

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Net total sales, 879,637. Daily average, 20,921.

C. C. ROSEWATER, Publisher. Omaha to Los Angeles without change of cars.

The Russian fly has made its appearance in the Nebraska wheat fields.

Chicago now has an excellent opportunity to set a good example to St. Petersburg in the matter of handling labor troubles.

The people of Nebraska will watch the proceedings of the State Board of Railroad Assessment with keen interest.

From now on until the snow flies no competent and able-bodied building trades mechanic in Omaha will have any excuse for remaining idle.

After all the trouble which did not take place in Russia yesterday it is well to remember that the real Russian May day does not come for two weeks.

People talking of Postmaster General Cortelyou for president of the Equitable Life society have settled upon a good man, but he is in the right place now.

The biennial election law is to be tested, but think of the predicament from which the supreme court could have been saved had the bill never been enacted.

The latest fad in Omaha journalism is that the valedictory of a retiring editor and the inaugural message of the incoming editor are delivered in double-shotted columns.

Now that the president has delivered a sermonette in the little blue school house of Colorado, all the little red school houses in Iowa and Nebraska will have to be painted blue.

Fremont will not be asked to vote a bond subsidy to the Great Northern cut-off—probably because the advance agent has discovered that the people of Fremont would not vote the bonds.

The Great Western railroad is to be asked to restore the old ratio between live stock and dressed meat freight tariffs.

When the fumigation of the county hospital has been finished, a searching investigation of the fast and loose methods that have prevailed in other departments of the county government will be in order.

The New York stock exchange may occasionally have to take treatment for nervous disorders, but it can no longer force the same medicine down the throat of the business of the whole country as it has done in days past.

The May session of the federal court in this city promises to be almost as full of dramatic incidents as has been the session of the federal court in Chicago charged with the investigation of violations of the interstate commerce and the Sherman anti-trust laws.

Having proved to his own satisfaction that M. Witte is not responsible for the present trouble in Manchuria, M. Angurieff may have sounded the death knell of that statesman, as there is no evidence that the czar is dissatisfied with the existing condition.

Strikebreakers went on a strike in Chicago, and, as a result, have secured wages of \$5 a day; 50 cents for lunch and extra pay for overtime.

THE ANNUAL RAILROAD ASSESSMENT.

When the State Board of Railroad Assessment convened one year ago the machinery of the revised revenue law had not been fully set in motion.

The duty is imposed upon the board by the law to assess the railroads, telegraphs and telephones at their actual value, regardless of the valuation of other classes of taxable property by county assessors.

It would have simply devolved upon the board to take into consideration the increased mileage and increased capitalization of each of the respective roads; the amount expended by each for betterments, exclusive of repairs, as an offset to depreciation of its physical properties, and a comparison of the value of the stocks and bonds of each system of railroads with the value of their stocks and bonds twelve months ago, and their earnings for 1904 compared with their earnings for 1903.

Unfortunately, the board, under pressure from the railway attorneys and tax agents, allowed itself to be diverted from its plain duty by assuming that the county assessors would violate their oaths or neglect to perform their duties and make returns far below the true value of the properties they were required to assess.

The result was that the assessment of railroads for 1904, notwithstanding the material increase in their valuation, as compared with preceding years, was still more than 25 per cent below their actual value, computed on the basis of the market value of their stocks and bonds, or upon their net earnings capitalized at 5 per cent. A serious mistake made by the board last year was the assessment of the component parts of railroad systems separately, when it was utterly impossible to ascertain the respective values of so-called branches and leased lines.

These errors the board should by all means avoid and rectify in this year's assessment by appraising each railroad system as a unit on the basis of the value of its total mileage—pro-rated. We feel sure that the people of Nebraska take a deep interest in the assessment of railroads and desire that the board shall adopt the open door policy so that they may know from day to day the nature of the proceedings and the position taken by each member of the board upon the various questions and propositions that will be discussed and determined by the board.

RETURN OF THE PRESIDENT. In deciding to curtail his hunting trip, from which he has derived pleasure and benefit, President Roosevelt is prompted by that high sense of duty which is characteristic. Aware of the fact that many important matters demand his attention at Washington, the president will return to the national capital sooner than he had intended to do when he started on his trip and he will find there work which will keep him very busy for some time.

Another matter for the determination of the president is said to be the difference of opinion between Secretary Taft and Mr. Shonts of the canal commission in regard to the rates which the government shall charge for transportation over the Panama railroad. The latter would have the existing status substantially maintained, while the secretary thinks it should be changed and the rates made such as will give simply a fair return on the investment.

It is an unpleasant incident, but President Roosevelt will undoubtedly find it with its its manifest importance demands. Another matter for the determination of the president is said to be the difference of opinion between Secretary Taft and Mr. Shonts of the canal commission in regard to the rates which the government shall charge for transportation over the Panama railroad.

The attorney general of Missouri announces his intention of filing suits against a large number of alleged trusts other than oil and packing companies. As Missouri is the only state which has ever enforced its criminal laws against unlawful combinations, it may be well for it to clear up the list and set the pace for other commonwealths.

The policy heretofore pursued in the disbursement of Douglas county road funds needs radical revision. While the county is of necessity compelled to keep in repair the roads already laid out, the most economic investment of the road fund would be in the gradual extension of county road pavements.

Now for the woods. "What does Grover Cleveland know about the sanctity of home and about woman's sphere?" mockingly asks Miss Susan B. Anthony. It is scarcely a week since an indignant woman's club was jeeringly demanding information as to what Theodore Roosevelt knew about motherhood.

PULLING HIS DEBTS TOGETHER.

Banker Higelow had to depend on his memory for the names of some of his creditors, but by a powerful effort he managed to recall a few more debts aggregating another million or so.

Germany names Mr. Tinscott as its member of the board of consulting engineers for the Panama canal. This will be a happy selection for the other engineers when it is decided that the time has come to rush the growler.

Directors Should Know. Philadelphia Record. The best banks are those in which no such defect as that of \$100,000 in Milwaukee can be made by the president without knowledge of the directors.

Peace Talk in War Time. St. Louis Republic. During the bloody era in the Orient Peace has done more talking than in all the years when it had the floor itself.

Steeking to His Task. Indianapolis News. Secretary Loeb rather hesitates about spending several days in the president's office and joining the hunting party.

Surely the War is Over. Chicago Chronicle. Forty years ago, or even twenty years ago, who would have ventured to predict that Pitt-Hugh Lee would die a general officer on the retired list of the United States army?

Moonshiners of Arkansas' Jeff. Chicago Chronicle. It becomes more and more evident that the only unreconstructed rebel now left south of Mason and Dixon's line is Jeff Davis, governor of Arkansas.

What is made very evident is the fact that we are still a long way from industrial peace and there is abundant reason why those engaged in the effort to promote peace between capital and labor should continue in that important and commendable work.

GREAT BUILDING MOVEMENT.

Multiplying New Homes Gratifying Evidence of Good Times. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. One of the mercantile agencies estimates that \$60,000,000 will be spent in the United States in new buildings in the year 1905.

Members of both houses of the late legislature are expected to participate in the ninth annual conference of the Nebraska State Charities and Corrections which will be held at Kearney May 10 and 11. Why members of the legislature should have been singled out is only explicable on the ground that their records need correction.

PERSONAL NOTES. The population of St. Louis is now declared to be 714,500. If you don't believe it you are at liberty to count them on week days when the lid is off.

NEAR VIEW FAR FROM HOME. Nebraskan in Washington Sizes Up Changing Situation of Bryan. Washington Post. "If William Jennings Bryan is ever elected president of the United States, it will be by the people of the east, who so severely criticised him a few years ago, but now seem to have a high regard for his great abilities and his sterling honesty."

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ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. A long-horned Texas steer ran amuck in Madison Square Garden during an exhibition of lassoing at the horse fair last week.

The music stopped abruptly, and two players with swords horned started on the run, yelling like mad. One Miss Lullie Mulhall, daughter of Colonel Zach Mulhall, rides into the arena on a pony and a wild steer, which she was to rope, was in bad humor.

The Chamber of Commerce status of Abram S. Hewitt, cut out of Carrara marble, Florence by the sculptor William Couper, has arrived in the city and will be unveiled May 11. The statue will be placed in one of the spaces indicated. It is a life size, and Mr. Hewitt is depicted standing erect on a platform as if delivering an address, a document in his right hand and his left hand resting on a table.

The day of the professional street car porter will soon be a thing of the past, and then every passenger will become a spotter if a mechanical method has just been perfected by J. G. Roberts of Richmond, Va., is taken up by the street railway lines.

Mr. Roberts is in New York explaining his device. It is a novel electric register, with loud sounding bell and electric lights of various colors. For instance, if the dial of the machine indicates that twenty fares have been collected the yellow electric colored bulb would flare up, and the conductor would hand back the nickel which he had received from the twentieth passenger.

Ability to manufacture gas at a cost as low as 30 cents a thousand, when the new Astoria plant is in operation, was the exclamation voiced by William H. Bradley, chief engineer of the Consolidated Gas company, while on the witness stand before the legislative investigation committee.

Charles M. Schwab's announcement that it is his intention, when he and his wife are no longer alive, to leave to the city of New York for a museum the magnificent palace on Riverside drive, which is approaching completion, is hailed as something new in American gift-giving. American millionaires have almost, without exception, kept their houses for their descendants. Mr. Schwab, by the way, is negotiating for the largest insurance policy ever written on a private dwelling, and it is probable that his Riverside home and its furnishings will be insured for \$5,000,000.

RAILROADS NOT PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Why Their Managers Have No Right to Give Away Free Transportation. Columbus Telegram. If, as many people believe, a railroad is private property, which the public has no manner of interest in, then the people who hold such a view make a mistake when they object to the giving of free passes to public officials and others.

While we have had upon the whole fairly good government in Nebraska, it is violating no confidence to say that it might have been better, and that we might avoid many of the petty squabbles and some of the disgraces which render our politics disagreeable. We could have done this by putting bigger men in charge. Our officers have too often been representatives of this interest or that interest—some man's "man," or some combination's man, or some local politician's man.

WANTED—BIGGER MEN. Endorsement of the Bee's Demand for Higher Standards of Officials. Lincoln Star. The Omaha Bee has a pertinent and timely editorial article on the need of raising the standard of public service in Nebraska.

Rev. Mr. Hinks-Have you favorites among the missionaries that are sent you? The Omaha Bee has a pertinent and timely editorial article on the need of raising the standard of public service in Nebraska.

A MATTER OF HEALTH.

Physiological Experimenters Are a Little Greivanceous. Pittsburg Dispatch. A recent report on scientific discoveries evokes a strong expression of opinion from scientific gentlemen as to the exclusion of such matters from the lay press.

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Browning, King & Co. CLOTHING, FURNISHINGS, AND HATS. The Proper Stamp. An unfashionable Coat is an abomination. Popular approval has set its stamp on the season's styles.