

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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87. 96,000	97. 25,000
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C. C. ROSEWATER, Secretary.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of May, 1903.
(Seal)
J. M. HUNTER, Notary Public.

The weather man and the summer resort man will have to pull better together.

The Denver boosters claim that they have the Omaha jobbers on the hip, but we shall see what we shall see.

Rome was not built in a day, nor can the campaign to make Omaha beautiful produce perfect results in a month.

If the present temperatures continue many days there may be some rare bargains in ice this fall to make way for new stock.

The prospective vacancy in the county judge's office is not likely to go a-begging. The county commissioners may as well prepare for a siege.

Every week brings more new building projects for Omaha. And the best part of it is that few of them are destined to stay merely on paper very long.

Since France declares it gave Rojensky only that help which neutrality permits the Japanese fleet should know where to go when it needs a friendly port.

China now threatens to refuse to sell tea to the United States. This may be the reason that Sir Thomas Lipton has decided to try again to lift the American's cup.

Chicago is investigating the report that "thired thugs" assaulted strike breakers. The only strange thing about this is that an investigation should be considered necessary.

The water works appraisement is now promised by the first of July. It takes an awfully long time for a fifty-dollar-a-day hydraulic engineer to compute fractions and compile estimates.

King Edward has ordered an American typewriter, but he can never know the real advantages of the machine until he imports an American stenographer to operate it at his dictation.

Russian workmen are now said to hope for reforms from the throne. In other words, the wisdom of appointing General Trepoff as chief of police of St. Petersburg has been vindicated.

An international farmers' congress is to meet in Europe this month, but the "subtreasury" idea which made farmers' congresses lively in this country ten years ago will not be presented.

Some Kansas newspapers are charging the enemies of Governor Hoch with inducing him to enforce the prohibitory law. What would he have done had he followed the advice of his friends?

The international railroad congress has gone on record in favor of a "square deal" in freight rates, but the language of the resolution is ambiguous enough to be construed almost any old way.

Since Japan has stopped the exportation of coal to Saigon, Russia might retaliate by taking from the sea all coalers bound for Vladivostok and thus leave Togo no outside source of supply.

Minister Barrett now has a copy of the Loomis charges. A little thing like this, however, will not stampede a man who has contracted the habit of receiving "ultimatums" for several days in succession.

Aspirants for Mayor Moore's brogans had better secure electric fan attachments to keep their temperature down during the summer months. It will be cold enough for most of them as the election approaches next winter.

The cattle barons who fenced in thousands upon thousands of acres of the public domain without saying by your leave to Uncle Sam are not seriously alarmed over the impending prosecution to be conducted by the late assistant to the late United States attorney.

A ONE-SIDED INQUIRY.

The inquiry by the senate committee on interstate commerce in regard to the question of railroad regulation has been so distinctly one-sided that it is impossible that any recommendations which the committee may make will have any influence upon public sentiment favorable to its evident partiality for the railroads. The committee has made it apparent from the very beginning of the hearings which it was authorized to make that its sympathies are entirely with the railroads and that it proposed to do everything possible to give the corporations an opportunity to bolster up their case. The committee has given its attention almost wholly to the opinions and views of railroad managers and attorneys, practically excluding from the inquiry those who are favorable to governmental regulation of railroad rates and legislation that would absolutely correct the abuses and evils that now exist and must continue to exist until the interstate commission is given larger powers than it now possesses.

It is said that the senate committee is very much exasperated because Secretary Taft should have taken occasion to speak so openly upon the railroad question. It is very likely that the railroad men on the committee were a good deal put out by the declaration of Secretary Taft, but they ought to understand that in what he said he reflected not only the position of the administration of which he is a part, but also of the very great majority of the American people. There was nothing extreme, certainly nothing revolutionary, in what Secretary Taft said to the railway men convened in Washington from all parts of the civilized world. What he said was simply in line with what the American people have been asking for many years and what they will continue to demand until it is granted. That they will ultimately achieve what they want is not to be doubted.

The inquiry which has been carried on by the senate committee on interstate commerce has been a one-sided affair. It has been conducted in the interest of the railroads rather than in the interest of the public. It is unsatisfactory and must necessarily be inconclusive. The committee was directed or authorized by the senate to frame a bill for the regulation of railway rates. It will doubtless do this, but the country will regard with distrust any measure framed by a committee which has so unmistakably shown that its sympathies are wholly with the railroads.

AN OCEAN YACHT RACE.

An international incident of some interest, especially to lovers of marine sport, will be inaugurated today in the ocean yacht race for the Emperor William cup that will start from Sandy Hook and end on the other side of the Atlantic. A number of yachts will engage in the race, all of them, it is needless to say, of the first class, those which will represent the United States being of the very best type and of course especially prepared and equipped for the contest.

The race was arranged at the suggestion of Emperor William, whose yacht, together with one or two others from Germany, will participate. There will also be several British yachts in the race, some of them with an excellent sailing record. Quite naturally on this side of the Atlantic the prevailing opinion is that one of the American yachts will win and odds have been placed on the Atlantic, which has demonstrated its superior qualities on more than one occasion. The yacht of Emperor William is a good one and the Germans have confidence that it will be able to keep the emperor's cup, for which the race will be sailed, in the farland. It will be an international sporting event of a kind in which the people of each of the countries participating will feel a very lively interest, appreciating that it will be an absolutely fair test of the yachts engaged in it.

BETTER CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA.

The latest reports from Russia represent conditions as being somewhat improved and there is less apprehension in official circles regarding the immediate future. It is noted that the disturbances which it was feared would break out about this time have not taken place and there seems to be an impression that the revolutionary element has lost, at least for the time being, its influence with the people. It is stated in a dispatch from the Russian capital that while revolutionary elements have made a good deal of noise, they had neither organization nor leadership behind them and consequently find themselves unable to accomplish anything. They have failed even with the working classes, without whose support their cause was entirely hopeless.

No one at all familiar with conditions in Russia will be in the least surprised at this. There is abundant justification for popular complaint and ample warrant for the popular demand for reforms, but the people have no means at their command to secure what they desire, so complete are the precautions of the government against anything in the nature of a revolution. There is no point in the Russian empire at which a revolutionary movement might be started where the government is not in a position to crush it in its inception and it does not hesitate at the most drastic measures, as has been repeatedly shown in recent events.

Every intelligent observer of conditions in Russia agrees that there is no present danger of revolution, not because of any lack of revolutionary sentiment, but for the reason that the people hostile to autocracy are wholly unable to organize a revolution. They have nothing to fight with and it is the policy of the government to see that they shall not have. Undoubtedly the popular feeling is having an effect in the interest of governmental reform, but as remarked in a current dispatch from the Russian capital reforms will come from above

and not from below. Nevertheless the popular demand for reforms is not wholly without effect.

A MODEL BUILDING ORDINANCE.

The revised building code of the city of St. Louis, which has just gone into effect, is a model which Omaha could well afford to emulate. It is the result of painstaking collaboration between experts, and is as nearly perfect and exhaustive as it would be possible to make such an ordinance.

Its most important feature is the radical change in the building laws governing the operation of theaters and public meeting places. These regulations were specially prepared by a committee consisting of the chief of the fire department, the board of fire underwriters and the building commissioner. Next to that are the safeguards thrown around people who work in large stores and factories, whose owners are compelled to provide adequate stairways in all mercantile and manufacturing buildings. The obstruction of the stairs, passages or landings of such buildings with materials of any kind, as well as the placing of inflammable material is prohibited under severe penalties.

The section of the code governing the thickness of brick walls makes the minimum allowable thickness for brick external and division bearing walls for all store buildings thirteen inches for the two top stories, eighteen inches for the next two stories below, and for each succeeding two stories, or increased height, the walls must be four inches thicker than the walls next above them.

The question of sign boards has also received attention in the new St. Louis building code. The building commissioner's department is given complete jurisdiction in the matter and may order all unsafe signboards removed at any time. The ordinance requires that all signs over three and one-half feet shall be wholly of metal, or other non-combustible material, and must be hung to buildings by heavy iron brackets, bolted to the walls, and so placed as not to obstruct a fire escape or interfere with the operations of the fire department in case of fire.

The section regulating bill boards includes some new features. The erection of bill boards nearer than fifteen feet from the front line of any lot is prohibited, nor is any bill board permitted nearer than six feet to any building, and no bill board can exceed 500 square feet in area.

All these safeguards are sane and suggestive, and their strict enforcement will doubtless go far toward safeguarding life and limb, as well as property, in case of conflagration or storms of unusual severity.

While Omaha is not perplexed over the tenure of office of its mayor, which has by two successive charters been fixed at three years, it is, nevertheless, interesting to note the trend of charter making bodies to extend the terms of mayors from two to four years. In St. Louis, for example, the mayor's term of office is four years, although he has little control over the city administration, inasmuch as he cannot appoint a city official until the third year of his term and has no power of removal at all. In New York, where the mayor's power of appointment and also his power of removal is absolute and where he, with his board of appointment, has almost superseded the city council, the term is two years, but the recent New York legislature has revised the charter so as to extend the term from two to four years. The strange thing about the New York extension is that it requires the approval of the mayor, who has the veto power on charter legislation. Although the attitude of Mayor McClellan is not known, it does not need a prophet or the son of a prophet to foresee that he will not veto the provision. Chicago will also hereafter have a four-year term of mayor unless the charter recently passed by the Illinois legislature fails to receive the signature of the governor, and the approval of the voters of the city, at a referendum, which will be necessary before the law goes into effect. This peculiarity of charter making may seem strange to Omaha charter reformers, but it indicates clearly the evolution in progress with regard to municipal government of American cities.

Senator Burkett is setting an example in one direction that deserves commendation. At the recent republican county convention in Lancaster county to choose delegates to the congressional convention Mr. Burkett was one of the delegates and presided over the convention's deliberations. The Bee has repeatedly preached the doctrine that men invested with high political honors as the representatives of their party should recognize their responsibility by active participation in the work of party management and leadership. No man, however highly honored by his party, should be above serving as a delegate in his party conventions.

The projected extension of the Great Northern railroad over a rainbow line in the rear of Omaha does not constitute as much of a menace to Omaha's trade expansion as does the proposed 25 per cent cut in railroad rates from Denver into northwestern Nebraska and the Black Hills.

The legislature that undertook to establish biennial elections in order to relieve the people of the distraction of annual campaigns was not very consistent when it left the good citizens of Lincoln exposed to three elections in six months.

Both Sides Pleased.
Washington Post.

Another tribute to the president's marksmanship is found in the fact that both the teamsters and employers claim to be pleased with his shot at the industrial situation in Chicago.

Tarred with the Same Stick.
Chicago Chronicle.

President McKinley of the Chicago Great Western is entirely right in his criticism of public officers who accept free passes

over the railroads. It may also be said, however, that the public officers would not get the passes unless the railroads were willing to issue them. If there is anything smacking of corruption in the transaction the railroads must bear their share of it.

A Monument of Reform.

The juvenile court will involve Omaha in an expenditure of \$10,000. In spite of this the juvenile criminals obstinately refuse to appear. The court, however, must be deemed a monument of reform.

Money Well Spent.

Still a deficit of \$10,000,000 or so caused by rural free delivery is a good deal easier for the country to tolerate than some other deficits it has been called on to face. At least it gets something for its money.

Keeping Out of the Game.

Pittsburgh Dispatch.
It naturally pains Japan to preserve the lack of enthusiasm which England manifests over the chance that it may have to take a hand. From that defensive alliance it was expected that England would be able to mix in, but its aches are wholly in the opposite direction.

Rival Crops in Nebraska.

Portland Oregonian.
The president found the crop of boys and girls in Nebraska much more interesting than the corn crop. It is on record, however, in the farmers' homes of that state that it takes a big corn crop year after year for many years to bring the crop so much admired by the president to maturity. Let us hope that the president will not value the corn crop of the great middle west suffer by this comparison. Children in abundance are only to be desired when there is plenty upon which to bring them up. It means something to launch a child upon the great sea of industrial activity in these times, and much depends upon the successful launching.

Moves to "Save" Niagara.

Springfield Republican.
The Canadians are at last awake to the grave menace which threatens Niagara. The Ontario government has refused to ratify an agreement between the Electrical Development Company and the Niagara Falls (Canadian) Park commission, by which the company would be allowed to develop double its present limit of power. It has also been declared in the Canadian parliament, within the week, that no further income upon the Niagara falls was to be permitted until a royal commission has made an investigation. This is welcome news, and suggests that the Canadians may yet be found willing partners in the preservation of the falls. An international agreement or commission to govern the taking of water from Niagara for power purposes cannot come too soon.

BEFORE GRADUATION AND AFTER.

Transition from the School Room to the World's School.

Baltimore American.
Millions of hearts are beating more lively in expectation of the approaching commencement. The young people often look upon graduation as the greatest crisis in life, and so it is until another occurs to diminish its importance. They will probably never in due time that life is punctuated with such one crisis and take his place in the front rank of the defense in the battle which is certainly coming between the grafters and the people. If the people of the first district will select such a district and at the same time add to the list of the republican party.

Railroads Should Think Twice.

Kearney Hub.
If a corporation can be created by legal provision it can be regulated and controlled by law. And if the corporation objects to the regulation and control, it must bear in mind that the lawmaking power may also deprive it of its corporate existence. Railway officials who contend that the government has no right to meddle with rates will do well to think twice or three times before entering on a fight to a finish.

Merely a One-Sided Parole.

Lynch Journal.
The present senatorial railroad investigation being held in Washington looks like a one-sided farce. Not a man that is not known to be decidedly in favor of the railroads' side of the question has been allowed to appear before the committee.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Helen Gould will pay for the education of Leroy Irvine Dixon, the 9-year-old Denver boy who saved the Rio Grande train from running into a rock slide last October.

John D. Rockefeller, who always has had an aversion to automobiles, several days ago purchased a \$5,000 touring car. The machine will be driven by a French chauffeur.

REGULATING FREIGHT RATES.

The People Firmly on the Side of the Administration.
Chicago Tribune.
Secretary Taft said last Tuesday to an audience of railroad men, "You cannot run railroads as you run private business."

The remark grated on the nerves of some of his hearers, but it should be noted that he ran their heads exactly as they would a private enterprise. Every law which treats the railroad business as something different from other businesses is distasteful to them. When it is suggested that railroad rates be regulated by government, they say transportation is a commodity whose price should be no more regulated in that way than the price of the commodities offered for sale by a manufacturer or a merchant.

Those who speak for the railroads wish them to enjoy the advantages of being quasi public corporations, but dislike to acknowledge the obligations which go with the advantages. They wish to carry on interstate commerce, jurisdiction over which is exclusively vested in the national government, but will not admit the right of the government to restrict them to fair, just and reasonable charges.

The president said at Denver and Chicago that if justice is to be between the public and the common carriers there must be a governmental tribunal to alter freight rates, subject to judicial review, when it is convinced that they do not equate. Secretary Taft agreed with him and says to the railroad men that if they are wise they will aid and not hinder the establishment of such a tribunal.

DEMAND FOR RATE REGULATION.

No Division of Sentiment Among the People of Nebraska on Subject.

There is no division of sentiment among the people of Nebraska on the question of freight regulation. Freight rates in the west are three times as high as they are in the east. There is no reason why they should be so. The freight on a shipment weighing 2,500 pounds, a press, from Hartford, Conn., to Chicago, was \$17.75. From Chicago to York, on the same machine, less than half the distance, the freight rate was \$25.51. The only possible explanation for this must be in one of two conditions: Either the railroads have the legislators of the western states nuzzled till they will not pass suitable legislation or the people of those states are not able to frame such legislation as should be enacted into law. Probably a combination of these two explanations would suitably account for the condition that exists and affects every shipment of goods or produce in or out of the state of Nebraska.

Fight with Roosevelt.

Columbus Journal.
Sane and just rate regulation will consist of the burden of Roosevelt's battle with the senate during the remainder of his term of office. If the republican party of Nebraska fails to take up the rate slogan for our state with the same fearless earnestness that Roosevelt has taken it for the nation, it will meet defeat at the hands of the voters and it will deserve that defeat. Our last legislative session, notwithstanding the honest endeavor of a majority of the individual members for effective rate control, passed a meaningless railroad commission bill. Republicans may as well frankly admit the fact and record the fight within the party organization to find a remedy. Every local republican organization in Nebraska should go to the Roosevelt railroad platform and stay there and fight to the end.

Some Sample Freight Rates.

Norfolk Press.
If a department store located in Norfolk should buy its goods in New York and ship by water to Duluth and then the rest of the way by rail he would find the railroad freight rates running against him in this fashion, as compared with his competitors in Tokamah and Lincoln:
On a Car of Implements—To Norfolk, \$20 miles, \$13.25; to Tokamah, \$27 miles, \$7.25; to Lincoln, \$59 miles, \$7.25.
On a Car of Stoves—To Norfolk, \$108; to Tokamah, \$4.80; to Lincoln, \$7.25.
On a Car of Furniture—To Norfolk, \$146.40; to Tokamah, \$7.25; to Lincoln, \$51.60.
On a Car of Third-Class Merchandise—To Norfolk, \$132.40; to Tokamah, \$108; to Lincoln, \$117.60.
On a Car of First-Class Merchandise—To Norfolk, \$190; to Tokamah, \$192; to Lincoln, \$204.

First District's Chances.

Falls City Journal.
The first district of Nebraska has an opportunity to begin the work of taking the national legislature out of the hands of the railroads by electing to congress only a man free from all entangling alliances with railroads. And this man should be in addition one with a clean record in every way and with the moral courage to resist temptation and take his place in the front rank of the defense in the battle which is certainly coming between the grafters and the people. If the people of the first district will select such a district and at the same time add to the list of the republican party.

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