

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), one year, \$4.00...

DELIVERED BY CARRIER. Daily Bee (without Sunday), per copy, 5c...

OFFICES. Omaha—The Bee Building, South Omaha—City Hall Building, Twenty-third and M streets...

CORRESPONDENCE. Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

REMITTANCES. Remit by draft, express or postal order, payable to The Bee Publishing Company...

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Table with 3 columns: Number of copies, Total, and Net total sales. Rows include various circulation figures for different periods.

Subscribed in advance and sworn to before me this 21st day of December, 1904. (Seal) M. B. INGRAHAM, Notary Public.

The birth of Omaha as a grain market seems to be causing some commotion in the constellation.

Senator Knox, in his questions in the Smoot inquiry, has demonstrated his ability to sum up a case in a small compass.

Now it is said that J. P. Morgan will finance a railroad to be built in China. Verily, Colonel Sellers is being vindicated.

Now if the gas and electric lighting plants and the telephone service would only shut down a day or two just to show us the difference.

A few bills to establish several new state institutions are past due. No Nebraska legislature ever escaped one or more of these propositions.

In the interval the council should not forget that our taxpayers expect a city tax rate for 1905 materially reduced from the tax rate for 1904.

New York has had three exceptionally destructive fires in as many days. An advance in Omaha insurance rates may be expected at any time.

Senator Dolliver of Iowa declares he has begun to study the railroad problem, but whether from a scientific or political standpoint is not stated.

Mexico is going to punish the Yaquis who killed four Americans and a couple of Mexicans. Probably the Indians regret not leaving the natives alone.

Nobaskans who have fought a prairie fire have a fair understanding of what is required of Russia if its effort to stop the present labor troubles is to succeed.

That armistice between the republican factions in Iowa must be at an end, to judge by Mr. Cummins' remarks upon Committee Chairman Blythe at Cedar Rapids.

It might not be out of order for Omaha and Douglas county to check up the minutes of secret meetings of public boards to ascertain just how much property still remains public property.

Those New York lawyers who have been indicted for subornation of perjury will surely be of the opinion that District Attorney Jerome has shown a lamentable disregard for professional ethics.

Russian officials who promised investigation into the condition of the workmen may as well prepare their resignations if the appointment of General Treppoff is any indication of the temper of the czar.

It will cost South Omaha citizens \$500 to hold an election in April to choose three members of their school board. Whether they got their money's worth or not will depend on the kind of school board members they elect.

The government in Hungary was defeated in the elections Wednesday, but the party of Premier Tisza has learned something about obstruction which may cause its successor considerable trouble when it finds no seats in the House of Deputies.

German mine owners have explained that their willingness to submit their case to a parliamentary inquiry in no way indicates a doubt as to the rectitude of their position. Luckily for the Germans, the ancestors of Mr. Baer migrated to America.

A New Jersey corporation, with assets of \$2,600,000, liabilities of ordinary character of \$1,300,000 in excess of that amount and bonds of \$10,240,000, has gone into the hands of a receiver. It was organized to make rope, but evidently made more tackle for suckers than anything else.

AMERICAN INTERESTS IN CHINA.

The notes addressed by the American Department of State to the European powers in regard to the preservation of the territorial integrity of China and the maintenance of the neutrality of that empire, have had thus far the desired effect. Every government that has replied to the American note has signified its absolute concurrence in the proposition that whatever the outcome of the war there should be no interference with Chinese territory, while all adhere to the agreement made at the beginning of the war in regard to the neutrality of China.

Thus in respect to the vital questions involved in the Russo-Japanese war, clearly defined at the outset of the conflict by our government and accepted by the neutral powers, there appears to be still absolute agreement. It has not unreasonably been assumed that the policy of Russia has in contemplation, in the event of the success of Chinese territory, is a division of Chinese territory. It is hardly questionable that should Japan be defeated Russia would not only hold possession of Manchuria, but would claim as the spoils of war a considerably larger part of Chinese territory. It is against this possibility that the government of the United States has taken a position which cannot fail to exert a very great influence with other nations.

In his note to the powers and in his statement to the Russian ambassador at Washington, Secretary Hay makes very plain and explicit the interests in China. He says in unqualified terms that it is the desire of the United States that the integrity of Chinese territory shall be preserved and that the policy of the open door be maintained. There is no desire on the part of this country, it is plainly set forth, to acquire any Chinese territory, but on the other hand we cannot look with favor upon the acquisition of such territory by any other nation. We have interests near China which forbid any partition of the territory of that empire.

We think the position taken by our government in this matter must command the unqualified endorsement of the American people and meet also the approval of foreign governments, at all events of such of them as have no designs upon Chinese territory. That it may not be approved by Russia is to be expected, but that power is not at present in a position to make its influence effective. It has lost much of its hold upon Chinese territory and there is a strong probability that it will lose more. It is rather in regard to Japan, whose ultimate triumph seems assured, that the attitude of the United States will be influential and there seems to be no reason to doubt that Japanese policy is in full accord with the American idea.

THE SAN DOMINGO PROTOCOL.

Opposition has been made in the United States senate to the proposition that the government of the United States shall assume the duty, upon the invitation of the government of San Domingo, of taking care of the customs revenues of that republic and seeing to their proper distribution. It is asserted that the executive department of the government has no authority to do this and while it appears that the president has not gone beyond or outside of his constitutional power in the matter, since nothing in the nature of a treaty has yet been negotiated, it is still quite possible that an issue may be created between the executive and the senate in regard to the question.

There is no doubt, of course, as to the right of the president to negotiate treaties, but these are subject to ratification by the senate. The question seems to be as to how far the executive department can go in the making of agreements with other countries that do not need to be approved by the senate. In the San Domingo matter there is not a treaty, but merely a mutual understanding, which as it now stands may be abrogated at any time. It is not absolutely binding upon either country, although of course involving good faith on the part of both. It is perfectly obvious that such an arrangement does not require any action on the part of the United States senate, so that the objection raised against it by certain democratic senators is wholly untenable. But the question which naturally suggests itself is whether the executive department of the government ought to enter into an arrangement of this kind without the approval of congress.

It is a rather serious matter, this of the government of the United States undertaking to look after the fiscal affairs of bankrupt states in this hemisphere and endeavoring to provide for the payment of their obligations to foreign creditors. If our government starts out upon a course of this kind where is the end to be and what the ultimate consequences to ourselves? This San Domingo matter, however justified by circumstances and however necessary it may appear to be in order to avert the danger of aggressive action by foreign governments whose people have claims against the republic, will make a precedent that it is not difficult to see may lead the United States into serious trouble in the future. What it is proposed to do for San Domingo we may be called upon to do for other defaulting countries in the western hemisphere.

Meanwhile there appears to be some uncertainty as to the ability of our government to peaceably carry out the proposed arrangement. It is stated that the revolutionists are in possession of some of the customs houses of San Domingo and are likely to refuse to turn over the receipts to the representatives of this government. In that event it would be a very serious question whether our government should attempt by force to take possession of the customs revenues, since such a course might be very generally regarded as tantamount to an act of war.

Prospects are brightening every day for a record-breaking era of building improvements in Omaha the coming year. More plans are already under way than ever before at this early stage of the season.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The poverty of the Russian peasant and his burden of taxation are incredible. There may be equal poverty in some parts of Asia, but the exactions of the government are less, for primitive government is less expensive than that of modern military and naval power. Investigations by the statistical committee of the province of Voronezh showed that the average peasant family consisted of eight persons. Its annual gross revenue from all sources amounted to \$108.08 in money and \$107.12 in farm produce at its market value. Of the money earnings \$48.50 went for taxes and rent of land additional to the family's allotment, which was quite insufficient for the support of eight persons. Statistics compiled by the Zemstvos of forty-nine provinces of European Russia in 1901 showed that 89,000 families had only one child each. These areas include woodland and swamp and mountain, and thousands of the families consist, including grown sons and their wives and children, of eight to twenty-five persons. Of the other expenditures of the typical peasant family in Voronezh \$1.30 goes for clothing, \$1.35 for tea and sugar, \$1.30 for household furniture, \$1.30 for salt, 85 cents for kerosene, 25 cents for soap and four cents for "articles of personal comfort."

Belgium is an essentially peaceful country. Neutralized and set aside from the ordinary temptations and dangers of war it seeks its victories in the realm of commerce, and when it comes to business matters the Belgium Lion usually gets there with all four feet. Belgium occupies little space on the map, but it occupies a great deal of room in commerce, and the people are active and enterprising, and there are for king one of the most astute statesmen and one of the ablest financiers of the day. In a speech made recently to the representatives of the Belgium Parliament, King Leopold uttered a phrase which has been much quoted and commented on, and which is the keynote of Belgium success. "No country," said his majesty, "is small if it has shores washed by the sea." This is the doctrine of commercial sea power. The ocean which separates countries is at the same time the means which unites them. It is the high road of trade. Belgium has a narrow front on that thoroughfare, but is doing a lively business in spite of the smallness of the shop. With a population of 7,000,000, Belgium ranks fourth among the commercial nations of the world.

With a gap of nearly 3,000 miles yet to be filled through what was once "Darkest Africa," the Cape to Cairo railway still seems to many visionary and mythical. When one considers the circumstances under which the northern rail-end reached Khartoum, the speed with which the present 1,000 miles of line were pushed northward from Cape Colony to the Zambesi, and the determination with which the road is now being extended from Victoria Falls to Kalamo by the British promoters, he will not feel so skeptical. The fact that the Congo state, on the west of Lake Tanganyika, and German East Africa, on the east, are both under the control of the same government, and that the water board membership and annexed one of the places also supposed to be allotted to the republicans. If the council were controlled by a democratic majority, Howell bill No. 2 would not have a single friend of democratic persuasion.

City Attorney Wright insists that the only opposition to the Howell water bill comes from those who fear it would lessen the political influence of the city council. The support of the bill, therefore, comes from those who want to lessen the political influence of the council. That explains why Mr. Wright and his fellow democrats are in favor of the bill—the council is republican and in a fair way to remain republican, while under plea of nonpartisanship the democrats have secured half of the Water board membership and annexed one of the places also supposed to be allotted to the republicans. If the council were controlled by a democratic majority, Howell bill No. 2 would not have a single friend of democratic persuasion.

A scouter at Russia's military system thus described the education given to soldiers: "They are taught the names of the emperor, the empress, the empress dowager and the grand dukes. They are required to know the names of all the officers and noncommissioned officers of their regiments. The little figures on the sights of the rifles trouble them a great deal, but they are finally mastered and then their education is completed." As a matter of fact, the soldiers are taught Russian history, have a chance to learn to read and write and cipher, and, best of all, can acquire a trade or improve themselves in that which they picked up in their villages. The army is good for the youth, because it inures his return to his commune better than it could be for a life-long soldier.

The latest official statistics show that there are 84,544 public schools in the empire, of which 42,568 are under the control of the Holy Synod, 40,131 under the ministry of public instruction and the remainder under other departments. Of the pupils 75,700 are adults, 1,251,854 boys and 1,202,962 girls. The teachers number 172,000. The cost of these schools is more than \$25,000,000 annually.

Nobody in French political circles seems to mind the fact that in the proceedings of the international committee appointed to inquire into the exploit of Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron in the North Sea. A correspondent of one of the principal London newspapers, writing from Paris, says that the current opinion there, among the well informed, is that the commission was merely a device to avoid the peril of immediate war, and that, when it had once been arranged, its chief mission had been already accomplished. Now the general feeling is that the sooner it gets its business done and adjourns, the better for everybody. It is having the effect of preventing unnecessary delays. All that has to be done, it is argued, is to ascertain facts to support Great Britain's claim for compensation, which Russia is not in the least degree likely to dispute, if she can only produce the names of officers from the admiralty having mistaken a lot of trawlers for Japanese torpedo boats.

If King Edward lives a few years longer and continues to hold the same views regarding the making of peers which he now cherishes, lords will not be so frequently created as they have been in England. The year 1904 not a single new peerage was created, and it is said the king is resolved that henceforth elevation to the House of Lords shall constitute the recognition of services to the nation as a whole, rather than a mere political expedient. Already the number of peers is diminishing, and several have been extinct last year, including the Dukedom of Cambridge and the Earldom of Ravensworth, and the time may return in England when, as a notable Englishman who has been visiting us this season told us, an English nobleman who had the fortune to be addressed by a peer felt that honor enough had been done him to last a lifetime.

The slaughter of Armenians by the Kurds and the Turkish army is heard from year to year, though less is heard now than formerly about the frightful atrocities. Dr. Thomas H. Norton, the American consul at Harput, made an official tour during the last summer through the districts where these butcheries were carried on, and reports that thousands of men, women and children were killed in a particularly savage and cruel manner. In the Sassan district, Dr. Norton says, 7,881 Armenians were killed last year. He visited districts never before officially visited by a representative of the United States, and thus secured information that would not otherwise have been available. The world never hears of many of these atrocities. But they go on year after year, apparently to the delight of the Turkish government.

Philanthropic Curves. Washington Post.

It is now claimed that the Northern Securities merger was formed for the purpose of preventing rebates. Cumulative evidence was accumulated to show that rebates on Jim Hill's philanthropic curves.

POLITICAL DRIFT.

Speaker Cannon has fallen a victim to the automobile habit. The Missouri legislature threw a bomb at Senator Stone by passing a bill repealing the alum law which Gumshoe Bill engineered for a fancy fee. There are to be 250 republicans and 126 democrats in the Fifty-ninth congress after the 4th. In the next United States senate there are to be fifty-eight republicans and thirty-two democrats.

Nebraska must look to its laurels. The new governor of Indiana is a teetotaler, never enters a saloon, does not use tobacco, is a pillar in the Methodist church and a member of a Sunday school.

A Kansas politician who recently had a bath tub placed in his house has hastened to explain that he had to take it on an advertising claim and proposes to use it only for decorative purposes.

A shrewd observer of political conditions in St. Louis and Missouri suggests as an infallible remedy for the democratic degeneracy the establishment of free public laundries, based on the proposition that "people need clean clothes as well as clean bodies."

There have been some unique incidents in the bringing of electoral votes to the president pro tempore of the United States in the messenger from California. The messenger came with the ten votes that state sewed into the lining of his coat, near the inside pocket. He simply couldn't lose the votes unless he lost his coat.

Dennis Mulvihill, who three years ago, from a stoker in an east side factory, became mayor of Bridgeport, Conn., has had a bill prepared for presentation to the legislature, now in session, providing for the reduction of his salary by one-third. The salary is \$3,000. Dennis is likely to be examined to determine his sanity.

The smallest plurality recorded in any state in the United States was that of Maryland, which on November 5 gave Roosevelt a plurality of 51. The vote in Senator Gordon's state was Roosevelt, 109,497; Parker, 109,446. Roosevelt got one of the eight electoral votes, Parker getting the other seven.

President Roosevelt doesn't smoke at all and at official banquets he sips a modest glass of champagne. Governor Higgins of New York chews a cigar. Senator Platt and Senator Dewey, after smoking quite liberally in early life, have quit the habit altogether. At both the New York and the Alabama meetings in the Academy of Music, a glass of claret or take a spoonful of whiskey and water, while Dewey takes a glass of bubbling, sparkling champagne.

A day or two before election last November Mr. Hemenway of Indiana, now governor of that state, took part in a political meeting in the Academy of Music at Evansville. A noteworthy thing about the event was that across the street was the lively stable where Hemenway once worked as a hostler and directly in front of the theater the main gas pipe of the Evansville Gas company ran. Frank Hanly dug the ditch when this pipe was laid, earning 75 cents a day.

There is not a single democrat in the Michigan legislature, while those of Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and South Carolina are composed entirely of democrats. There is one republican in the Alabama senate, one in the senate of Georgia, one in the Texas house and one in the Arkansas senate. To match these there is a lone democrat in the North Dakota house and one in the Pennsylvania senate. The solitary republican in the Alabama house over a democratic saloon keeper in a district which Parker carried almost 2 to 1.

Political feuds grow in Kentucky as readily as the shagbark variety. Governor Beckham and Senator Blackburn are now exchanging hot air bombs, which are not designed to promote the peace. The last one tossed by Governor Beckham contains this charge of straggling: "For over thirty years he (Blackburn) has been the meretricious beneficiary of popular indulgence as a member of the two houses of congress, and I challenge any one in Kentucky or elsewhere to point to a single act of public service in all that time he has ever rendered to his state, his country or his party."

RETURN TO WATER POWER.

Ambitious Cities Diligently Seeking Cheap Industrial Forces. Baltimore American.

The last century owed its tremendous material progress chiefly to the utilization of steam from steam engines. When the nineteenth century began running water was the agency chiefly relied upon for the turning of the wheels of industry. Now at the beginning of the twentieth century there are strong indications that before the century closes power from running water will again be the chief power in mechanics. But the water power that will turn the industrial wheels of the present century is to be a transmuted force and not a directly applied force. The downward rush of water will be utilized directly to put into motion electric generating machinery, and the power thus derived will be distributed over many square miles of territory in all directions from the central power source.

Already, state and city governments are alert to all the advantages and influences which make and unmake communities in the strenuous industrial competition of the age, are seeking to utilize power from water, wherever with any prospect of economy it can be done. In New York state not only has a vast power from the flow of the Niagara river been transmitted electrically, but the state government will undertake to harness other streams that are now going to waste. There is now under consideration by state authorities at Albany a scheme for utilizing the rapids of the Schoharie, the Helderberg and the Black rivers, three Adirondack streams from which it is expected to obtain transmuted force equivalent to 20,000-horse power, and having an annual money value of \$10,000,000.

It will be necessary in some of these proposed undertakings to build great dams to form vast storage reservoirs that will retain the spring floods and insure an equable flow during the dry months. More than forty power plants are now operated on the line of the upper Hudson and its tributaries, some of them from water power direct and others from transmuted electric power. The New York state commission which has this river improvement scheme in charge has authority to divert streams into new channels and to provide safeguards from flood damage in every part of the state. The improvements that will be made will be charged to the beneficiaries, but the state does not propose to engage in the business of selling transmuted power.

Steam power has been produced almost entirely from the burning of coal and gas, and there has been a notable tendency toward the centering of manufacturing industries close to the fuel supply. During the last quarter of the century just closed there was a marked redistribution in manufacturing industries influenced by sources of raw material and cheap power. Electrical power from water is believed by many mechanical engineers to be the force that will cause another redistribution of manufacturing centers. Cities ambitious to become productive centers must turn attention to the water forces in their vicinity that may be harnessed.

Ramsay Not to Resign. NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—The Associated Press has reported that the highest authority that President Ramsay of the Washburn railroad system is not about to resign, as has been reported.

TAYLOR GIVES HIS OPINION.

Says Belief in Mormon Doctrine Should Bar from Senate.

ANSWERS QUESTIONS BY SENATOR KNOX. Alleges Polygamy Attracted Attention to Doctrines Which Should Disqualify Any Man to Seat Regardless of Creed.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Arguments for the defense were made today in the Smoot investigation before the senate committee on privileges and elections. Waldemar Van Cott of Salt Lake City opened with a discussion of the charge of interference by the Mormon church in the political affairs of Utah.

Before Mr. Van Cott began to speak Senator Knox said he believed that the arguments of Judge R. W. Taylor, counsel for the protestants, would be clarified if he would answer three questions, as follows: "Do you concede that your argument, intended to establish Senator Smoot's disqualifications, applies with equal force to all members of the Mormon church who entertain the beliefs Senator Smoot has confessed?"

"Do you concede that your argument for disqualification, so far as it is based on Senator Smoot's belief in a duty to obey divine revelation, applies with equal force to all who believe in the duty to obey the divine will, however ascertained?"

"Would Senator Smoot be disqualified, in your opinion, by reason of being a Mormon if Mormonism had never been tainted with polygamy?"

Taylor Makes Answer. In answering the first question Judge Taylor said the chief charge against Senator Smoot was that he was the integral part of the quorum of twelve, which he declared to be all there was to the Mormon church. The president of the church, said Judge Taylor, was the creature of the quorum of apostles and had no authority by it. The latter part of the first question and the second question were answered jointly by Judge Taylor by giving what he believed to be the political significance of the revelations. He quoted the testimony of Senator Smoot and other witnesses concerning their beliefs in revelations and said that all persons who were committed to such beliefs were disqualified to sit as senators. The third question he answered by stating that if no attention had been attracted to the church by the testimony of Senator Smoot and other witnesses concerning their beliefs in revelations and said that polygamy was the result of revelations. This immediate contact with God, through personal revelations, he declared to be sufficient to disqualify any person for the position of senatorship, no matter what his creed.

Mr. Van Cott opened his argument by declaring the contention of the Protestants to be untenable, in that they admit they could charge Senator Smoot with no offenses recognized by the law and that the only thing brought against him was that he believed in revelations. Emphasis was laid by Mr. Van Cott on the fact that Senator Smoot had never received a revelation and there was no indication that he ever would. He declared that Senator Smoot was being punished for what he believed his religion at some time might cause him to commit an overt act. He deprecated what he termed to be an attempt to return to the dark ages of religious persecutions. Mr. Van Cott then summed up the testimony of witnesses who were examined in relation to the politics of Utah and Idaho, which, he declared, failed to show one instance of interference in politics.

At the afternoon session Mr. Van Cott discussed the inconsistency of the men who prepared the protest against Senator Smoot.

Summary of the Defense.

Justification for the Mormon church engaging in business was offered by Mr. Van Cott by citation of the case of Trinity church in New York as one that owns a vast amount of property. As reasons why Mr. Smoot should retain his seat Mr. Van Cott gave the following: "That Smoot could not have secured the legislature without the aid of the Gentile voters; that he opposed the Evans bill, which was voted by the Gentiles; that he encouraged the state superintendent in driving religious classes out of the public schools and in Utah was admitted to statehood. He then made the declaration that if Mr. Smoot should be unseated it would identify the Mormons more than ever.

Mr. Worthington followed for Senator Smoot, discussing particularly the question of the endorsement of candidates and the oath taken. He contended the charge that there was an oath taken evidencing disloyalty to the government and protested against a rule of the committee which denied to witnesses the privilege of stating that they had not taken the oath of disloyalty unless they proceeded to give the entire ceremony.

On the subject of polygamy Mr. Worthington said that the manifesto prohibited only new plural marriages and that all law relating to the politics of Utah and Idaho, which he declared, failed to show one instance of interference in politics. He said that when Utah was admitted to statehood it was agreed there should be no new plural marriages without the consent of congress, but that congress left the subject of polygamous cohabitation to be regulated by the state. Having been left to the state, said Mr. Worthington, the state practice as to the polygamists that they could continue to live according to the custom they had established.

He said the Mormon church had received but one revelation in twenty-three years, and that was the one to the polygamy. The closing argument for the protestants will be made by Judge Taylor, instead of John G. Carlisle, former secretary of the treasury.

TART TRIPLES.

The Tower of Babel had just been stricken with the confusion of tongues. "Of course," they explained, "that was the natural result of putting in a dumb-waiter the tenants were still getting the gossip of the twentieth floor the scheme was abandoned."—New York Sun.

"So he has failed, eh? I guess he doesn't beat the luck I had."—Philadelphia Press.

"Yes, in his bad luck."—Philadelphia Press.

Venus was doing her best to persuade the bashful Adonis to let her have a kiss. The goddess looked entrancing, but Adonis was adamant. "I am sorry to hear of your pleading," said the goddess, "but I know a great deal about English literature and can speak several languages. But I—"

"Your daughter is highly accomplished," Venus answered. "Mrs. Crompton knows a great deal about English literature and can speak several languages. But I—"

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He got the hammer and nails and file, And eyed the chair with a beaming smile. Then turned it over upon its side, And jerked and grunted and sawed and tried.

He skinned his knuckles and stamped the floor. He used the cat and finally swore. The chair he used, he did not sound like "Dumb." And then, well, then, pa pounded his thumb.

What happened next should be left un-said, Because the pain must have jarred pa's Ma said she never in all her life Heard anyone talk like that to a wife.

And when she asked him very politely If he could finish the job that was in his mind, Pa glared, and said, "Don't you ever dare To even mention that darned old chair!"

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