

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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1. 20,300	11. 22,715
2. 20,300	12. 20,200
3. 22,500	13. 22,500
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Total, 2,217,785.

Less unsold copies, 10,120.

Net total sales, 2,207,665.

Daily average, 20,408.

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

(Seal) M. B. HUNTER, Notary Public.

"Tax reduction" is the slogan.

Miners in Indiana report that they are working on an average but three days a week, but no evidence of surplus coal is visible this far from the mines.

It is now beginning to appear that the recognition of Chinese neutrality depends more upon the exigencies of war than upon the promise of the belligerents.

The charter revisers are now in a hurry to finish, in contrast with their leisurely start. It would have been better had the speed been applied at the other end.

If Thomas Carter could settle the problem of the World's fair awards as easily as he settled the Montana senatorial situation he will be entitled to a vote of thanks.

From reports from Port Arthur it would seem that the damaging power of big guns has improved but little since they scored their shot upon the lone nule of Matanzas.

It will still be several weeks before President Roosevelt is formally declared elected to succeed himself, as the house of representatives has just decided to count the vote on February 8.

Now that the press correspondents have entered Port Arthur the public will learn just how much General Stoessel lacked of doing all he could have done before he surrendered the place.

Colorado politics has been relegated to the courts and legislature, but the natives are still keeping their gun powder on hand, to judge from the explosive tone of the partisan newspapers of that state.

And now it is said that the Russian soldiers wanted to continue the fight when General Stoessel was ready to surrender, indicating that the Russian commander possesses discretion as well as valor.

The action of the German emperor in suggesting conciliation in the Essen coal strike, coupled with the announcement that both sides have decided to fight the matter out, shows that the ethics of boycotts and lockouts is the same the world over.

"Woe unto you, Corazon," exclaimed St. Thomas in his arraignment of Omaha—but the salaried reformer made a mighty mess of it when he boasted about the amicable agreement with the brewers to allow the saloons in the proscribed district to be released.

The siege of the court house is still on. Several of the more daring place hunters have succeeded in storming a few ramparts, but the inner intrenchments have not yet yielded. No one, however, would want to venture a prediction on how long the defending army can hold out.

"Omaha's heroic and dynamited leader" started out to tell Chicago of his "crusade to compel the enforcement of the Sunday and midnight closing saloon laws" in Omaha, but when he recited the story he told of a surrender to the brewers, in which Sunday closing was not even mentioned.

It is refreshing to read the report made by Prof. D'Ooge of Michigan on his return home from a visit to Omaha to participate in the recent state teachers' convention, especially in comparison with the harangue delivered at Chicago a week ago by a self-styled local reform leader. The eminent educator found a great many things in Omaha to praise and had no words of condemnation, while the Civic Federation attorney devoted nearly two hours of public speaking to nothing but blackwash of the city which he claims as his home.

RATE REGULATION QUESTION.

According to reports from Washington, it is exceedingly doubtful whether it is practicable to secure any further legislation at the present session of congress for the regulation of railroad rates. That will, however, surprise nobody. On the contrary, it would be almost miraculous if the present congress would have passed a railroad rate bill. There is doubtless a good deal of first-rate legal talent in congress and if all or the greater part of it were honestly and earnestly directed to the preparation of a bill for carrying out the recommendations of the president in regard to rate regulation it is not to be doubted that a satisfactory measure could be produced. The trouble is that most of the gentlemen who are best qualified to do this are not in particularly hearty sympathy with the policy of rate regulation and consequently are more ready to find objections to whatever is proposed than to suggest methods for meeting the public demand. They are more concerned for the railroads than for the people. A number of these in both houses have already pretty clearly indicated this.

As one report states, the railroads are aligning their friends in congress. They intend to fight, not in the open, perhaps, but more effectively under cover. Some of them, while professing a most generous desire for stronger governmental control, are doing their utmost to block in an indirect way legislation looking to that end. An active press bureau has been started and the offices of Washington correspondents are being flooded with pro-railroad literature. The plain fact is that if a majority of senators and representatives were really anxious for the proposed legislation it would be enacted at the present session, of which there still remain forty working days.

THE SHIPPING BILL.

The shipping bill prepared by the Merchant Marine commission and reported to the senate by its committee on commerce is not likely to be acted upon at the present session, but it will be in a position to receive early attention from the next congress and in the meanwhile can receive such public consideration and discussion as its importance calls for. Just now there are matters of greater concern to the people demanding the attention of their representatives and the merchant marine question can very well wait for the Fifty-ninth congress.

As to the character of the measure, it may be said to be a compromise between what is known as the Frye bill and those who are not in favor of so liberal a subsidy system as that measure provided for. Strictly speaking, it is not a subsidy bill, although provision is made for certain payments which may be regarded as in the nature of a subvention. The chief provision of the measure is in regard to tonnage taxes, which it is proposed to double, these taxes now being lower than those of any nation save England. The money thus collected is to be paid direct into the treasury, but as a partial offset against it will come the payment to American ships of subsidies at comparatively low and stipulated rates. Thus the money for the so-called subsidies would not come direct from the national treasury, but would be contributed by the foreign ship owners in the form of additional tonnage taxes. Already in regard to this the question has been raised whether it would not be likely to cause retaliation, but there seems to be little reason for serious apprehension on this score.

It has been pretty conclusively established that no measure which contemplates a direct subsidy paid on the treasury will have public support and with this in mind the commission, in framing a bill, has ignored that device entirely. The measure is simple and free from restrictions and is very likely to prove acceptable to the next congress, with its great republican majority.

EXPORTS OF BREADSTUFFS.

The bulletin of the bureau of statistics for the month of December and the calendar year 1904 shows a large decline in the exports of breadstuffs as compared with the previous year, the falling off in the month of December alone being nearly \$7,000,000 from the amount exported in the corresponding month of 1903. The figures show that the exports of wheat during December were of little importance as compared with the previous year and it is noted that the comparison would be more striking if it were confined to the Atlantic and Gulf ports, as of the total wheat exports for last month nearly all went by way of Pacific ports. The exports of flour make a somewhat better showing, though there was a large decline in these.

Remark upon this a leading commercial paper says that while our exports of wheat and flour will have comparatively insignificant proportions for the current fiscal year, and those of breadstuffs generally will be much diminished, this is not to be taken as a criterion of the future. Our crops will continue to increase, and though a lessening proportion of the products will be exported and an increasing proportion consumed at home, breadstuffs as well as provisions will figure prominently in our export trade for some time to come. But as the years go by we shall sell abroad less of the products of the soil and depend more for foreign trade upon products of manufacturing industry, the cost of which must be reduced to compete with those of other countries. It appears to be a quite general opinion among those who give attention to the matter that the time is not very remote when this country will cease to export breadstuffs and will find it necessary to import wheat to supply the wants of our own people. Of course such a time may come, but we are inclined to think that it is further away than some suppose, for the reason that we have not

yet reached the limit of wheat production. The areas in which wheat can be grown are not exhausted and an increasing demand will bring a more extensive cultivation. However, the question of exporting wheat is one in which the American farmer is not very greatly interested. It is more profitable and advantageous to him to dispose of his product in the home market. He can not only get a better price for it when there is a domestic demand for all that he has to sell, but he saves at least a part of the charge for its shipment abroad.

It is highly probable that in the future we shall have to depend more for foreign trade upon products of manufacturing industry and it is very satisfactory to know that steady progress is being made in placing our manufactures in foreign markets. Whether or not it is necessary in order to further augment the output of our industrial establishments that their cost shall be reduced is a question which competition will determine, though it is altogether likely that some lowering of the cost of production will be found necessary. This may be brought about by superior machinery and the relatively greater productive power of American workmen, rather than by cutting down the wages of our workmen employed in the industries.

WORK FOR THE MISSIONARIES.

A conference of high dignitaries, representing the Sixth missionary district of the Protestant Episcopal church, will be held in this city the last four days of the week and an elaborate program has been mapped out for discussions, receptions and entertainments. It is passing strange, however, that among the many and varied topics selected for discussion and the remotest reference is made to the lamentable and disgraceful condition of affairs that has for years subsisted and still exists at the Winnebago reservation, where several hundred Indian men and women are living promiscuously without marriage relation, beset with liquor and more degraded than the heathen tribes in darkest Africa.

To be sure, money has from time to time been contributed by Christian churches for the Winnebago and Omaha missions as a mere matter of form and a resident missionary is located in the neighborhood, but for reasons no one has yet been able to explain no missionary's voice has been raised on behalf of the poor Indians, who have been systematically debauched, fleeced and starved by mercenary traders and land speculators. With the exception of a Catholic priest, whose activity at the reservation has been quite recent, the Winnebago blot upon Christian civilization has been studiously ignored.

An army of trained missionaries has been raised, equipped and dispatched to reclaim the heathen in China and Hindostan, in the South Sea Islands and in Patagonia, but here in Nebraska, within sight and hearing of hundreds of clergymen, whose mission is presumed to be the uplifting of humanity to the highest plane of Christian civilization, the Winnebago agency remains an unexplored region. Here is an opportunity for effective missionary work for the Episcopal dignitaries and laymen who will gather in Omaha within the next few days.

Just ten years ago, during the legislative session of 1895, the editor of The Bee devoted most of two months of time at Lincoln to formulating a series of constitutional amendments, twelve of which were submitted and four defeated by the corporation lobby. One of these was the proposition to merge the governments of the city and county, in whole or in part, and another proposition authorizing the segregation of territory ten miles square, to be known as the county and city of Omaha, leaving the residue of Douglas county either to be annexed to Sarpy and Washington counties or formed into a new county, under its old name of Douglas. This was the first practical movement for a greater, better and cheaper governed Omaha. Like many other reforms originated by The Bee, the proposed consolidation of county and city governments, in part or in whole, at first pool-pooled or opposed by narrow-minded and short-sighted people, is now universally favored, and the proposed reform will go into operation at no distant day.

Dr. Saville attended the Thomas lecture in Chicago. He was also at Pine Ridge as agent of the Sioux Indians when cattle were driven around the ring and eighty-pound sacks of flour were weighed out by contractors for Indian supplies at 100 pounds, and he winked and he winked and he winked, but when he brought the head chiefs of the Sioux—Red Cloud, Spotted Tail and American Horse—to Omaha on their way to meet the great father who lives in the White House, they exposed the starvation policy through The Bee, and shortly thereafter the good Dr. Saville was relieved of his charge by the Indian commissioner and the Pine Ridge reservation saw him no more. But, of course, the good doctor was on hand at Chicago to applaud the vainglorious Omaha reformer and heartily agreed with him in denouncing The Bee as the greatest enemy of good government west of the great lakes. Strange coincidence.

If Omaha wants to partake of Andrew Carnegie's generosity for the establishment of branch libraries in connection with its public library, the authorities will have to act soon. Life is short and time is fleeting.

Ditto.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Only about six weeks more of cold waves. Raw, raw, raw!

The World Getting Information.

Cincinnati Enquirer.

A frivolous American newspaper suggests that General Nogi could make a good thing by coming to America and entering the lecture field. This is something better than a left-handed compliment. Not so.

many years have passed since we expected nothing better from a Japanese than politeness and juggling with sticks. The world has only lately learned to estimate this remarkable people.

And sticks, too.
Philadelphia Press.
American soldiers in the Philippines who marry native women under the impression that they can marry when they please, are discovering that the marriage certificate follows the flag.

An Irritating Combination.
St. Louis Globe-Democrat.
Colonel Bryan has received another setback from the courts in the Bennett matter. In all his frenzied career the colonel has never struck a worse combination than law, politics and philanthropy.

Too Much Exclusiveness.
Louisville Courier-Journal.
If Japan holds a "World's fair," says a contemporary, "it will not insist on compelling all the American girls to leave the country after it ends." More than fifty years ago, through our sailors, we rescued Japan from its exclusiveness.

Will Nebraska Get into Line?
Springfield Republican.
If the railroads succeed in preventing national control of rates, they are likely to get a lot of state control. The republican governors of Wisconsin and Indiana urge action in the direction of maximum rate legislation. Many other western states are likely to follow suit.

Music as a Narcotic.
Chicago Chronicle.
There is a revival in New York of the ancient fad concerning music as a cure for disease. Dr. Francis S. Kennedy delivered a lecture on music as a sleep producer and proved that music was such a narcotic that even a lecture on the subject had the same effect, for two women in the audience fell into a profound slumber while he was speaking. Music is medicinal, we all know, but it is too well known to excuse a whole lecture on the subject.

Perils of Adulterated Food.
Minneapolis Journal.
The chemist of the South Dakota food commission, extracting coal tar dye from a bottle of port wine taken from an original package in the presence of members of the legislature to dye a brilliant wine color nine square feet of heavy woolen cloth. From a bottle of tomato catsup he took enough dye to color a like amount of woolen cloth. A single bottle of pop produced coloring matter of still greater power. These facts seem to give considerable color to the charges of food adulteration.

Enemies of the People Branded.
Baltimore American.
Governor Folk has only expressed a well known precept, but has expressed it very forcefully when he essays "the legislator who is not always in the honor of a sovereign people and prostitute the trust reposed in him." And the Missouri governor makes another definition which should always be apparent to those delegated with power by the people when he remarked that it is not always in the honor of a sovereign people and prostitute the trust reposed in him.

Railroad Doctors Disagree.
"Throw the Patient into Fits and Then Try the Cure."
New York World.
Very perplexing are the disagreements among the railroad doctors who are helping to concoct a prescription for the freight rate disease.

Dr. Paul Morton, who is the president's family expert and awful example, thinks pooling should be legalized, that the Interstate Commerce commission should be empowered to fix a reasonable rate when the existing rate seemed unreasonable, and that if the company refused to comply the question should be referred to a central court of transportation.

Dr. James H. Hill, who is the administration or congress that attempts to legalize railway pooling will be quickly turned out by a uniting of the people. Dr. Hill believes in suppressing rebates, but is opposed to government regulation of rates.

Dr. Samuel Spencer, a distinguished Morgan-Vanderbilt specialist, is in favor of preventing rebates, but sees no reason for additional legislation. What the patient needs is quiet and good nursing.

Dr. Cassatt and Dr. Rea have been in earnest consultation with the president, but have made no prescriptions public. This conflict of experts is likely to strengthen Mr. Roosevelt's belief that the railroad pooling question is a patient into fits and then try to cure the life.

KING CORN IS THE LEADER.

Monarch of the West Shows His Power for Good.

Portland Oregonian.

Corn is king by a good safe majority in this country, according to the final report of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture. Not only was the 1904 crop of vast proportions that it has been exceeded but twice, but the high prices at which it was marketed made a new record for its aggregate value. The record corn crop of the country was produced in 1896, when the official return credited a total of 2,960,400,000 bushels. In 1903 the government placed the figures at 2,523,680,000 bushels. Last year the Agricultural department figures show a yield of 2,467,880,000 bushels, but on account of the lowered price the market value was \$400,000,000 less than the crop of 1902, which until that year had held the record for value.

The returns of the department on the 1904 wheat crop show a marketable value greater than 1901, although the crop is nearly 200,000,000 bushels less than for that record year, in this respect there is far less cause for congratulation than there is over the excellent showing made by the corn crop. The dimensions of the yield of the corn crop are such that it is a matter of surprise that it is not a more universal blessing. While the gross returns were divided among the farmers and speculators were several million dollars greater than ever before, a much smaller proportion of the population of the country was benefited by these prices than was the case with corn. The shortage made heavy inroads on the profits of some of the roads traversing the American wheat belt, and capital, thus suffering, passed the blow on to labor by laying off train crews and reducing operating expenses, so that dollar wage this time was at the expense of the American people and not due to any strength in the foreign markets, which in all previous seasons have been the prime factors in elevating prices.

Despite the constantly increasing demand for corn as a food product, and an increase in the home consumption due to the short crop and high prices of wheat, the American corn crop is better off than being so pronounced as that of wheat. American corn shippers thus holding their foreign trade much better than wheat and foreign exporters.

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON.

Matters of interest called from the Army and Navy Register.
It was quite evident that one provision of the army bill, as it was reported from the house committee, did not originate in the War department and could not have been referred to any one in authority at that place. It is provided in an obscure portion of the bill and in inconspicuous phraseology that no military post shall be established in the United States without express authority of congress. The only explanation of such an unusual requirement is that congress is sensitive over the rumors raised regarding the selection of camp sites. Whatever may have led the house committee to include such a restrictive clause in the bill, it has a very wide-reaching effect of importance in time of peace and of something more than importance in time of war. Under such a provision, should it become law, it would not be possible to establish a temporary camp in the country, no matter what the emergency of maintaining a military command overnight, for instance, on land outside a government reservation.

The signal corps of the army will shortly experiment with a signal flag kit, and an order for eighty of them has been placed with the manufacturers. The staff is made in three sections, each twenty-three inches long, and when the sections are joined a staff five and a half feet long is the result. It includes a kit of two-foot signal flags, one red and the other white. The staff is provided with swivels for attachment of the flags, so that the latter will not become fouled upon the staff. The outfit is to be carried in a khaki-colored canvas case, which is provided with a carrying strap. It is intended, if the new kit proves satisfactory, to issue two of the kits to each troop, battery and company, in addition to the issue to the signal corps.

There are eighteen vacancies in the junior grade of the medical department of the army, and naturally much interest is shown in the prospect of obtaining enough qualified candidates to fill all these places. The hope amounts to more than the expectation. These examinations will be held all over the country at different army posts under the new system, which has been adopted. They will shortly be held at other army posts, by reason of the retirement of Colonel Charles S. Sargent as a brigadier general.

The determination of the house to cut off from full pay of their active grade these army officers of the retired list above the grade of major who are on duty with the organized militia has special interest since it affects in a vital way a majority of the officers of the retired list who are now on militia duty. Of the twenty-nine officers thus employed four are captains and six are majors, and they, of course, will not be deprived of their present compensation. The others will not receive the active pay of the retired list, but they will continue on militia duty—that is, if the senate agrees with the house in its first change in the army bill. The officers senior to the grade of major who are on militia duty are Brigadier General E. M. Hayes at Little Rock, Ark.; Brigadier General Charles L. Cooper at Denver, Colo.; Colonel William H. Clapp at Hartford, Conn.; Lieutenant Colonel H. G. Cavanaugh at Wilmington, Del.; Colonel S. T. Norvell at Tallahassee, Fla.; Brigadier General Henry B. Freeman at Topeka, Kan.; Colonel James W. Powell at New Orleans, La.; Lieutenant Colonel William Gerlach at St. Paul, Minn.; Brigadier General H. H. Jackson at Jefferson City, Mo.; Brigadier General S. S. Baggett at Lincoln, Neb.; Brigadier General James Miller at Concord, N. H.; Brigadier General C. A. Woodruff at Raleigh, N. C.; Brigadier General C. W. Miner at Columbus, Ga.; Brigadier General A. S. Baggett at Salem, Ore.; Brigadier General Chambers McKibbin at Harrisburg, Pa.; Lieutenant Colonel E. D. Fuller at Columbia, S. C.; and Colonel Charles Dempsey at Richmond, Va.

Another officer to be affected, of course, is Lieutenant General Miles, who has just been detailed to duty with the Massachusetts militia, and still another officer who may be concerned in this amendment of law is General Charles R. Hughes, recently retired from the ordnance department of the army, and who is now destined for duty with the Indiana National guard.

There is very little hope that the army will be able to obtain the six veterinarians to fill existing vacancies in that position. A board is in session at Fort Riley, Kan., to examine those who are finally approved in that capacity, and already something like twenty applicants are being considered. One of them is the candidate who failed only in the physical examination last year and who was re-examined, but found disqualified by the surgeons. There is some chance that he will be recommended for appointment, but beyond that the outlook is very doubtful.

General MacArthur has asked for authority to go to Manchuria and permission has been granted him from Washington. He will start with him on side and it is his intention to observe the operations of the Japanese troops, with the purpose of making a report of his observations.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Frank P. Flint, the new senator from California, was born in Massachusetts, but moved to California with his parents when he was 7 years old. His father was the husband of Charlotte Bronie, Nicholas, is still living in an Irish village, the object of much honor and respect among a large circle of friends.

A. W. Maxwell, for a long time chairman of the Iowa democratic state committee, has been established a republican paper in Randolph county, the only one of that faith in the county.

Mr. Rockefeller, sr., discourses to a Sunday school class on the folly of eating too much and living too fast. Doubtless this idea prompts the orator to elevate the price of his confession and thus reduce consumption and slacken the pace.

Prof. Jagger of Harvard university is to lead an important geological expedition to Ireland. It is expected to start from Cambridge about May 15. There will be about fifty men in the party, which will have as an object observation of the volcanic and glacial formations, etc.

Senator Hale now has the banner record of all senators ever elected from Maine, in having been chosen for five full terms of six years each. The Maine legislature at Augusta a few days ago gave him a resolution by acclamation and many pleasant things were said about his public service at the national capital. The Maine newspapers, democratic as well as republican, vied heartily in commending his ability and independence.