

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

H. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Net total sales 807,711. Daily average 28,926. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st day of August, 1904. N. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

Oregon—Vermont—Maine—pretty good leaders for the procession.

The "Iowa idea" on the subject of bandits will probably meet with a hearty response from Canada.

The Russian bear will have a hard time trying to convince the British lion that they should hunt in pairs.

By coming to San Francisco the commander of the Lena is getting expert opinion as to the condition of his vessel free of charge.

Admiral Ouktomsky is certainly being discriminated against by the Russian government. He should have surrendered and received a hero's badge.

The World-Herald has overdone its cartoon campaign several times in the past and the prospects seem good for its picture artist to overreach himself again this year.

Money may talk, but Grandpa Davis will have to get busy with his reserves funds in a hurry if his money is to keep up with the campaign tour of Senator Fairbanks.

The present democratic congressman from the Second district has no competition for renomination. No other democrat wants to deprive him of the privilege of going up against foredoomed defeat.

Since the anti-annexed the Third ward a continuance of their political alliance with the Civic Federation presents an anomaly that would be paralleled only by a combination between the church and the brewery.

The advance in war insurance on American cargoes on the Pacific coast from one-fourth of 1 per cent to 5 per cent would indicate that the underwriters have an idea that American neutrality does not extend to the pocket-book.

If Prof. Starr finds a branch of the Caucasian race in the interior of China he will overthrow the generally accepted idea that the white race is dominant wherever it exists side by side with colored races. But the find is yet to be made.

After having held their ears to the ground long enough to get the responses from Vermont and Maine, the democratic campaign managers have come to the conclusion that it will be better for them to put in their efforts in some field more remote from New England.

What an odd coincidence that the American warship which is watching the Russian transport at San Francisco should be the Paul Jones. The man in whose honor the destroyer is named was the only person who had much to do with the creation of the navies of both the United States and Russia.

The local democrats who are trying to force their party to hold a primary election by appealing to the courts for a writ of mandamus would do well to recall the adage about making a horse drink after he has been led to water. A court order for a primary election is not exactly the same as a certificate of nomination.

It is lucky that J. J. McCarthy, who has been nominated by the fusionists for state senator in the Thirtieth district, does not live in the same district as the J. J. McCarthy who has been renominated by the republicans for representative in the Third congressional district—otherwise, some people might think a rival had been developed to the popular who is making a record in Nebraska by running simultaneously for three offices on the same ticket.

HOW WOULD THEY RETRENCH?

Those are pertinent and pointed questions addressed to the democrats by the president in reference to their contention that the government is now administered extravagantly. When making this charge the opponents of the republican party do not specify in what respects there has been extravagance, or attempt to point out in what direction the expenses of the government should be reduced.

Nothing but hair-splitting technicalities can make the old system of equalizing valid and the new one void. It used to be said that as Maine goes so goes the union. The republicans of that state did better in Monday's election than was expected.

The largest account in the expenses of the government is for pensions and while it is possible to reduce this does any one believe that the democratic party would venture to make a reduction? There is rural free delivery, a growing source of expenditure which is estimated will ultimately reach \$40,000,000 annually.

President Roosevelt in his letter of acceptance says: "The prime reason why the expenses of the government have increased in recent years is to be found in the fact that the people, after mature thought, have deemed it wise to have certain new forms of work for the public undertaken by the public."

HAIR-SPLITTING TECHNICALITIES. In passing on the Nemaha county tax case, the judge of the district court before whom it was heard on original motion has ruled that the order of the State Board of Equalization increasing the assessment of Nemaha county 5 per cent to bring it up to a parity with the ratio of assessment in other counties is void, because the section of the law under which the board was acting is unconstitutional.

As a matter of fact, if equalization by this method of percentage increase is unconstitutional, it is difficult to see how any equalization whatever can be constitutional, because the same objections would apply to the old plan of varying the rate of levy. What is the difference in actual results between increasing the levy imposed upon a particular county, say from 5 to 6 mills, or leaving the levy stationary at 5 mills and increasing the assessment figures 20 per cent? A 20 per cent increase in the rate and a 20 per cent increase in the valuation would both produce exactly the same increase in the proceeds of the tax, and the relative distribution of the tax upon the different items making up the assessment would likewise be the same.

A careful reading of the constitution will show that what the framers of that document had in mind was a tax proportioned according to the relative values of all property and franchises, so that an assessment would still conform to the demands of the constitution if it were gauged at uniformly 50 per cent, or 100 per cent, or 150 per cent of actual market value. The multiplication or addition of percentages, or the variation of the rates, does not change the relative inequalities arising from

defective assessments, such inequalities being due not to the action of the equalizing or tax levying bodies, but to the mistakes, willful or accidental, in the assessor's listing of the property. Whatever rule it follows, a state board of equalization can even up the inequalities only between the different counties while the duty of leveling the inequalities between different pieces of property or different classes of property within the county must devolve upon the county equalizing authorities, and if the county authorities fail to do what is expected of them, why should that operate to prevent the state equalizing board from performing its duties?

Should China become involved in the present war as the ally of Japan a number of Russian statesmen would be willing to maintain that it is a "power" within the meaning of the Franco-Russian treaty, although they would never admit it under any other contingency.

Worth the Extra Charge. There may have been excess postage on President Roosevelt's letter of acceptance, but Chairman Cannon of the notification committee thinks the contents justified paying the extra charge.

Improving Industrial Conditions. One of the best indications that the election of Theodore Roosevelt to succeed himself is a foregone conclusion is the fact that industrial conditions are improving the country over.

Decline in Trust Promotion. Incorporations for \$1,000,000 or more of capital in the eastern states aggregated \$2,960,000 during August, compared with \$7,860,000 in the month of August, 1903.

A Languishing Outlook. It is, perhaps, a question whether democratic prospects will now improve, having reached their lowest point, or whether the election in November will mark the general snupping of the democratic party.

THE NEW PENSION ORDER. Falsity of Charges Coming from Democratic Sources. The democratic newspapers and orators have nothing to say at this time about the ruling of the pension commissioner substituting an old-age rating for pensioners.

Shoring in One Cereal Made Up of Abundance in Others. The government crop report is very encouraging for all important crops except spring wheat. The average condition of that cereal during August was 2.8 per cent, but even this marked decline was not so great as some of the crop killers and speculators had predicted it would be.

Mike Harrington makes a plea for a political gospel "which preaches the plain truth without exaggeration." And without taking his pen from the paper he goes on to declare that the present fusion candidate for governor is "the most uncompromising friend of just taxation, of reform legislation and of popular government that has ever been nominated for this great office by any political party since Nebraska was admitted into the union."

This talk of two-dollar wheat in prospect does not hitch well with the assertions of the inseparable party of silver and wheat so freely made by 16-to-1 free coinage champions in the memoranda

GOSSIP ABOUT THE WAR.

Features of the Campaign for Supremacy in Manchuria. In Collier's for September 13, Frederick Palmer, the war correspondent, writing of the second attack on Motiening, compares the methods of the burly Russians with the agile little yellow men and says: "A Japanese general knows that any force, however small, will stay where it is placed—city, village or dead. One company is as much like another as peas in a pod."

The Coming Jewel. Throw away your anachronistic scrippies and buy wheat kernel pins instead—if you have the price.

Will Johnny Throw a Fit? It will be interesting to observe whether J. Bull will have frothing at the mouth and contortions now that British merchantmen are being stopped and searched by Japanese instead of Russian war ships.

Keeping a Clear Track. There has been no striking of uncharted rocks by American warships recently. This is said to be due to Secretary Morton's order that if the tracks were not kept clear his would fire every section hand on the job.

In a one-knapsack was a Jewish Jew. It is interesting to note that the text thinking of Kishinev, took any particular interest in Russian success in Manchuria.

Kouropatkin's Retirement Compared with Like Moves in Civil War. In the light of the more recent revelations that have reached us from Manchuria without official editing, our military experts now believe that Kouropatkin fought the last day's battle of Liao Yang against odds of ten to one, and that his withdrawal was a masterpiece of strategy.

PERSONAL NOTES. A grandson of Alexander Hamilton resides in Elk Neck, Md., keeping a country store and acting as postmaster. He is 73 years old and always speaks of the first secretary of the treasury as "grandpa."

Overwork Killing Us. The Great Struggle for Wealth and Position We Are Becoming Weaker Than Our Forefathers. By the cares of business and social life we use up or waste away the most vital elements of the human body before we realize our weak and run down condition.

CONTROL OF THE RAILROADS. Rapidly Passing into the Hands of a Few. The recent purchase of what is practically a controlling interest in the Seaboard Air Line railway by a syndicate of Wall Street bankers draws attention to the extent to which the controlling interests of the large systems of the country are being lodged in the Wall street banking interest.

CONSCIENTIOUS STATEMENT. It is a statement of a conscientious, confident public servant.

BETTER THAN PLATFORM. The letter which the Chicago platform for the reason that it is free from superfluities. It enforces the author's positive convictions and makes it clear that President Roosevelt means to stand or fall by his record.

MASTERFUL AND SKILLFUL. The republicans have reason to be proud of a candidate who can frame such a mastery defense of republican principles and performances, and who can so skillfully discover the weak spots in the armor of the opposition.

A CHALLENGE TO POES. "For emperor, Theodore Roosevelt; for president, Alton B. Parker," is the cry of the partisans who have elected to make the president the issue and to represent him as a veritable man on horseback.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S LETTER.

Every reader of the president's letter of acceptance must be struck by its vigorous tone. In its reply to criticism it suggests offense rather than defense.

AN ILLUMINATING DOCUMENT. Taken in its entirety the president's letter is one of the most illuminating documents presented to the American public in many a year.

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