

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), one year...

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, City of Omaha...

Those stories about a short ice crop have been put into cold storage, at least for the season.

Next thing we know, the thermometers will all strike for extra pay for working overtime.

My, but isn't Mr. Groundhog glad he saw his shadow and went back to his hole to keep warm?

If Germany is having weather like that on this side, the return of the coal miners to work is easily understood.

Senator Hipple Mitchell of Oregon is not the first politician who got himself into trouble just because his letter was not burned.

If those Hearst-Sullivan debates are to be continued the office of sergeant-at-arms of the house of representatives will be no secure.

Ten years ago we were threatened with a gold famine—now we are threatened with a coal famine, and the last is much the worse.

Misery always loves company, and for that reason Omaha commiserates with Denver at 27 degrees below and Kansas City at 18 degrees below zero.

The Bryanite organist of these parts is always being long range guns at the unreachable enemy. But where does he stand on the commodity rate bill?

The United States never emphasizes its bigness so much as when reports of rain in Alabama follow reports of 30 degrees below zero in South Dakota.

Now that the Porto Rico house of delegates has declared its strong adherence to American institutions, the work in hand at San Domingo can proceed.

In refusing to toll of the profits of the private car lines the president of the Armour company confesses that they are probably more than he cares to reveal.

The untrammelled west has at least one advantage over the Atlantic coast states in winter. None of its population is caught floating around on icebergs.

When "Bluebird" Hoch had told the number of wives he would knowlege, his hearers were again impressed with the bad luck which accompanies the number "13."

There is one woman who should have little difficulty in proving her marriage to Johann Hoch, as she asked him for money the first time he met her on his street—and he told her to wait.

Those papers which are reprinting stories by Maxim Gorky should say whether they are trying to justify the Russian government or to create sympathy for the imprisoned novelist.

BRYAN AND ROOSEVELT. The stand taken by William Jennings Bryan in support of President Roosevelt's policy of railway regulation is highly commendable, but Mr. Bryan's admirers claim altogether too much for him when they picture him as the bed-fellow and peer of Theodore Roosevelt as champion and advocate of corporate supervision, restriction and regulation.

Colonel Bryan and Colonel Roosevelt are very nearly the same age. There is, however, a vast difference between their achievements in curbing the power of corporate monopoly. When the granger movement swept the prairie states both were in their teens and too immature to frame a sane and safe opinion on the railroad problem.

Bryan became a dramatic orator and Roosevelt a dramatic actor in the political arena. The one sought and obtained popularity by fervent and catchy appeals to popular sentiment and prejudice against the money power and the trusts; the other sought and obtained popularity by attacking abuses and dealing telling blows at colossal and grasping combines. Bryan's four years' career in congress is devoid of any act at even at national supervision, regulation or restriction of public carriers and trusts.

But Roosevelt, when governor of New York, did not content himself with scolding corporations and red-letter declarations against the public utility corporations. He grasped the reins firmly and literally forced the legislation by which the franchise corporations were compelled to contribute millions of dollars annually toward the support of state and municipal governments.

While it is true that Bryan never occupied an executive position, his opportunities as the acknowledged leader of the party that dominated Nebraska for at least four years would have enabled him to make good on the lines of reform that he has advocated within recent years. It is a lamentable fact, nevertheless, that Bryan has held aloof from the irrepressible conflict by which Nebraska was torn up for years over railroad regulation and railroad tax evasion.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. According to reports from Washington there is to be a clean sweep of federal officials not subject to the civil service law when the new administration comes in next month. It is said that President Roosevelt is very strongly opposed to officials serving a third term and that those who have been eight years in the public service will very likely not be permitted to continue in their positions, even though having made the most creditable records.

We are inclined to doubt the authenticity of this report, for the reason that Mr. Roosevelt earnestly desires to secure the highest efficiency in the public service and consequently is not likely to remove those who have proved efficient, yet it must be admitted that his reported objection to a third term for officials in the public service is not unreasonable.

There appears to be a growing sentiment among the people of Porto Rico for independence. A bill has been introduced in the house of delegates of the island calling for the establishment of Porto Rico as an independent territory, under a United States protectorate, to be known as the State of Porto Rico. It is said that the proposed scheme is a peculiar mixture of sovereign and dependent powers and while the movement in behalf of it is not yet particularly active, yet American residents of the island are said to be apprehensive that it may ere long reach a point where summary action will become necessary.

There are some who believe that a Washington report says that the heart of the matter is in the question of comparative conditions today and ten years ago. Comparisons are made to the disadvantage of American rule and while some insist that there is no justification for this, the fact remains that there is a good deal of dissatisfaction and discontent among the people, and if report is to be credited this feeling is growing. There is, of course, very little if any danger of a serious disturbance as the result of this political unrest. The people of Porto Rico are not likely to attempt anything like revolution. But they may keep up an organized agitation that will give the government no little trouble and embarrassment.

Porto Rico has at present what is practically a territorial government in which her people have representation. It is not at all probable that the island will ever advance beyond this. If any of its people are seriously entertaining the idea that Porto Rico may become a state of this union they are doomed to disappointment.

AN IMPRACTICABLE IDEA. The president of the United States has been asked, through the head of the Interparliamentary union, to use his good offices in the interest of the termination of the war in the far east. It was stated to the president that the consensus of opinion in Europe was that the chief magistrate of the United States is the best man to bring the subject before the nations of a cessation of hostilities between Japan and Russia and of terminating the war through arbitration.

When the matter was presented a few days ago to President Roosevelt, it is stated that he assured the representative of the Interparliamentary union of his earnest desire to do whatever properly can be done in the interest of peace in the far east. But it was pointed out that the Russian government is absolutely hostile to any efforts on the part of the neutral nations looking to the settlement of the war with Japan and would in all probability refuse to seriously consider any suggestions, from whatever source they might come, which had in view a termination of hostilities.

The suggestion of the Interparliamentary union that the United States initiate a movement for bringing about peace between Russia and Japan will probably receive no serious consideration at Washington. It is well understood that President Roosevelt would be glad to do something for the settlement of that conflict, but he will do nothing that would imperil the position of the United States or put this country in a position which might be inimical to its influence when the final settlement comes between the belligerent nations.

The Line of Cleavage. Pueblo Chief. Every republican will soon have to decide whether he is a Roosevelt republican or a corporate trust republican.

Too Much of a Cool Thing. Chicago Record-Herald. Not much is heard nowadays from the people who like an old-fashioned winter. Most of the ice cream shops with pneumonia or threatened with it.

Friendly Tip Sorely Needed. Boston Transcript. If Governor Folk will impart the secret of his success in getting out the lobby to his brother executives he will be entitled to forty-four grateful acknowledgments.

Backed by the Country. Philadelphia Ledger. A philosopher of the west thinks there is some connection between the president's tremendous activity in taking over the whole government and the sun spots. This theory breaks down because the sun spots are periodic, but the Roosevelt activity is like that of Tennyson's "Brook."

AN EXPLANATION IN ORDER. Philadelphia Press. The Navy department may have good reason for rejecting the bid of the Midvale Steel company to furnish with armor plate at greatly reduced prices, but it will need to make them public to satisfy the nation. The steel trust and the Bethlehem Steel Works put in the same bid, working together in this matter.

Care of Stock on Ranges. Portland Oregonian. The intense cold that prevailed during the first week in February in eastern Montana did not result, as it was feared would be the case, in heavy loss of stock. A few years ago a temperature sinking in some places to 52 degrees below zero would have swept the ranges and left the stock and the plains strewn with carcasses.

FIGHTING AGAINST NATURE. New York Efforts to Check Grain Shipments to the Gulf. Wall Street Journal. Last week there was gathered at the Produce exchange a collection of representatives from the various trunk lines entering New York, and from a great number of large shipping companies on the Atlantic coast, with the ostensible purpose of devising ways and means whereby the Atlantic coast ports can recover the trade they have lost to the gulf ports.

The traveling public expects train service to be more or less demoralized by present unfavorable conditions, but railroad patrons have a right to demand perfect frankness on the part of the railroad officials. If a train has been abandoned, there is absolutely no excuse for the railroad men to tell waiting passengers that it is due any minute or to promise that it will make up time when they know, or ought to know, the exact reverse to be true.

When the Burlington built its cut-off from Brush it was believed that Denver would get the bulk of the Black Hills, Wyoming and Montana business. Omaha business men, however, sent their traveling men through the territory. Not one, but four, clubs went out to see each house to travel in the district and make friends.

As Omaha prospered the business men of the town began reaching out for more business and they got it. They got all the rates they went after and then they turned to other deeds.

Nebraska, like every other state, was jealous of the metropolis. People out in the state, the Omaha business men, the Commercial club, took it up. Omaha business men, too, went out and personally met their customers, and they started excursions from all over the state into Nebraska. They sent the tickets out to the business men to come to town and see the houses from which came their goods, and meet the members of the firm and visit the Commercial club and have a good time.

Down at Lincoln they are talking about reducing their city council to seven members, one for each ward, elected at large, after the fashion of Omaha. Here in Omaha at the same time the movement is toward increasing the membership of the council, more after the fashion of Lincoln.

These are the days when the operating department of the railroad is torn between a desire to get trains in on time and to get them over the road without danger, and, despite the frequent reports of wrecks of more or less importance, the decision is usually in favor of safety over promptness.

The house and the senate cannot agree on statehood bills nor upon railroad legislation. The senate and the president cannot agree as to reciprocity treaties. Under these circumstances it is not difficult to discover the disturbing element at Washington and the people are not directly responsible for it, either.

LIFTING BY BOOT STRAPS. What Our Commercial Club is Said to Do for Omaha. To show Denver business men how Omaha furnishes them a study in how a commercial club can accomplish, the Denver Post prints this picture of the efforts of the Omaha Commercial Club.

Apparently there was little hope for Omaha to become a jobbing center, but the business men of that city decided to make it one of the big jobbing centers, not only for the transmississippi country, but of the entire country.

About eighteen years ago the business men of the city organized a chamber of commerce. It struggled along as best it could, but it was practically unimpotent.

The chamber of commerce gave way to the Omaha Commercial club. Business men, jobbers and manufacturers and professional men and hustlers were taken into active membership of the Commercial club. The club moved to the top floor of one of the principal business buildings in the heart of the up-town business section.

The club had a room on the top floor of one of the principal business buildings in the heart of the up-town business section. An experienced man was employed to have charge of the rooms and a force of clerks was employed. The object was to make this room the home of the business people of Omaha and of business visitors.

Business men throughout the territory tributary to Omaha were taken to this club and dined when in town. Tickets were given to business visitors and they were made to feel at home in the club. If Jones brought a business friend into the room he was introduced to Smith and Brown, no matter if the visitor was a hardware dealer and Smith and Brown were in the grocery and dry goods business.

There were frequent meetings of the club, so that all members became acquainted with each other. Business men took their lunch in the club rooms and on a noon day hour was one of not only social but of business intercourse. This brought the men together. It promoted harmony. There was an interchange of views and out of it all grew the prosperity of Omaha.

Early in the history of the Commercial club it was recognized that Omaha would have better freight rates. Kansas City and Chicago were crowding Omaha because of their advantageous rates. Omaha labored under the load of unjust rates.

It was a long and bitter fight, for Kansas City fought Omaha, and so did St. Louis, St. Joseph, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul and other cities. But victory came in the end.

The business men, however, did not give up the fight because they had secured advantageous freight rates. They kept up their fight to make Omaha a commercial city. The Commercial club kept in touch with manufacturers and others desiring a new location and these manufacturers were secured. Money was secured, too, for manufacturers already established to enlarge and spread out.

In the course of all his fight for supremacy in competition with the business men in the other cities, the Commercial club had to fight for the territory of the Mississippi river and into the Chicago and St. Louis territory and into the San Francisco territory, and their men go into the republic in the north and west, and the goods are shipped to Omaha and Central America.

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They sent the tickets out to the business men to come to town and see the houses from which came their goods, and meet the members of the firm and visit the Commercial club and have a good time. Then followed the Ak-Bar-Ben, which means a fall festival similar to the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, but Omaha did

A MATTER OF HEALTH. ROYAL BAKING POWDER. Absolutely Pure. HAS NO SUBSTITUTE. A SIGN TO BEED. Significance of the Vote on the Rate Regulation Bill.

Those who try to deceive themselves with the notion that this is not so, that congressmen in their public posturing the people should consider the speech of Colonel Hepburn. The Iowa congressman is certainly not hostile to railroads. His own rate bill proved that. But he talked revolution. He declared that if the consolidation of vast railway systems were to go on the people would take some means to thwart them; that the people were alert to the menace of the concentration of great wealth, and, in effect, that they fiercely resented the power that is exercised by a few individuals over transportation and the markets.

This was testimony from the Eighth Iowa district by one who had evidently heard from that district since the beginning of the session. And the 228 members voted as Colonel Hepburn did because they knew that their constituents were with them. They spoke the desire of the country, while the minority were but a pinch out of the delegation of five eastern states.

PERSONAL NOTES. Even the oldest inhabitant has nothing to say about old-fashioned winters. C. A. Orr, the American consul at Barranquilla, Colombia, reports to the government that American money is now the basis for nearly all transactions in Colombia.

As only six out of 1,500 New York policemen succeeded in qualifying the other day as revolver shots, it is evident that the innocent bystander in the metropolis has a rough road before him.

Henry A. Blake, engineer of Cayton, N. C., has been elected president of the Atlantic society that Singapore medical books of the sixth century described sixty-seven varieties of mosquitoes and 64 kinds of malarial fever caused by mosquitoes.

Johann Lewalter of Berlin has traced the tune of "Yankee Doodle" to 1776, at Wassenburg, the central depot of the Hessian troops, employed as mercenaries in the war of American independence. Lewalter is an eminent authority on folk songs.

It is rumored in European capitals that the sultan of Turkey is dying. The next younger brother, Reuchad Bey, whose health, it is said, has been undermined for years past by excessive indulgence in alcohol.

Dr. L. L. Seaman, who has just been investigating the sanitation of the Japanese army, says "they go us a million times better," he says that but 1 per cent of sickness is fatal with the Japanese army, while 70 per cent of the sickness in the American army during the Spanish war was fatal.

Some thoughtless critics denounce as utterly useless the distribution of congressional seeds. But some good springs from them. They serve to open occasionally pleasing vistas of domestic peace. One recipient of congressional goodwill writes for a second installment for his wife, saying: "Don't send her any canary seed. That might make her want to sing, and the Lord knows I have trouble enough with her now on that score."

Will Oklahoma Take Water? Chicago Chronicle. If the prohibition clause in the enabling act under which Oklahoma is expected to come into the union works as it is expected to the sovereign citizen of that commonwealth who becomes unduly excited will have to depend upon original packages. There are some privileges which even congress cannot take away from a man.

Not seek to get all the glory. That was not its idea. It wanted the west to enjoy the show, and people in Nebraska, Iowa, the Black Hills, Wyoming, Montana, and, in fact, in all the territory covered by Omaha men, were brought in so that the man away up in Montana had as much personal interest in the success of the celebration as an Omaha man. Today it is the only successful festival in the country.

Will the Senate Dare? Battle for Public Relief Transferred to Upper House. Kansas City Star. The vote by which Each-Townsend rate bill passed the house 281 to 157 represents about the ratio of public sentiment in its favor.

The house is constantly referred to as the "popular branch of congress." By this same token the senate may render itself unpopular by rejecting or tinkering with the act which seeks to protect the people against the extortions of the railroads, although such intermeddling in behalf of the "interests" is anticipated in the senate, which, by a mistake in our system of government, is removed much farther from the forces of public chastisement than are the members of the house.

All of the instincts of true sagacity would seem to discredit the thought that the senate will take the "short run" in dealing with the railroad question; for, so sure as it attempts to kill or weaken the rate bill, just that sure will the people set their minds and hearts on a general movement of eviction in the senate and the election of members of that body by popular vote.

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