

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 13th day of August, 1904. Notary Public.

One session of the legislature has made the water-marked steamboat a great lawyer—in his own estimation.

Senator Fairbanks' presence in West Virginia would naturally call for a return visit on the part of Mr. Cassaway Davis.

Tom Taggart's forecast of democratic victory in Indiana is not likely to create the slightest ripple of excitement at Oyster Bay.

American naval gunners are practicing firing at night now. Twentieth century naval battles will hereafter be a continuous performance.

Co. and William Jennings Bryan has at last found an appreciative audience in the Interparliamentary junkies who are crying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace.

Campaign orators who are afflicted with the lockjaw will find an effective cure if they go into cold storage for one week in one of the South Omaha packing house refrigerators.

J. L. Kennedy was nominated for representative in the Nebraska legislature by the prohibitionists of Jefferson county just because John L. Kennedy is a name to conjure by.

After ten weeks' hard work the democratic national committee succeeded in getting Judge Parker to go from Esopus to New York. At this rate he will get as far west as Buffalo by the year 1908.

France's fear of the yellow peril is only a counterpart of England's alarm over the American invasion. In spite of all alarms and warnings the law of the survival of the fittest is sure to assert itself.

The grand aerial of Eagles will fly right over Omaha next year to meet in Denver. Omaha's campaign to capture the big gatherings of these national organizations will have to be pushed more systematically.

The Commercial club is evidently earnestly engaged in an effort to consolidate and concentrate the different business associations and societies that have been dividing the purposes and efforts of the local business community. Get together. In union there is strength.

The submarine torpedo boat, which caught the training ship napping in the naval maneuvers off Rhode Island, is the first of the American submarines to demonstrate its utility and points unmistakably to the passing of the monster floating torpedoes.

At last we have had word that Adlai Stevenson is to be resurrected for the campaign and will deliver Parker speeches in response to an invitation from the democratic national committee. Drawing on his own experience, Adlai will tell "Grandpa" that it is not worth the money.

We presume that the great populist patriot who was nominated for three offices on the same ticket withdrew from the congressional race to avoid being called "a political hog" by the demopop organ. The fact that none of his nominations offers a ghost of a show of success of course has nothing to do with the case.

Although the time for filing applications to go on the official ballot at the coming republican county primaries does not expire until the end of next week, the applications are already coming in thick and fast, assuring a brisk competition and a plentiful list for the voters to choose from. This is a pretty good sign of republican hopefulness.

The rush to ride in the band wagon is always more lively than the seal for a place in the horse.

A DEMOCRATIC ISSUE.

One of the chief complaints of the democratic party is that the president made an order reducing the age limit of veterans of the civil war. This order, which followed that of the last democratic president, is being assailed as an usurpation of the legislative function of the government, yet there is not a single fact to warrant such a position in regard to the assumption of the democracy.

There is no question that the last pension order of the administration made a considerable addition to the annual cost of the pension account. It increased it several millions of dollars. But there is not a dollar of that amount which is not distributed among the people of the country and is used in the general welfare.

The money that is paid out annually for pensions is not a loss to the wealth of the nation, but an absolute benefit in the increased consumption it gives to the hundreds of thousands of people who are the recipients of the beneficence of the government.

The order of President Roosevelt reducing the age limit for those entitled to pensions was not only fully justified by precedent, but had its warrant in current conditions. Whether justly or not, it has become a fact in our current affairs, that the man who has reached the age of from 62 to 65 years is no longer regarded as qualified to fill a position of trust.

People who have recently attended political ward meetings and have heard the spouting and ranting of Howell, the humbler, find themselves about as much perplexed over the water question as some people not familiar with the scriptures are over the biblical story of Jonah and the whale.

Howell asserts in all seriousness that the mayor and council are responsible for the high water rates, but he does not tell them which mayor and council. The water-logged statesman wants to make us believe that the high water rates were fixed by Mayor Moores and the present council when, as a matter of fact, the rates were fixed under a contract entered into between the city of Omaha and the water works company twenty-four years ago.

The original ordinance and contract between the city of Omaha and the water company fixed the rates for a period of twenty-five years from the date of acceptance of the works at a time when Omaha had only 30,000 population. That compact has been declared valid and binding by the courts and the water rates can only be changed by mutual agreement or by voluntary action of the company.

Granting that the rates are excessive now, they were excessive ten years ago when Howell was city engineer and Broach was mayor. About that time Howell was laying his pipes to become manager of the water company and the question he was pondering over was whether Jonah should swallow the whale or whether the whale should swallow Jonah.

Three weeks ago The Bee propounded the following specific questions to R. B. Howell which he was asked to answer without evasion:

1. Do you believe that the conditions under which the appraisement is being made in conformity with the Howell-Gilbert law and the provisions of the original contract between the city and the water company are binding upon the city and binding upon the company? If not, do you believe that the company has a right to back out if the appraisement is too low, or that the city has a right to back out if the appraisement is too high?

2. You have estimated the value of the Omaha water works at \$3,000,000, and you insist that they can be duplicated for that amount. Now, suppose the three engineer appraisers place the value of these works at \$5,000,000, \$6,000,000, or \$8,000,000, what do you propose the city shall do? Will you advise that the city of Omaha shall mortgage itself for the amount fixed by the appraisers, even if it is \$3,000,000 higher than your estimate?

3. If the upset price fixed by the appraisers shall be from \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000 more than your estimate of the works and the citizens of Omaha turn down the proposition, what course would you advise the city to pursue should the water company invoke the power of the federal court to enforce its contract and the appraisement made under it and get a judgment against the city for the full amount with interest in the United States court?

The people of Omaha had a right to expect a square and manly answer to these questions, but instead of answering them Mr. Howell keeps on ranting about the high water rates and quoting deceptive water rate primers, and talks wildly about additional legislation to empower the Water Works board to reduce the hydrant rental and water rates.

Every student in a law office knows that the legislature has no right to alter contracts, and furthermore, every intelligent person must know that the Water board could not make an intelligent rate if it had the power to do so without first knowing the cost of the plant and the amount of interest the city will have to pay on the bonds that are to be issued for its acquisition.

WEST VIRGINIA. The democrats are hoping to win West Virginia, notwithstanding the fact that four years ago that state gave over 21,000 plurality for the republican national ticket and has since then shown no disposition to go back upon the record then made.

The republicans of West Virginia have a thoroughly perfected organization. The troubles in the party which were hatched with delight by the democrats six months ago are rapidly being smoothed out. The factional differences in certain congressional districts have been for the most part disposed of and on the whole the republican party in the state is harmonious and united.

There is of course a good deal of state pride in the fact that the democratic candidate for vice president is a West Virginian, yet this is not proving by any means so potent an influence as was to have been expected. The great personal respect for Mr. Henry G. Davis is somewhat qualified by the fact that his great age makes him an unfit man to occupy the second place under the government.

In short, the democratic hope of carrying West Virginia has very little to be regarded as worthy of a pension for disability was absolutely legal and proper and it will be approved by the intelligent and unprejudiced judgment of the country.

there can have been fraud in a state with such a representative in the highest council of the nation as the gentleman from South Carolina.

Of course wheat could not stay at that dizzy altitude. It is coming down a bit. But the price of flour is what bothers most of us. How the consumer has to take it! First coal, then meat, now flour—not to mention the hundred and one other things that tug one's week's pay like puppets worrying a bone.

Hungary Honoring Washington. Subscribers are pouring in for the setting up of a statue of George Washington in the capital of Hungary.

President Roosevelt has wielded more influence over congress and the people than any elected president except Washington and Jackson.

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ORIGIN OF THE CHAUFFEUR.

Genesis of the Chief Pumper of the Gasoline Wagon. Chicago Post.

Here is a quotation from Vizetelly's "Life of Emilio Zola," just published. Its interest and timeliness will not be questioned. The biographer is describing the region of France which is the scene of Zola's novel, "La Terre."

"La Beauce proper is certainly flat and monotonous, but its confines are picturesque, and Bourdain, Augustin, and his brother, who were engaged in the atrocious crimes of the desperadoes known as chauffeurs, who roamed the region early in the nineteenth century."

"A strain of brutishness was long to be observed among some of the inhabitants." An interesting philological question is opened by this piece of half-forgotten history. Was the name of the plot of the modern "devil wagon" selected by some one with prophetic power, or was the first auto chauffeur a descendant of these ferocious Beauceurs?

COMING BUILDING MATERIAL.

Cement Construction Introduced in Unusual Places. New York World.

United States Consul Kehl reports from Stuttgart that the unfortunate experiences of the German cement manufacturers in 1902-03 have stimulated the introduction of their products into hitherto unusual places. It is now employed in making artificial stone and for foundations, sewers, bridges and all sorts of works where stone would formerly have been necessary.

The observations might be paralleled in our midst where the discovery of large new beds of cement has given an impetus to its use. In Germany it is hailed as "the building material of the future." In the United States it bids fair to relieve to some extent our overworked and depleted supply and thus help to save the forests.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Belleuve Hospital, New York, has a young man as patient who weighs 40 pounds, and has had to add a derrick to its general equipment.

The bankers' convention at New York declared against postal-savings banks. If the convention had pronounced for them the result would have been worse than the telegraph toll.

The Lamus of Tibet posted a proclamation on the walls of Lhasa, commanding the people "not to hurt the British soldiers as long as they behaved themselves."

Thankful for Small Favors. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The Russians are thankful that their army of 100,000 was not surrounded and wiped out. It is allowable in a bear to hug small favors when nothing more substantial presents itself.

Imperative Allusion. Washington Post. The Steel trust announced its readiness to pay employes for ideas, but we suspect that most of the employes would prefer to have pay for the stock which they purchased when the profit-sharing fever was on.

Fit Representative of All. Baltimore American. President Roosevelt had a northern father, a southern mother, was born and reared in the east and got his early manhood's training in the most typical portions of the west.

Dollar Wheat a Buck Number. Cleveland Leader. Can it be possible that "dollar" wheat is to become a retrospect and that the goal of the farmer is to be set twice as high? It may be possible, but it is not probable, that within the lives of earth's present inhabitants wheat will sell at \$2 a bushel because it is worth that price.

Timmons' Pitchfork Letter. Boston Transcript. What Senator Timmons wrote to a friend in Nebraska in defense of the recent buying of negroes in the south by lawless mobs is characteristic and discounted and unimportant. One statement, absent "throwing off the yoke of the black majority," is interesting for the frankness of its admission, however: "From necessity we used force and fraud to overcome the negro majority." Of course, it is hard to believe

Grand Island Independent: Candidate for Governor Berge on the fusion ticket is still talking about the wickedness of the new revenue law. But he isn't quoting the recent fusion supreme Judge Sullivan, who thoroughly examined the law, passed upon it, and found it to be a good law.

Creston News: The republicans of the Second congressional district nominated John L. Kennedy for congress. Mr. Kennedy is one of the foremost men in the district and has kept himself clear of all factional fights in politics and in business and socially he bears an unblemished reputation.

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GOSSIP ABOUT THE WAR.

London Telegraph: Gives some astonishing accounts of the effect of Japanese bullets as shown by the condition of the Russian wounded. Their bullets, say the Russian surgeons, are, if not precisely harmless, at least the next best thing to that—they form the mildest kind of missile that has ever yet been hurled from a rifle.

"In the sanitary train we have astounding cases of wounds healed," writes a surgeon; "the character of the hurts surprises us, and as for the rapidly with which the soldier recovers, well, it is hard to ask any one to believe it who has not actually seen it."

"Wounds caused by bullets which enter the chest and go out through the back are of frequent occurrence. The patients recover rapidly. Take, for instance, Private Kurtoff of the Third East Siberian Rifle. He was shot at Wafangkow on June 15. He had already begun to recover for less than ten days blood was detected in his saliva, but soon all symptoms had gone, the wounds were cicatrized, and the brave warrior is himself once more and back on the field as active as ever."

"Vilkovitch is the name of a soldier of the Third East Siberian regiment who has had a very interesting experience. The Russian bullet, when fired, is in a way that he has been told, was lying behind the trenches at Wafangkow on June 15. It cut its way through his shoulder between the collar bone and the shoulder blade, passed through his lungs, penetrated the diaphragm and the abdomen. He was shot in the back, but he was lying behind the trenches at Wafangkow on June 15. It cut its way through his shoulder between the collar bone and the shoulder blade, passed through his lungs, penetrated the diaphragm and the abdomen."

"I am lost in wonder," he remarked to the captain, "at the miraculous way in which our fellows rise from the dead, as it were. They recover from wounds which were thought to be mortal. Now I want you to tell me, are these exceptional cases that I have been studying, or have you anything like them?"

"The Japs fire accurately," was the answer; "they often hit our men in the head, but when the bullets pass clean through many of the men get well."

"Curious. Well, and how do they fare when the bullet strikes them in the abdomen? You know a hurt in the peritoneum almost infallibly brings on peritonitis and death. And yet we are transporting men who were wounded in that very region and are now hale and hearty."

"How do you account for the difference in the results?" "I attribute it to their funny bullets, which have a different mantle from ours. Theirs is more compact. But if you take it and rub it ever so little on a stone, then it is deadly. But besides the quantity of the casting there is the size of the bullet. Compared with ours it is tiny, and its velocity is considerably greater. Our magazine rifle (300 model) takes a bullet of three lines and imparts to it an initial velocity of 620 metres; whereas the Jap rifle (model 1903) has a 2.5-line bullet with an initial velocity of 725 metres. The Japanese bullet only penetrates the tissue, but does not tear it, just as a bullet fired from a rifle may make a hole in a window pane without shattering the glass. When passing through the abdomen it inflicts the minimum of damage, its chief effect being to expand the business of the stomach, which quickly contracts, closing the orifice and thus saving the injured man from peritonitis and death."

It must be comforting to the Russian soldiers at the front to know that all their letters are found in the hands of the Japs, and that they are allowed to go to Russia, or before those from home are distributed. A German paper says that an order was issued some months ago which called for this drastic measure to "combat revolutionary tendencies among the troops." Special care is taken with the mail of the Jewish soldiers, and they are allowed neither to send nor receive any writing in Yiddish. The same holds in the case of the men with the colors from Poland. Each battalion has an officer whose duty it is to inspect the mail, and he has orders to report all breaches of these rules to higher sources, where it is given out that offenders, especially Jews, will be severely punished. It is not strange that some of the Russian soldiers want to be taken prisoners under these circumstances, and it seems as if Russian officers might be given a bit more manly work.

"One of the first things to impress itself upon a foreigner in Japan," writes a correspondent of Leslie's Weekly, "is the peculiar and excellence of the physical training given to Japanese youth. They are a race of miniature Spartans, and they become so through such patient, painstaking toil and endurance as would appall the average American youth, unured to softness. The Japanese schools are nearly all modeled after American institutions; or, as the people like to believe, after a composite of all that is best in the schools of America, England, France and Germany. The students are not, of course, trained in modern athletics and could hold their own at nothing of this kind, with our magnificent college boys, but in simple physical training, making the very best of what nature has provided, the Japanese excel any people I have ever seen."

ON TO THE COAST.

San Francisco Chronicle. After many official denials at various times, the report of the loss of the tugboat 'Western Pacific' is now being confirmed by the Western Pacific railroad, the truth is at last out and the directorate of the company has been reorganized by the admission of the president of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad to membership as Gold's avowed representative. This confirms the recent admission made by one of Gold's railroad managers at Salt Lake City that he was the backer of the corporation and that this fact would soon be made perfectly plain to the public.

The Chronicle has from the beginning asserted that Gould was the backer of the Western Pacific. Even when he personally denied any connection with the enterprise, it took no stock in the statement, for the reason that in the development of all such projects the chief promoters have invariably considered it expedient to keep well in the background. Doubtless Gould had prudential reasons for controlling his relationship

with the corporation in the earlier stages of its development, for it was then soliciting favors from municipalities and others in the form of rights-of-way and terminal facilities which would have undoubtedly cost more to obtain had he identified himself openly with it at the beginning. Moreover, it would have intensified the opposition which his agents encountered from existing transcontinental railroad corporations. The enterprise in that respect is now "out of the woods."

It has acquired all the terminal properties and rights-of-way it needs at every point from Salt Lake City to San Francisco, and nothing now associated with the line is placed in jeopardy through its assumption openly of the direction of its affairs. Nothing remains to be done to make the Western Pacific a reality beyond the grading and backlaying and equipment of the road, for which ample provision has been made by the issuance and flotation of \$50,000,000 5 per cent bonds. Up to the present time \$3,000,000 has been actually spent in the development of the project, most of which has been invested in terminal lands, the purchase of links in the system previously constructed, the surveying of the route and the buying of private lands for rights-of-way. The gratifying thing to San Francisco now is that despite all past denials and secrecy it will soon be the terminus of another transcontinental railroad, the western division of which, with its various tributaries, will represent about 1,200 miles of new track.

A WHIRLWIND OF MAGNATES.

Fine Group of "Trust Busters" Boasting the Democratic Ticket. Kansas City Star. In the attempt to inject ginger into the campaign it is rather curious that it has never occurred to the democratic managers to start a whirlwind canvass by the millionaires at headquarters. There is bound to be more or less indifference among the people to the ordinary democratic spellbinders. Nobody cares especially to hear the conventional attacks on the president or to listen to the perfunctory praise of the millions of so uninteresting a character as Judge Parker.

But it is a safe guess that no such apathy would attend meetings to be addressed by the financial magnates who are in charge of the democratic canvass. People would gladly pay good money to hear them. It would be the only thing in the world, for instance, to pack Convent hall to an admission charge of a dollar a seat if August Belmont would only consent to lecture there on "My Father's Own Story of the Rothschilds and the Crime of '73."

Mr. Belmont, as director in more than thirty corporations, and the Rothschilds, would probably be the best drawing card. But no man prominently connected with the Parker management is to be sneezed at as a popular attraction. There is Mr. Cord Meyer, for instance, one of the original financiers of the Rothschild who could doubtless give a fetching address on "The Dangers of Great Combinations of Capital." The country is hungry for information from Mr. P. H. McCarran, the Standard Oil lobbyist, on "How to Fight the Trusts."

Mr. George Foster Peabody, the banker and corporation director, could make an effective speech on "The Rights of the Plain People." There would be less interest in an explanation by Mr. Sheehan of corporate espionage in "The Rothchilds and How to Deal With Them," while Mr. DeLooney Naylor could draw well with an exposition of "The Corporations as Law Breakers."

The average stump speaker has all his information at second hand. The man who would know from personal observation what they were talking about. They could give all sorts of "inside" news as to the evils of corporate aggression. There would be no question as to public interest in their remarks. If Mr. Tappan really wants to make things lively let him turn his millions loose on the