

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George R. Tansick, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company...

Judge Sears sends compliments of the season to Pass Distributor Ager. When the weather man had a look at the attractive faces in attendance upon the State Teachers' convention he re-lected.

Now that a United States senator has been called to explain himself in his land fraud cases, Oregon can no longer look with scorn upon Utah. Farmers in the south who are burning their cotton to enhance the price certainly have no right to object to the most arbitrary methods of the trusts.

Those Japanese ships in the South China sea may be simply videttes, but an impression is growing that fresh war news may be expected from Hong Kong before long. Russia has changed its commissioner in the North sea hearing. The czar probably found a man more dependable to vote "right," no matter what the evidence may show.

Morocco has the satisfaction of knowing that in case of war with France its people can retire to the hills and bombardment will destroy little but the property of neutrals. When Dr. Chadwick arrives at his destination he will have so many adherents to greet him that he will realize that the husband of a capable woman cannot forever remain in obscurity.

According to statisticians of the Agriculture department the corn crop for the year is worth \$1,200,000,000. And when the proceeds come to be divided the Nebraska farmer will be pocketing his full share. The canons of the church are quieter, but often as deadly as the canons of war, and they promise to be heard with no uncertain sound if the charges against Bishop Talbot are permitted to come to trial.

The Real Estate exchange is eminently correct when it declares in favor of an entirely new city charter, but at the rate at which charter revision is progressing it may take fifteen years to get a new charter framed. When the Chinese warships try to stop the movement of the Russian vessels detained in the ports of China the world will see just how far Japan's example has affected the fighters of the Flowery Kingdom.

Premier Koerber of Austria has resigned. He doubtless had no desire to follow in the path of the Hungarian premier, to whom resignation would be a pleasure if he dared retire in the face of active warfare. President McGreevy says that Cashier Hagerty was to blame for the O'Neill bank failure and that he is glad he was arrested. If this story is told in court the fleeing cashier may be compelled to return to protect his good name.

SOUTHERN REPRESENTATION.

It appears that southern men in congress have come to the conclusion that the movement for a reduction in the southern representation in the house, affecting the delegations from those states which have disfranchised the negro...

It is not easy to comprehend how such reasoning has been evolved, since it is known to be a fact that the president has shown more than a passing sympathy with the government for reduction in representation from states which have cut the negro from the ballot...

If there be, as stated, men in the south who think that the introduction of the Platt bill was nothing more than a threat, they will find in due time that they are deluding themselves. The sentiment in the north respecting the wrong and injustice of the southern policy of negro disfranchisement is very strong...

Those who oppose the proposed legislation for federal supervision of railroad rates can offer endless objections, but few of these will be found to be tenable. For instance a prominent railway president is quoted as saying that "this proposal that the government make our rates, if it be carried into effect, means that all competition will be done away with, for there can be no competition when uniformity is enforced by the government."

There has already been offered a great variety of objections to the plan for government regulation of railway rates and undoubtedly many more will be presented as discussion of the subject proceeds. Thus far, however, hardly any of them have substantial value or are of a nature to seriously trouble the advocates of such regulation.

Consistent inconsistency is forcibly illustrated by the resolution of the Real Estate exchange, which declares that its members favor the consolidation of the city and county governments as far as possible, but are opposed to the extension of the present city limits for the purpose of taking in South Omaha, Dundee, Benson and Florence until such time as these suburbs desire to be annexed without solicitation on the part of Omaha.

Suppose the owners of farms and town lots outside of Omaha were constitutionally or out of pure selfishness opposed to the merging of city and county governments or any part thereof. What then? Would Omaha and South Omaha taxpayers lie down and wait until they expressed solicitude for a merger, or would they contend that the object of government is to give to the largest number of people the largest share of its benefits? Is it supposable that the men who have moved out of Omaha into the suburban towns in order to beat their city taxes will solicit annexation, while the property owners within the city limits of Omaha are compelled to bear the burdens by which the suburbs are enabled to secure their water supply, gas supply, electric lights, fire protection and street railway facilities?

South Omaha is complaining at the cost of feeding city prisoners for which the contract price is 1 1/2 cents a meal for two meals daily. What would South Omaha do if it had to pay at the rate of 45 cents a day, which it is costing the taxpayers of Douglas county to feed the inmates of its county jail?

Did Greater New York, Greater Chicago, Greater Cleveland, Greater Buffalo, Greater Detroit, Greater Cincinnati and all other American metropolitan cities defer the annexation of suburban towns until they were solicited by these suburban towns to do so?

GRAND JURY IN MINNESOTA.

At the last election in Minnesota there was an overwhelming vote in favor of the constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the grand jury system. The amendment was carried by a majority of 121,000 and the terms being mandatory, requiring the legislature to pass the laws necessary for the abolition of the grand jury, action during the coming session of that body is certain.

It is stated that in Minnesota the grand jury system has become little more than a farce. Its general inquisitorial powers for the correction of abuses and the improvement of general conditions surrounding the people have, it is alleged, seldom been exercised. On the other hand grand juries have been most energetic in presenting and indicting for suspected crime. It is said that thousands of indictments have been returned in the last five years and a canvass of the court records when the subject was formally discussed before the people, disclosed the fact that of those indicted fully 70 per cent were never brought to trial.

The decision on the validity of the guaranty company bonds for public officers recalls the fact that there are bonds and bonds. It all depends upon the officer who is bonded. Nebraska has had state treasurers who could not be depended upon to go straight had they been bonded by all the bonding companies in the country and all their friends and relatives to boot.

According to the newspapers of Clinton, Ia., the people there are not particularly delighted at the efforts of Attorney Thomas of Omaha to secure the liberation of a man who was convicted in Clinton and sentenced to the penitentiary for a series of robberies and burglaries committed upon its citizens. They fall to see how the cause of reform is to be advanced by exchanging pardons for affidavits and depositions of convicted criminals.

There is no good reason why Omaha should not entertain every year a large number of big conventions not only of state organizations, but of national organizations as well. With its new Auditorium Omaha is now equipped to take care of the biggest of these meetings, and all it yet needs to put it at the front as a convention city is the successful completion of the hotel projects now in hand.

It is said that many court records, carried from the court house by lawyers, were burned in the Sioux City fire. In some states there is a better rule, which requires the records to be held in public custody and attorneys to take merely certified copies. A Run for Their Money. Chicago News. President Roosevelt is going to make existence an interesting one for the public. This is a good thing, for the public has proved almost too easy to provide them with amusement.

Ample Justification. Philadelphia Press. The increase of 64 1/2 per cent in the number of deaths of passengers in train accidents in 1904, as compared with 1903, certainly justified the Interstate Commerce commission in recommending the compulsory use of the block signal system. A New Epoch. Chicago Int. Ocean. New Year's day will mark the beginning of a new epoch in the lives of thousands of good men who have permitted themselves to become slaves to the pernicious tobacco habit. The new epoch in many cases will continue until the day after.

Distinction and Difference. Baltimore American. A ton of actual copper will bring just about the same price in the actual market, whether Amalgamated stock goes up or goes down in the stock board listing. There is, after all, a distinction as well as a difference between copper stocks and copper. The Lash as a Reformer. Chicago Chronicle. People are apt to start a little at the information that in consequence of the recommendation in the president's message the whipping post may be set up in Washington, but let us wait while and see how it will work. Washington has a large element in its population which is addicted to crimes of a bestial nature and which regards a jail sentence as a picnic. It fears nothing but the lash and the lash perhaps is what it ought to get. Let us never forget that the whipping post has driven almost every petty criminal out of the state of Delaware.

Department that Pays Its Way. St. Paul Pioneer Press. No department of the national administration pays its way quite as manfully as does the agricultural department. Congress has recognized this fact in liberal appropriations. In the bureau of forestry alone, according to Secretary Wilson's report, these appropriations have permitted in six years a sixteenfold increase in the working force and a twelvefold increase in expenditures. Yet a single discovery made by the bureau and now applied to the production of turpentine is affecting an annual saving equal to the total expenditure of the bureau for six years. The department is the farmers' Aladdin's lamp. Rub it and its genie produces anything called for.

CAN JAPAN HOLD OUT?

The war correspondent of the London Mail discusses in a recent letter the ability of Japan to provide the means and bear the burden which a prolonged war involves. The resources of Russia are vastly greater and its present determination to continue the fight to a successful finish resolves the contest into one of endurance. "Can Japan hold out?" therefore is a question of great interest, which the Mail correspondent discusses with clearness and candor. He says: At the beginning of the war many European traders in the far east declared confidently that Japan would repudiate its national bonds within six months. Others, who professed to have inside information, were equally sure that the government had accumulated sufficient secret reserves to meet the cost of the war for at least eighteen months without outside assistance.

Both were entirely wrong. Japan has so far shown a surprising ability to bear the monetary burden of the war, yet this burden is proving itself very heavy. The task undertaken by the country was well summed up by Count Okuma, the famous Japanese statesman: "Russia's population," he said, "is two and a half times more than ours, and its revenue and army strength larger. At the beginning of the war the Imperial Bank of Russia possessed a specie reserve of 300,000,000 rubles (\$28,000,000), against a note issue of 600,000,000 rubles, while the Bank of Japan possessed 100,000,000 yen (\$2,000,000) specie reserve, against over 200,000,000 yen of notes.

In the spring the position of Japan was this: It required, roughly, 1,250,000 yen a week to carry on the war. It had a very small national debt, and singularly honest public servants; but the home wealth was comparatively small, and the army and navy lived on low standard of living prevailing throughout the country. In most parts of Japan a workman can live in comfort on a few shillings a month. I have had the salaries of many judges stated to me as \$40 a year, and have seen a similar condition of affairs in a New York bricklayer would laugh at in scorn. The lives of the people are unelaborate. Homes are plain and inexpensive; the simple articles of diet in universal use are amazingly cheap; dress generally is simple, and although the Japanese woman has some very costly articles of attire, these articles are so carefully kept as to last for generations. Ostentation, extravagance and expensive living are thought bad form.

All this is admirable from the point of view of building up national character. A simple life is a strong people; but simple lives mean low earnings, and a low earning nation goes into the market as a borrower under a handicap. Some optimists, I am aware, attempt to argue that while living simply the Japanese have individually considerable savings. There is one ready test for this, however. If the savings and spare capital is abundant, the rate of interest earned is low. In Japan, according to official returns, the annual average rate for fixed loans is 10 1/2 per cent.

The low standard of living in Japan aided the empire in one way, however. It is probably true that Japan can run a great war cheaper than any other nation on earth. The Japanese business man has too often the reputation of being a trickster; but the Japanese public servant in his dealings with the nation is honest beyond reproach. It is impossible for one to conceive a Japanese contractor selling the army rotten stores or adulterated provisions. Japan can feed its army and navy cheaply, and the salaries of the fighting services are little more than the wages of laborers. War came, and with war came a call for economy. On all sides statesmen and public men appealed to the nation to save, to limit all personal expenditure and to prepare for hard times. The people obeyed the call with a faithfulness. Children starved themselves until they fainted from hunger in school. All purchases of luxuries, silks, furniture and the like ceased in a day.

The people saved, but their saving had the inevitable economic effect. No one bought new silks consequently the thousands of silk weavers who were employed on foreign orders, were thrown out of employment. The furniture trade was contracted, and one lumber district that the year before had sold millions' worth of stuff, now found itself overstocked. Thousands of workers all over the land found their occupation gone.

Half a million men—the number is greater now—were withdrawn from active employment. At the same time trades which were the mainstay of whole districts ceased. Thirty thousand Japanese fishermen usually set out in March from the western coast to drag the Korean waters. Last March the capitalists withdrew their usual offer of loans and the fishermen, when I last heard of them, were staying at home idle. The great steam mercantile marine which Japan has built up so rapidly was withdrawn from commerce to serve for war transport and the cargo business ceased or trade, making it a matter of time before the government would have to cut down, every expense at home. Nothing is wasted on the field. Military supplies are good, and the machines of death are the best the nation can secure. But the accessories of the armies are made in the cheapest possible way. The khaki with which the troops were clothed in summer was of such poor quality that it washed almost white by the end of August, making the soldiers clear marks for the enemy.

The nation faced the situation clearly-eyed. While the self-denial months were really over, the government made such moves were made. Men brought out their family treasures of art and quietly offered them abroad to raise money for the war loans. The heavy taxation for war expenses is being cheerfully borne. The government has taken over the tobacco trade, making it a state monopoly, and in the ordinary course of events is bound to shake great profits out of it. The salt monopoly is also being cheerfully borne. The surprising thing in Japan just now is the small evidence of real distress to be seen. The splendid rice and silk crops this autumn have helped many and they are regarded by the common people as a direct interposition of heaven on their behalf. The expenditure of part of the loan money in the country in the purchase of supplies for the army and navy, and the clothing and food of the soldiers can be made and raised in Japan, and wherever possible these are being purchased there. Women, old men and boys are doing the work formerly done by the men now fighting or dead in the trenches. The absence of the former breadwinner at least makes one less mouth to feed.

Japan is not yet at the end of its financial resources. The law is likely to be altered in the immediate future to allow foreigners to own real estate within the empire. This will enable the government to raise a loan upon its railroads or to sell them outright. The new tobacco monopoly, already mentioned, affords another tangible asset. And the people are willing to hypothecate their last national assets and to sell their last domestic business before they abandon the fight.

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS UPON WHICH THE RESULT OF WAR HINGES.

The war correspondent of the London Mail discusses in a recent letter the ability of Japan to provide the means and bear the burden which a prolonged war involves. The resources of Russia are vastly greater and its present determination to continue the fight to a successful finish resolves the contest into one of endurance. "Can Japan hold out?" therefore is a question of great interest, which the Mail correspondent discusses with clearness and candor. He says: At the beginning of the war many European traders in the far east declared confidently that Japan would repudiate its national bonds within six months. Others, who professed to have inside information, were equally sure that the government had accumulated sufficient secret reserves to meet the cost of the war for at least eighteen months without outside assistance.

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AFTER AYER'S HAIR VIGOR MORE HAIR. There is a reason, and the best kind of a reason, why Ayer's Hair Vigor makes the hair grow long and heavy. It is a hair-food. It feeds the hair and makes it healthy and strong. Healthy hair grows, keeps soft and smooth, does not split at the ends, and never falls out. Give Ayer's Hair Vigor to your gray hair and restore to it all the deep, rich color of early life.

OPPORTUNITY AND THE MAN. A Western Tribute for Roosevelt—"We Like His Style." Chicago Record-Herald. In our untutored, uncouth western way let us say that the course of President Roosevelt since he learned unofficially of election news the people of the middle west cheer to the ground. His immediate announcement that he would not be a candidate for re-election left him free to attend to the welfare of the country with no harassing suspicion of any further political ambition, and that pleased us all.

Still more acceptable was the determination, evidenced in his message, to resolutely grapple with the transportation problems—rebates, extortionate or discriminatory rates, industrial "roads" and private cars. In this he showed himself both brave and sane, for the discontent with existing abuses is so great as to breed disbelief in the power of our government to cope with the evil or distrust in its willingness to do so. In his attempt to demonstrate that the government of the United States is strong enough to enforce justice in this vital matter, he has and will have the enthusiastic support of the central west and of its representatives in congress. Astounding as were the majorities by which he was elected, they fall far short, in our judgment, of what a poll taken today would show.

And so, in uncultured fashion, we bid him good-bye—we like his style. THE STAY-AT-HOME VOTE. Over Three Million Citizens Failed to Perform Their Duty. The total vote for president in the late election was 12,568,496. This was 406,078 less than the vote in 1900, notwithstanding an estimated increase of nearly 7,000,000 in population and of 1,600,000 in eligible voters. What should the total vote have been in November had the interest of citizens in the result been profound and their preferences between the candidates sharply defined? The fullest vote in proportion to population ever cast in a presidential election was in 1856, when the ratio was 1 to 5. By this ratio the vote in November would have been 16,900,000. The vote actually polled was 3,062,000 short of this.

Just what proportion of these potential but absent voters were dissatisfied Democrats, disgruntled republicans, disqualified negroes, or southern whites who had not sufficient incentive to vote in the absence of a real contest in their states, there is no trustworthy method of ascertaining. But the fact that more than 2,000,000 citizens failed to vote—almost one-quarter of the number who did vote—is a fact that should be a matter of serious reflection to the men who are shaping our national politics and controlling the party organizations. PERSONAL NOTES. Joseph Bourner, the oldest resident of Nashua, N. H., smokes at the age of 103 and is spry. He is so healthy that all the anti-tobacco league can say of him is that he had never been killed that man.

Reginald de Koven, the composer and musician, was presented with a fine composer's desk last Saturday by the members of the Washington Symphony orchestra, of which he is the conductor. Benjamin Campbell, who has just been appointed fourth vice president of the Great Northern railway, has the reputation of being one of the most progressive traffic men in the west. He has risen to his present position from the telegraph desk. Isaac Thomas Parker, who will soon be inducted into office as lieutenant governor of Delaware, is conductor of a passenger train running between Philadelphia and Delmar, Del. He is already quartermaster general on the staff of the present governor.

John Jordison, postmaster at Colville, Ia., has written out his resignation time without number in the last six years, but without avail. No one else will have the office and the incumbent, under the law, is compelled to remain until a new postmaster may be found. A Washington dispatch says that the State department, at the instance of the British government, has induced Mrs. Maybrick to abandon her lecture tour of this country. All the dates have been cancelled. Mrs. Maybrick had planned a comprehensive tour, intending to open at Hartford, Conn., in the middle of January. She had made a lucrative contract with a theatrical agent, and intended to devote her lectures to a discussion of the abuses of British prisons. FROM THE GRANITE HILLS of New Hampshire comes Londonerry LITHIA WATER. Soft, light, and absolutely pure. THE RICHARDSON DRUG CO., 22 JACKSON STREET, DISTRIBUTING AGENTS. SHEPARD & McCONNELL DRUG CO., 1474 AND 1476 D. O. O. RETAIL AGENTS.