

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: George B. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily Morning Evening Bee printed during the month of November, 1904, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation category and Number of copies. Total: 556,039. Less unsold copies: 10,514. Net total sales: 545,525.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 20th day of November, 1904. (Seal) M. B. HUNAGATE, Notary Public.

Merry Christmas to you all!

No wonder the express companies oppose the expansion of the postoffice by the addition of a parcels post.

Should the first tug-of-war with the trusts hit the Tobacco combine it will make smoke and probably fire too.

Mrs. Chadwick should take a change of venue and try to get the services of the same jury that sat in the Nan Patterson case.

Joe Chamberlain's high opinion of American education is easily accounted for when one considers his idea of protective tariffs.

The first strike in Turkey was suppressed by the government. The sultan has no desire to divide honors with the walking delegate.

Reports from Vienna and London would indicate that Russia is in greater danger of depopulation than of destruction by nihilists.

The Santa Claus myth, no matter how often exposed and exploded, takes new hold on childish hearts every time the Yuletide rolls round.

The motor car refuses to recognize that divinity which is supposed to hedge a king, as both the ruler of Spain and the duke of Connaught can testify.

Admiral Togo's latest report sounds like that of an officer preparing to greet his successor. It is to be hoped the new man will be able to show as good a record.

It seems to have taken his executors almost as long to find a suitable monolith for Stanley's grave as it took the explorer to go through the Dark Continent.

Omaha's Christmas stocking has a whole lot of good things peeping out of it that promise to emerge in the shape of big building and business improvements during 1905.

Lord Dunsany's answer to "What is the matter with Ireland?" will probably not make him as famous as a Kansas who wrote a similar article, but it shows his heart is right.

All the "rate wars" between the railroads are to end next week and the truce will probably last until the men who make the tariffs recover from the shock of holiday vacations.

It is now up to some enthusiast to start a new form of religion since Bostock has succeeded in making the lion and the lamb lie down together, both in their own proper persons.

Four per cent Philippine government guaranteed railway bonds ought to sell pretty well on a money market that is being bumped so vigorously up and down by the frenzied financiers.

No doubt the president believes in the power of publicity since he publishes a letter to the commissioners of the District of Columbia after they had failed to carry out his recommendations.

France announces that it has no thought of intervening in the eastern war. Is it possible that Paris becoming tired of its alliance with St. Petersburg prefers to see its ally fight to the last ditch?

Reports from Missouri are to the effect that were the election in that state to be held over again it would go republican on governor as well as on all the other offices on the ticket. A good habit surely grows on people.

Holidays in England may change with the times, but the American idea of Yuletide in Merrie England will remain true to the impressions gained from Charles Dickens until another master pictures the newer facts with equal skill.

THE CHRISTMAS TIME.

Christmas is the most joyous and the most generally observed of all the year's festivals. More than four hundred millions of people give it welcome. In every land beneath the sun there are some to do it reverence.

Out of the many suggestions which the recurrence of Christmas brings, there is one that always needs to be especially urged upon the attention of those who are in sympathy with the demands and obligations of this day.

It is a matter of notoriety that in Omaha as in all other great cities franchise privilege is the source of more municipal corruption than any other agency, and men who pride themselves on their social standing and pass muster as exemplary Christians derive a large part of their income from renting houses for immoral and lawless purposes.

In the language of Lincoln Steffens in his introductory to "The Shame of Cities," "we are good—on Sunday, and we are fearfully patriotic on the Fourth of July. But the bribe we pay to the janitor to prefer our interest to the landlord's is the little brother of the bribe passed to the alderman to sell a city street, and the father of the air brake stock assigned to the president of a railroad to have this life-saving invention adopted on his road.

In Omaha, as in all other cities of large population, experience has time and again shown that spasmodic and hysterical movements for municipal reform and purification accomplish very little and often end with a flash in the pan. No movement for municipal purification can produce lasting effects unless it is practical and deals with the intricate problem of police government in conformity with existing conditions rather than visionary theories.

It is the consensus of opinion among all practical municipal reformers that social evil cannot be suppressed, but must be repressed by vigilant supervision. To place tolerated vice in Omaha under better surveillance the saloon should be banished from the proscribed district. Practical experience in police supervision in all the large cities has demonstrated that efficient police government can only be maintained by placing policemen out of the reach of temptation. The police force patrolling the proscribed district should be rotated so that no patrolman shall be detailed for this service for more than two weeks at any one time and not more than once in every twelve months.

So long as policemen are permitted to solicit contributions for any person or accept gifts from any person subject to their surveillance they cannot be depended upon to discharge their functions without fear or favor. But these reforms cannot be inaugurated unless public sentiment shall impress itself upon the men in authority.

INCREASE OF CRIME. In a recent address Mr. Andrew D. White, formerly American ambassador to Germany, declared that high crime is more frequent in this country than anywhere else in the world, save Sicily, and that there is a widespread superstition here that it is the duty of the people to protect criminals. A statement of this kind from such a source may well command attention, especially from those who are charged with administering the laws and of safeguarding communities against criminal depredations.

discoverable. It is suggested that the fact that there are so many more crimes to commit may help to account for the appearance of increasing criminality. It is difficult to believe that men are broadly or essentially worse than they used to be. At all events, it seems an indisputable fact that crime is on the increase and more rapidly in this enlightened land than in any other. It is a condition which should arouse to greater activity not only all moral agencies, but those whose duty it is to hunt down and punish the perpetrators of crime.

INCORPORATION OR LICENSE? Great interest is being taken in the recommendation of Commissioner Garfield of the bureau of corporations that there be adopted a compulsory federal license or franchise system for all corporations doing interstate business, practically giving the government control over all trusts. The report of the commissioner, as already noted, presents strong arguments in support of his preference for a system of license rather than a system of incorporation. He says that the chief difficulty from federal incorporation would arise in connection with the question whether congress could give an interstate commerce corporation a power to produce or manufacture in any state, so that that grant of power would be valid as against states or individuals. That question cannot be determined conclusively in the absence of a judicial decision on the point.

As to the idea of a federal incorporation law that would leave it optional with the companies to incorporate under it or not, the commissioner rejects it for the reason that it would not be taken advantage of unless the conditions were made more satisfactory to the corporations than those now afforded by existing state law. It may be remarked that in this he is not in accord with some of the ablest corporation lawyers in the country.

In regard to a federal franchise or license law, Commissioner Garfield expresses the opinion that it presents no fundamental legal difficulty and yet would impose all necessary requirements as to corporate organization and management, would require such reports and returns as may be desired and would prohibit all corporations from engaging in interstate and foreign commerce that did not possess a federal license. In discussing the matter a leading financial paper observes that there could be no evasion of government regulation under a system of federal incorporations, but a system of federal franchises could probably be evaded by such companies as desire to escape from national control. It is admitted by Commissioner Garfield that the question of evasion is a troublesome one, though he thinks that the practical danger of effective evasion is more apparent than real. No doubt the enactment of such a law would result in measures to get around it. One suggested method of doing this is that big companies would be divided up into many small concerns, each of which would do a strictly state business and thus be subject only to state law, yet all of these companies would be controlled by the same people who now control the great corporations or trusts.

Commissioner Garfield appears to have carefully thought out and weighed the difficulties respecting the operation of both a federal incorporation law and a system of license or franchise, and his well-argued advocacy of the latter will not fail to make a strong impression favorable to it. Meanwhile the subject is receiving earnest public consideration and discussion and doubtless also the thoughtful attention of members of congress. It is not an unwarranted belief that the recommendations of the commissioner are approved by the administration.

A statistical compilation shows that in the publication of newspapers and periodicals the United States leads all the world with 21,000, as against 8,000 in Germany, 6,700 in France and 5,000 in Great Britain. A people rubbing up week in and week out, if not day in and day out, against this steady outpour of periodical literature could not help but absorb an amount of intelligence to keep in the lead on the highway of national culture.

The minority representation scheme failed to work according to schedule in the recent election of members of the city council in Boston, where, although the voter was allowed to record himself for but seven candidates for thirteen places, the democrats scooped in eleven of the jobs just the same. The belief in party responsibility for government is evidently too deep-seated to be eradicated by any political patent device.

If he will help the president solve the question of regulation of railway rates and the complete abolition of railway discrimination the public will not care much whether Secretary Morton submits his job as supervisor of the navy to a deputy or not.

Bedridden for a Season. Chicago News. Now that the supreme court has rebuked the Missouri river for taking liberties with the territory of a sovereign state, perhaps it will stop its meannesses. "Maryland, My Maryland." Baltimore American. We sing the praises of the canyaback duck and the diamondback terrapin, but those are exclusives. As between the oyster and the turkey there is no rivalry. Each plays his part at the feast and excites distinctly different emotions. Cutting Down Mortality Lists. Philadelphia Press. The supreme court decides that all railroad cars, including locomotives, must be equipped with uniform automatic couplers, which is a righteous decision. The frightful list of railroad accidents requires that no exceptions be made in the enforcement of this law. Beneficial Gains. Boston Globe. The per capita drink bill of the United States is increasing, but, on the other hand, statistics show that more people are joining the church now than ever before. The Episcopal church, for instance, gained 3 per cent on its membership last year. The Presbyterian church 2 1/2 per cent and the Methodist church also made an unprecedented gain.

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PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. Merry Christmas! If you have troubles, forget them for a day. If you are those who expect little and give much. Now by these presents we learn a thing or two. All is not gold that glitters on the Christmas tree. Cloaked stockings should be wound before hanging. Good morning! Did you get what was coming to you? Young eyes are quick to catch the qual-tracks on the tag. Cut it out. The strain on the rubbernecks will now be transported to the alimentary canal. Short as the days are they will be mighty long for the party watching for the box that doesn't come.

It is a mistake to suppose that the head of the house is forgotten. Santa Claus usually brings him an empty purse. How beautifully the designs of nature harmonize with human conditions. The days before Christmas are always short. Poor papa is not the only one "touched" by the Christmas spirit. Think of the young man adjusting a \$0 salary to a century proposition. Wouldn't that knock you off a Christmas tree? The delights of giving have been pictured by poets and lauded by preachers, but neither poet or preacher has yet succeeded in painting the grin of joy produced by the unexpected box arriving.

"WASH" SALES OF STOCK. Schemes Worked by Brokers When Real Wool is Shy. San Francisco Chronicle. The most common trick of speculators is "wash" sales—that is, sales in which the same man is both buyer and seller, operating, of course, through different brokers. By this means, when conditions favor, the outside public can be made to believe that a given stock is going up like a rocket, or falling down like a stick, and so be led to rush in either to buy or sell as may suit the purposes of the manipulator. Thomas W. Lawson says that James R. Keene "washed" no less than 200,000 shares of Amalgamated Copper, by which means, Lawson says, he was induced to purchase enormously at prices far beyond its value. Lawson says he can prove this by documentary evidence, and very likely he can. There is nothing unusual about it, except the large number of shares "washed." But then Keene is a large operator.

One Wack. It is stated, wants to see Lawson indicted for telling wrong stories about the value of stocks and so depressing prices. That, however, would put upon the state the burden of proving that the stories were not true, which perhaps it could not do. If Lawson tells the truth about Keene, it would seem that the latter ought to be indicted also. But that was different. In Keene's case the wrong story tended to boost prices and so help speculators to unload, while Lawson's tales scare people, bring prices down with a run, compel speculators to put up more margins, or lose their pledged stocks and make trouble generally. It is safe to say that if Wall street can prevent it, there will be no indictment of Lawson or of anybody else which will cause a judicial inquiry into the methods employed by manipulators to inflate or depress the price of stocks. There certainly will be none if the speculative side of Wall street can prevent it. Besides, there is as yet nothing to indicate that Lawson is not telling the exact truth.

YOUNG MEN TO THE FRONT. Significance of the Election of Theodore Roosevelt. Leslie's Weekly. For the near future at least each of the great parties is likely to give the preference to young men for presidents. Mr. Roosevelt's experience has settled this point. As in many other things, Mr. Roosevelt broke the record in youthfulness, being only 43 years of age when he reached the presidency. On entering the White House Lincoln was 51, Johnson 57, Grant 47, Hayes 54, Garfield 49, Arthur 51, Cleveland 48, Harrison 55 and McKinley 53. This completes the list of presidents since the beginning of the republican ascendancy. In the early days of the government the average age of the presidents was greater than it has been in the past forty years. On going to the head of the government Washington was 57, Adams 62, Jefferson, Madison and John Quincy Adams each 58, Monroe 58, Jackson 60, Van Buren 55, William Henry Harrison 63, Tyler 51, Polk 49, Taylor 55, Fillmore 50, Pierce 60 and Buchanan 66.

The first Harrison was the oldest of all the presidents on attaining office, and he died a nono after his inauguration. The next oldest was Buchanan. Possibly, had he been 46 or 56 on attaining office, instead of 66, he would have done more to uphold the good government in the days between the South Carolina secession, in the latter part of December, 1860, and his own retirement, two and a half months later, than he attempted. The next oldest, Taylor, died when a year and a third in office. Harrison and Taylor were the only presidents who died natural deaths during their terms. Mr. Roosevelt was the youngest of the country's presidents, and next to him in order stood Grant, Cleveland, Garfield and Pierce. Undoubtedly Roosevelt's youthfulness accounts for much of his vigor, the promptness of his initiative, the resourcefulness and the dash of his administration. It accounts also for much of his personal popularity. These are days when young men have the call on the big prices of politics.

Beneficial Gains. Boston Globe. The per capita drink bill of the United States is increasing, but, on the other hand, statistics show that more people are joining the church now than ever before. The Episcopal church, for instance, gained 3 per cent on its membership last year. The Presbyterian church 2 1/2 per cent and the Methodist church also made an unprecedented gain.

Read this letter again. It has a striking interest now. How uncertain is the thread of life.

"Sight Draft at Maturity" is no misnomer. Of five companies the first to pay.

The Merchants National Bank OF OMAHA, NEB. United States Depository Capital and Surplus \$600,000. FRANK MURPHY, President. BEN R. WOOD, Vice President. LUTHER DRAKE, Cashier. FRANK T. HAMILTON, Asst. Cashier. Omaha, Neb., July 8, 1904. H. D. Neely, Manager, Equitable Life Assurance Society, Omaha, Neb.

Dear Sir: I have received from you draft of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U. S. in the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) on account of policy on life of Ben B. Wood. Of five policies in five different companies this is the first payment to the estate.

Yours truly, Administrator.

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