltry figure of \$100,000." And in his pent up indignation Mr. Hanson took to the occasion by proclaiming: "If this were corruption, then no man who ever had an office must ever ask anyone to give a mutual friend a position, or else he will be called corrupt."

A legislator of this state once impeached a governor, and one of the articles of impeachment was that he had falsified a report to the legislature. Mr. Howell stands self-convicted of the same offense. He has lied publicly on his honor and his oath has been contradicted by three men, one of whom had gone so far as to submit Mr. Howell's proposal in a letter to his superiors in the water company. In the eyes of his attorney the demand for a paltry \$100,000 a month for his friend Solon L. Wiley may seem a very trivial offense, but it goes beyond a dishonesty and a rank hypocrisy for Mr. Howell after the self-stipulated champion of the city's rights.

Mr. Howell not merely asked for a subsidy for his friend Wiley, but he represented that by so doing the water works company would remove all obstacles in its way to securing the concessions which it now denounces as a monstrous imposition on the public. This is not all. Mr. Howell has testified that he went all the way to New York to solicit the appointment of general manager from the owners of the plant. Had they accepted of his request, does anyone believe that this honest engineer would have written that flaming manifesto declaring that they have no franchise or contract rights whatever? What is it that actuates him in his course? Is it an honest desire to arouse the community to a threatening danger or is he playing a part for other parties who have private interests to subserv?

In his grandstand play before the citizens Engineer Howell vouched upon his honor that he had written every line of that brief and that no word had been inspired or suggested by anybody. But on the stand before the council committee he was forced to admit that he had called upon the attorney representing the stock jobbers who had wrecked the water works company before the plan was foreclosed and procured from him documents from which he drew his conclusions. Why did the honest city engineer prevaricate about this matter? Why did he mislead the council by the belief that his estimates of the value of the plant were made from his own actual measurements and computations, when he must have known, as he afterward testified, that they were mere guesses based upon general information?

The investigation of the council committee has established the conclusion that Engineer Howell has no regard for his word of honor and no appreciation of the responsibilities of his office. No man of this character is fit for any public office. In the light of the past it would seem very indiscreet for Mr. Howell now to pose as the foremost champion of water reform.

WORK ON THE PANAMA CANAL. It is expected that within the next few weeks important decisions will be made in regard to the construction of the Panama canal. The members of the commission will shortly have a meeting on the isthmus and the most important question to be considered is whether the new construction shall be effected by laborers employed directly by the government or shall be entrusted to contractors. With that matter determined, eight or ten months will remain in which to make other preparations and probably the work of excavation will not be actively begun before a year from this time, though it may be found practicable to enter upon it sooner.

THE PARKER REACTION.

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So far as he can strip the tariff revision issue of any vitality. On the true question he is just as negative and timorous. He doesn't propose anything and doesn't say a word that his supporters could repeat on the platform or put on a banner. Even on the Philippines he doesn't offer anything different from the course which the administration is following. Absolutely the only thing he suggests or discusses in the nature of an issue is that which is defined as imperialism vs. constitutionalism; but this is no vague shabby and intangible thing that has no moving force.

No wonder, then, that there is a distinct reaction. When a political army goes into battle it wants a battle cry. Judge Parker doesn't sound any. There are issues of the broadest character, and the supporters of the opposition would like to have them. But the opposition would like a creative, aggressive leader and they do not find him.

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First Point Plashes of Popularity Vanish on Close Acquaintance. Philadelphia Press. The faithful observer and candid must report that Judge Parker's grand telegram gave a distinct impulse to his candidacy and that his speech of acceptance has given it a distinct setback. The reaction against the candidate has been apparent ever since this last utterance. It has been plain in the whose tone of public discussion. The speech disappointed and congested the supporters of the candidate and inspired his opponents. No close reader of the representative democratic and republican press of the day could fail to note this manifest truth. The speech disappointed the candidate's friends because it sounded no clear note of battle—because it was negative, colorless and impassive—because it signified no leadership, no initiative and no constructive power. For the same reason it exhilarated his adversaries. They did not know what might be behind the veil. It was lifted and they discovered that there was nothing to apprehend.

Judge Parker comes into the field and asks that President Roosevelt shall be turned out and that he shall be elected. He asks that the party behind President Roosevelt shall be overthrown and the party behind him placed in power. In demanding such a change he is bound to give substantial reasons. Yet he presents no grounds which have any weight, and, if his deliverance were accepted as the guide, there would be no serious issues between the candidates or the parties.

So far as he can strip the tariff revision issue of any vitality. On the true question he is just as negative and timorous. He doesn't propose anything and doesn't say a word that his supporters could repeat on the platform or put on a banner. Even on the Philippines he doesn't offer anything different from the course which the administration is following. Absolutely the only thing he suggests or discusses in the nature of an issue is that which is defined as imperialism vs. constitutionalism; but this is no vague shabby and intangible thing that has no moving force.

No wonder, then, that there is a distinct reaction. When a political army goes into battle it wants a battle cry. Judge Parker doesn't sound any. There are issues of the broadest character, and the supporters of the opposition would like to have them. But the opposition would like a creative, aggressive leader and they do not find him.

Democratic National Committee. Walsh of Iowa resurrects the silver question in the democratic party by making the emphatic statement to Chairman Taggart that Parker cannot be elected without the free silver vote in the west. This must be a rude shock to these democrats who had lulled themselves into a belief that the matter was buried fathoms deep.

Billy Thompson has come to the rescue of Candidate Berge to tell what a good governor he would make if he were only elected. But Billy Thompson would be very much surprised if the fusion nominee this year runs as well as he himself did last time and Thompson was beaten by nearly 6,000. It is easy, however, to throw in a few bouquets.

Hot Air in Action. Philadelphia Press. If all the trust busters would get busy at the same time and pull together what a busting time there would be.

Experience Helps. Chicago Record-Herald. The car has had reason to walk the floor at night for several months past, so he won't mind it so much now.

The Best in Sight. Chicago Chronicle. The backbone of summer has not been broken yet and the corn crop bids fair to ripen as it usually does. Pretty good old world, after all.

Try Another Trick. Chicago Chronicle. Russia's military operations against the Japanese having proved to be somewhat disappointing, how would it do for the czar to send forth a "diplomatic" expedition like that with which the British have just defeated the Tubafans?

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THE PARKER REACTION.

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