

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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RAILROAD REGULATION IN NEBRASKA

It is conceded on all hands, excepting possibly by railway managers, that local railroad rates in Nebraska have always been and are now from 25 to 40 per cent higher than the local rates...

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

Piecemeal reform is the order of the day in Russia; liberal provisions for the freedom of the press have already been secured...

Well, Hardly!

It is hardly expected, however, that the United States senate will go so far as to try to read Theodore Roosevelt out of the republican party.

Good Time for Snow Plowing.

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Information for the Car.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Circulation. Rows include 1. 30,220, 2. 29,040, 3. 28,470, 4. 28,210, 5. 27,970, 6. 27,900, 7. 28,420, 8. 30,140, 9. 27,700, 10. 27,500, 11. 27,500, 12. 27,500, 13. 27,540, 14. 30,300, 15. 30,500, 16. 29,300.

ASSASSINATION OF DUKE SERGIUS.

The assassination of the czar's uncle, Grand Duke Sergius, will revive universal interest in the conditions in Russia. The blow strikes close to the head of the empire...

Work for Willing Hands.

There are said to be 70,000 or 100,000 men out of work in New York, yet a reporter dressed as a seeking man found two jobs in two days and could have had two more...

Another Canteen Inquiry.

Secretary Taft has informed Representative Littlefield that not only most of the army officers, but the secretary of war himself, are all disposed to favor the establishment of the army canteen.

STANDARD OIL INTERESTS.

A Factor in Two-Thirds of the Railroad Miles of the Country. Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

THE SAN DOMINGO MATTER.

President Roosevelt's communication to congress in regard to the agreement by which the United States assumes the obligation of collecting and disbursing the customs revenue of the republic of San Domingo is an enlightening statement...

DEATH OF A GREAT FINANCIER.

Very few persons today remember the wonderful financial service rendered the government of the United States in the civil war by Jay Cooke...

Ascension by the bomb rocket seems to have the call over in Russia.

The danger is that the bombs may hold out longer than the Russian grand dukes.

No one will blame Maxim Gorky if he "views with alarm" the sound which proceeds from Moscow.

A big fireproof office building for railroad executives exclusively would be a fine acquisition for Omaha. Push it along.

All snowbound railroads leading into Omaha have been swept clean, but not so all the snowbound sidewalks in Omaha.

Would it not be a great deal better if those charter discussions were had at meetings here in Omaha instead of at meetings down at Lincoln?

Events at Lincoln are demonstrating that all of the men who would doctor our laws do not think it necessary for a college to confer the degree.

It will take an event of real importance to keep Cleveland out of the limelight when Andrew Carnegie begins testifying in the Chadwick case.

One of the peculiar things of politics is that the senate should go behind closed doors to do just what everybody expects it to do and nobody wants.

It is now said that the czar has been considering peace terms, but it apparently took the explosion at Moscow to jar the news loose at St. Petersburg.

The oldest member of the Hungarian Diet presided when that body was called together after the election. Hungary knows how to honor a man of many battles.

Emperor William in consenting to accept an American collegiate degree has demonstrated that he believes something can still be added to the "kaiser-koenigliche" title.

When the United States supreme court thinks of the Kansas legislature it probably hears a call to work overtime as soon as the lawyers get around to several new laws.

That lynching in Texas was probably not intended as a curtain raiser to the proposed visit of President Roosevelt, but it may give him a tip on what Texas needs in the way of advice.

In view of the report of the committee investigating the Panama Railroad company it might be well to abolish the canal commission before the members become accustomed to receiving dividends on stock they never bought.

While legislating on the subject, some measure that would compel the railroads to give reasonable train service to accommodate the public would be hailed with delight by dozens of towns in this state that frequently have to wait two and three days for mail that should be delivered the same day as posted.

South Omaha democrats are fighting shy of the Crawford county direct primary system even in such a trivial political contest as the nomination of candidates for the school board. The average South Omaha democratic politician hangs on tenaciously to his raked-off privileges as a convention delegate.

The Prospect Hill club, composed of a baker's dozen, some of whom, if not all, were, doubtless, participants in the boodle distribution made by the electric light company to defeat the municipal light plant bonds last fall, are said to have resolved in favor of the Howell-Dodge water bill on the ground chiefly because Howell and the electric light boodle distribution were intimately connected.

It may be safely predicted that the railroad attorneys and railroad lobby will favor the last measure and oppose all bills making a commodity rate reduction, or authorizing an existing board to perform the functions ordinarily devolving on the railroad commission.

The first and second of these measures contemplate immediate relief; the last contemplates relief at some future time, possibly never.

A commodity rate bill means to the people of Nebraska a saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars this year, and a corresponding reduction of gross earnings to the railroads. The re-creation of the State Board of Transportation holds out the possibility, if not the promise, of intervention on the part of state officers acting for the people against unjust discrimination affecting either shippers or localities. The proposed creation of a commission by constitutional amendment, if it carries, would not go into effect for at least two years, or by the year 1907, when we may have another drought year and a lighter volume of traffic. In that event material rate reduction would again be stilled by appeal to the courts, whereas a reduction now would be sustained by the courts because of the extraordinary volume of traffic.

Obviously the constitutional amendment cannot be submitted until November, 1906, and would not go into effect until January, 1907. Obviously, also, a constitutional amendment does not execute itself. It would require legislation in 1907 to define the powers and duties of the railroad commission, and if such law is enacted the commissioners to enforce the law are not likely to be elected until November, 1907, which is tantamount to postponement of effective railroad regulation until 1908.

The proper thing for the present legislature to do is to enact all three measures.

1. Pass the commodity rate bill.

2. Pass a bill making it the duty of the State Board of Lands and Buildings to perform the functions formerly devolving upon the State Board of Transportation.

3. Submit the constitutional amendment for an elective railroad commission.

All these measures may not give the people absolute relief from the abuses to which they have been and continue to be subjected by public carriers, but they will go a great way toward making the relations of the railroads and their patrons more equitable and more amicable.

DEATH OF A GREAT FINANCIER. Very few persons today remember the wonderful financial service rendered the government of the United States in the civil war by Jay Cooke, who died Thursday, but what he did as worthy of being remembered as the work and deeds of the greatest statesmen and soldiers of that period. Born in Ohio, Jay Cooke went early in life to Philadelphia and engaged in the banking business. When the war came on between the north and the south he was at the head of a banking house in Philadelphia which bore his name and he soon had branches in Washington and London. Salmon P. Chase, secretary of the treasury, saw that Mr. Cooke was the man of the hour for the government to rely upon to raise money to carry on the war.

The financial outlook at the time was very black. The Buchanan administration had left an empty treasury and it seemed impossible for the government to borrow money at less rate of interest than 1 per cent a month. But Cooke was equal to the occasion. He called upon a number of big banks to

hold a conference with him and there his plan was approved that a great "popular loan" should be started, with an appeal that would touch the hearts as well as the pockets of his countrymen. It was at that same conference, too, he induced the bankers to loan the government \$50,000,000 to meet its immediate needs. Mr. Cooke was soon thereafter appointed as the financial agent of the government in placing its bonds. His task was gigantic, but he was equal to its demands, securing in four years for the government from the sale of bonds the immense sum of twenty-five hundred million dollars.

The great secretary of the treasury, Salmon P. Chase, leaned upon Jay Cooke in the gloomiest days of the republic's half-paralyzed credit and General Grant declared that to the labors of Cooke, more than to those of any other man, was due the continued life of the nation. A man with such a record of usefulness to his country, whose services at a vital period of our history were of such transcendent value, is certainly entitled to be remembered by his countrymen and to their lasting esteem. We honor the memory of Robert Morris, the financier of the revolution. Why shall we not also honor the memory of Jay Cooke, the financier of the civil war?

accidents simply emphasizes the necessity of abolishing altogether as soon as possible the privilege of laying wooden sidewalks now enjoyed by property owners. The wooden sidewalk may be cheap to the person who puts it down in the first place, but it comes high to the city, which is responsible for the damage suits.

If interested parties are trying to create the impression down at Lincoln that the people of Omaha do not care whether their city charter is amended to meet present conditions or not, the members of the delegation should put their ears to the ground. It might be well to recall also that of the last legislative delegation from Douglas county only one was returned for a second term.

The publication of the schedule of league base ball games at this particular time is a welcome reminder that the weather will permit us to sit on the bleachers before long if we only wait patiently for the leaves to fall off the calendar.

Well, Hardly! It is hardly expected, however, that the United States senate will go so far as to try to read Theodore Roosevelt out of the republican party.

Good Time for Snow Plowing. Bradstreet reports a dull opening for the spring trade. Most of the traveling men who are out with their straw hat samples are snowbound.

Information for the Car. King Edward, in opening Parliament, announced that Great Britain has maintained the strictest neutrality in the Japanese-Russian war. This information should be conveyed to St. Petersburg, where it will be received with interest, if not as news.

Strange Contrasts. Modernity and medievalism are curious mingled reports from Mexico City that a huge new building is to be built of steel and masonry. The structure is being planned on the most improved methods of construction and is to give 15,000 persons an opportunity to witness in comfort the slaughter of horses and bulls.

Work for Willing Hands. There are said to be 70,000 or 100,000 men out of work in New York, yet a reporter dressed as a seeking man found two jobs in two days and could have had two more but he ran away from them. There may not be a well paid job waiting for every man, but anyone able and willing to work probably can find work if he sets about it resolutely and is willing to do any honest work, rather than beg or starve.

Another Canteen Inquiry. Secretary Taft has informed Representative Littlefield that not only most of the army officers, but the secretary of war himself, are all disposed to favor the establishment of the army canteen. The perversion of the anti-canteen advocates is truly amazing. Those senators and representatives who are in favor of the present "reform" regulations reform can no longer be their political interests; but on the outside the opposition to the canteen represents a perverse adherence to an adopted principle, in spite of the fact that the practice, whatever the principle may be worth, is injurious. No true reformer can longer support the abolition of the army canteen. To do so is to uphold a reactionary measure which has been detrimental to the morals, the health and the discipline of the army. And this is on the testimony of a great majority of the officers, the wives, mothers and sisters of the soldiers.

STANDARD OIL INTERESTS. A Factor in Two-Thirds of the Railroad Miles of the Country. Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

Some calculation, which would be impressive, might be made of the extent to which the Standard Oil interests have come into control of the vast syndicated wealth of the United States, in the direction of railroads, of many great corporations as Amalgamated Copper, United States Steel, etc. But the present inquiry relates to the Standard Oil group of mill and iron interests, and it is in that direction where there has recently been rapid extension of this sinister influence. The New York Evening Post prints this list of railroads in whose management "the Standard Oil interest is now openly recognized":

Table listing railroads and Standard Oil interest percentages. Includes Atchafalaya, Chicago & Alton, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, Chicago & North Western, Rock Island System, Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, Hudson & Hudson, Denver & Rio Grande, Illinois Central, Kansas City Southern, Missouri Pacific System, New York Central, New York Ontario & Western, Northern Securities, Oregon Short Line, Southern Railway, Union Pacific.

These railroads embrace about two-thirds of the total mileage of the country, and they do not include all the great Pennsylvania system of above 11,500 miles, in which the same financial group are supposed to be accumulating a large interest.

This exhibit is of a character to put beyond much of any question the statement which is frequently made that the railroads of the United States are practically under the direction of half a dozen men—private citizens holding themselves under no obligation to represent or forward any other interests than those of their own and the pockets of the individuals whom they represent. It is within the power of these half dozen men, by a slight and almost imperceptible advance in the rate, or by a change in freight classifications, which few people would be able to understand, to impose a tax upon the country amounting to tens of millions of dollars yearly—to divert in almost unlimited extent the property of the many to the pockets of the few.

The country is being told by many newspapers, congressmen and others that the railroads of the United States are practically under the control of five or seven men. The power to regulate and adjust railroad rates. But if that would be dangerous power in the hands of seven men moved by no other interest than to establish fair and reasonable dealings between the railroad and the great body of people constituting their patrons, how much more dangerous must it be when possessed by seven private citizens actuated by selfish interests exclusively.

In the light of the facts of the case what boldness of the oligarchical gang enters into this opposition to government control of railroad rates.

members that seem to pervade nearly all of the state legislatures.

On the heels of the agitation against lobbyists in Kansas comes the decision of the supreme court of that state to the effect that while the donor constitutes a felony for a public official to solicit a bribe, the court holding that the crime has not been committed until the bribe is offered and paid. In other states the law is specific in making the solicitation of a bribe as great an offense as the proffer of it, and this appeals to common sense, for there is nothing more certain than that the lobbyist and the briber would not exist if there was no market for their services among susceptible officials. The man who accepts a bribe is as guilty as the profferer of it, and this appeals to common sense, for there is nothing more certain than that the lobbyist and the briber would not exist if there was no market for their services among susceptible officials. The man who accepts a bribe is as guilty as the profferer of it, and this appeals to common sense, for there is nothing more certain than that the lobbyist and the briber would not exist if there was no market for their services among susceptible officials.

While the case of graft, real and alleged, in the law-making bodies of the different states constitute something of a public scandal, the situation is not without its encouraging features. It furnishes an indication that the old reign of the professional lobbyist is over; that the people are watching with lively interest the conduct of their officials and the public conscience is being awakened to the degree that will soon find its manifestation in the demand for the nomination and election of a higher grade of men to public office; that the people are learning that graft is nonpartisan and opposition to it is growing strong enough to break down the barrier of party lines to accomplish its elimination.

POLITICAL DRIFT.

The "bleeding commonwealth" is working overtime on the question, "Is the Standard Oil company bigger than the state of Kansas?"

A nifty Cleveland councilman, in open meeting, called Mayor Tom Johnson a liar. His honor merely smiled a knowing smile, which was translated to mean "never touched me."

What is classed as "the world's easiest job" is held by Don C. Johnson in the senate end of the Minnesota state capital. Mr. Johnson's laborious duty consists in drawing a salary of \$5 a day.

No one can fairly dispute President Roosevelt's supremacy as an exemplar of the strenuous life. At the dinner in "Little Hungary" he went against such dinner guests as Casimir Laves, Theodore Sabzey, Kabanay and Kasopatz, without apparent injury to his interior department.

The arrival of "Bat" Masterson in New York City to take the post of Deputy United States marshal is merely preface to his acceptance of an appointment on the detective force of Greater New York. No two men of opposite political parties are more ardent admirers one of the other than William McAdoo, police commissioner, and Theodore Roosevelt, president.

Ex-Governor James E. Campbell of Ohio, who for the last four or five years has practiced law in New York City, last night at the Fifth Avenue hotel announced that he would soon move back to Ohio to practice law, making his home in Columbus. In connection with Mr. Campbell's plans it was learned that his democratic friends in the Buckeye state are quietly working up a boom for him for the governorship nomination next fall against Governor Myron T. Herrick, who expects to be renominated by the republicans.

An interesting story of business dovetailed with party politics comes from New York state. It is in effect that the savings bank of the state, which have more than 2,000,000 depositors, demanded of Governor Higgins before the election that he should promise to recommend the repeal of the tax on their surplus resources. When he hesitated it was intimated to him that the banks, regardless of the politics of their officers, would put into every bank book leaflet bearing the information that the republican administration of the state had compelled the banks to reduce their interest 1/2 per cent by imposing new taxation upon them. At this Higgins assented, and in anticipation of the repeal of the tax the savings banks increased their interest on the first of January 1/2 per cent. Now the republican party is reported to be indisposed to repeal the tax.

An English engineer of some standing has written to the London newspapers to sound a note of dread warning. He is apparently convinced that at no distant date the British metropolis, or huge slices of it, at all events, will go sliding off from its foundations into some unknown and fathomless abyss. The deep tube railways, it seems, are to cause this catastrophe. His explanation is too technical for brief report, and can be indicated only in a very general way. London subsides in clay, some hundreds of feet in thickness, which forms a series of basins, gradually sloping down to a point below the bed of the Thames. These basins are filled with water, coming from the surface, which flows from one receptacle to another until it reaches the river. So long as the basins are kept full, the top soil was properly supported, but this support of the bed of the basins, in some manner, have created new sluiceways, and are gradually draining these subterranean ponds, causing enormous empty spaces into which the foundations of the British capital will slowly but inevitably settle. Already, it is said, settlements are occurring at different places in London, and great buildings are showing large cracks. He implores the authorities to take timely warning, but no public panic has manifested itself as yet.

GIVING AND RECEIVING BRIBES.

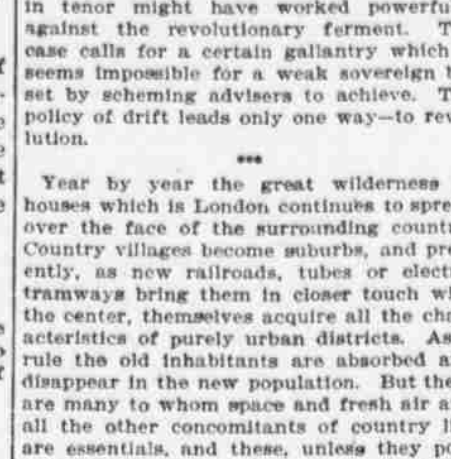
Phases of the Boodle Question Devolved on States. Washington Post.

There are apparently as many ideas to the boodle proposition as there is to the divorce question, and the solution is almost as difficult. Several of the state legislatures now in session are wrestling with different phases of the bribery and lobby evil, and remedies proposed are as numerous and varied as the means employed by those who seek to secure legislation by corrupt methods. Kansas is making a war on bribes and lobbyists, and a bill has been offered in the legislature legalizing the administration of a suit of tar and feathers to the lobbyist who attempts to bribe a member of the law-making body. In Missouri the governor of the state has taken the matter into his personal charge and has issued orders requiring all lobbyists to call upon him, when they arrive at the capital, explain their business and get out of the town in thirty hours. In California a lobbyist has testified that he passed money, in \$50 bills, to four different members of the state senate, in the furtherance of desired legislation. In Illinois a member of the house has been expelled for making charges of boodling against his colleagues and failing to sustain them. In Pennsylvania instances of the spirit of charge and counter-charge reflecting upon the integrity of

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New Goods

Have begun to arrive and this month will end the special values we have been offering on our high grade clothes. We've as many patterns in suits as any man could wish to choose from, and as many styles of Overcoats as you can think of. It will only take you a minute from your business to try on either a suit or coat and at a splendid saving. Reductions range from

25% to 50%

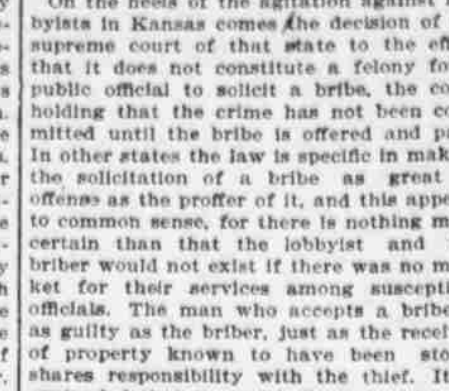
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LAUGHING GAS.

Mostly Wrages (waiting outside)—"Got did do woman say when ye asked 'er fur a hand out?" Warcham Long—She said she was jist out 'er soap, but if I would wait a second she'd give me some liltin' hot water. You can tackle de next one, blame ye!—Chicago Tribune.

"Ah! dear," sighed she, "does it not make you feel better to gaze upon the red glory of a winter sunset like this?" "Not much," replied her practical husband, "it looks so much like a fire and that reminds me of our coal bill."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"You've got a new minister, I hear. Good talker?" and he always speaks extempore never prepares a sermon in advance. "Ah! I see. He doesn't practice what he preaches."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Henry, wake up!" exclaimed Mrs. Peck. "I'm positive I hear burglars downstairs. Get up and see if you can locate them." "My dear," replied Henry, "as he buried his head under the pillow, "I'm very particular about my associates, and I draw the line at vulgar burglars."—Chicago Journal.

"I should like to become an optimist," said the man who seldom smiles. "How would you advise me to go about it?" "Well," answered the man with ashes on his coat collar, "you want to start out by breaking your thermometer and then quit keeping any account of your fuel bills."—Washington Star.

"Didn't I see you taking a drink yesterday with Dr. Klose? I bet he didn't pay." "Well, it was his treat. He suggested it." "But did he pay for it?" "My dear man, don't you know you have to pay for it when a doctor treats you?"—Philadelphia Press.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

Baltimore American. Just now through the nation a question is being asked each other a quiz: "Is not the best method for dusting or dying?"

"Is not what the secret of youthfulness each seek?" Instead, it's a query quite widely divergent. A nation that's born of a newspaper And this inquiry that's come to be urgent, each seek?

Oh, Ho! did you ever get married to each other?" No odds where they live, in Dubuque or Decatur.

No odds where they lost none one, two, or three. Each woman who's shed her fannias pater is like to have taken the Johann pater. His wives are dispersed from the lakes to each ocean.

That is, such as haven't been led to the altar—each seek? He wedded as oft as he took the fool notion— Say, widow, you ever been married to each other?"

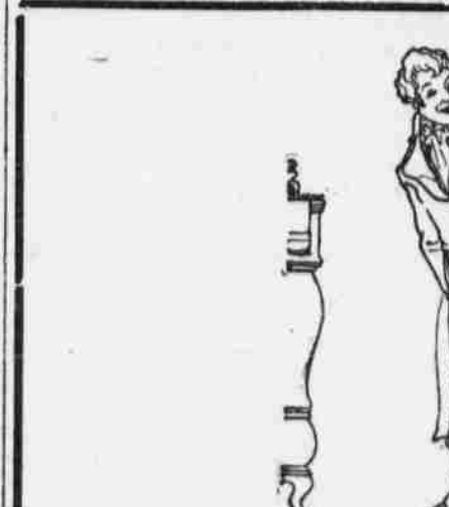
How few we will find from New York to Chicago, Whose fates unlamented had left them some coin. But Johann has made them, contrary to law, go home. His wife fill their money he chanced to "turn." So all o'er the land there's an inquiry ringing.

The innocent, care-less echoes to mock— Before it has stopped, poor Johann may be swinging. Oh, Ho! did you ever get married to each other?"

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