

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

R. ROEWATER, EDITOR.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: George B. Tschuck, treasurer of the Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the actual number of copies of the Daily Bee, published during the month of August, 1905, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation category and Number of copies. Includes categories like 'Copies of this issue', 'Copies of other issues', 'Total', 'Net total sales', and 'Daily average'.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 24th day of August, 1905.

WHEN OUT OF TOWN. Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have the Bee mailed to them. It is better than a daily letter from home.

Now that the Taft party has returned Bourke Cockran may learn what democrats at home think of his conversion at Manila.

Put it down that the people of Omaha will refuse to warm up to the political campaign until after the festival season is over.

It is to be hoped the signal corps will signalize its advent in Omaha by marching in the procession of King Ak-Sar-Ben next week.

Although it has started out rather lively, Chicago will have to work faster if it is to equal New York in the matter of insurance investigation.

The new Anglo-Japanese treaty demonstrates the fact that Russia was fortunate in starting its war before the first agreement was amended.

King Ak-Sar-Ben is almost ready to make his triumphant entry into Omaha. Make sure that you are ready to perform your part as a loyal subject.

Admitting his good intentions, is it not a little presumptuous for Colonel Bryan to offer advice continually to Mr. Roosevelt on the subject of running the government?

Republican primaries in Massachusetts indicate that reciprocity sentiment there could not survive the double standard idea engrafted upon it by the Chicago conference.

The Chinese boycott has signally failed, but the Chinese merchants may become sufficiently up-to-date to adopt a retaliatory tariff and then Uncle Sam will have to look to his laurels.

In insuring the freedom of trade of all nations in Korea, Great Britain does not exhibit much confidence in the assertion that British manufacturers cannot keep pace with the rest of the world.

No Nebraska taxpayer will begrudge paying his share of the bills for railroad fare filed by Attorney General Brown, if he succeeds in making the railroads come to time in the payment of their taxes.

The local job printers are knocked out of a big contract for ballot printing this year by the introduction of the voting machines, but they will get even in their bills for supplying the primary election ballots.

The National Postmasters' association in convention can prove of service to some of its members by discovering a way to make "the most trusted employe" show signs of weakness before he gets away with the cash.

An association has been formed to experiment with "dry" farming in the semi-arid region; but congress should not repeal the irrigation laws until at least one dividend has been declared on stock in the dry farms company.

Typhoons are said to be caused by the presence of a stratum of cool air over a stratum of hot air. Under these circumstances it is easy to account for the recent disastrous storm at Manila, but surprising that it did not sooner follow the advent of the congressional visitors.

The exchange of complimentary between councilmen in the council chamber if indulged down south would provoke revolver encounters outside of the city hall, but in Omaha councilmen who call each other liars during the session extend courtesies before the bar after the session and drink to each other's health.

VENEZUELAN RELATIONS.

It is stated that one of the important topics which President Roosevelt will discuss in his annual message to congress is that of the relations between this country and Venezuela. These are not at present entirely satisfactory, the government of the southern republic having for some time shown an unfriendly spirit and even assumed a menacing attitude, if reports from there have correctly represented the situation. These indicate that not only has President Castro taken a defiant position, but also sought to create in neighboring republics a feeling of hostility toward the United States.

While it is the policy of this country to cultivate the most friendly relations with the republics south of us—a policy repeatedly affirmed and carefully pursued—it is at the same time the duty of our government to see that American rights and interests in those countries are properly respected and that our citizens there are fairly and justly treated. This the Venezuelan government has seemed indisposed to recognize, its course in some respects being wholly arbitrary and calculated to disturb friendly relations. The attitude of Venezuela toward foreign countries is also such as to invite trouble, in which the United States might possibly become involved in upholding the Monroe doctrine.

No one will find fault with President Castro in using all proper efforts to conserve the interests of his country and promote the welfare of its people, but he must be required to have regard for the rights and interests of other countries and for those obligations which are imposed upon Venezuela as a member of the family of nations. If Castro and his adherents do not understand what is necessary in this respect they must be taught and an exigency may arise when it will be incumbent upon the United States to impart the instruction. This country has assumed the responsibility of protecting the independent states of this hemisphere against European aggression. It is pledged to maintain the territorial integrity of the southern republics and to safeguard them from the forcible introduction of the political systems of Europe. In other words it guarantees the security of their territory and their institutions. This responsibility carries with it the right to counsel and to exert all proper influence to avert conflicts with foreign nations.

Persistence in the course she has for some time pursued will inevitably lead Venezuela into war. It would seem that the men in power there expect this, for it is said they are preparing for such an eventuality. It is therefore manifestly the duty of our government to plainly state its relations with Venezuela and what may be expected of it in the event of the republic continuing to disregard international obligations and the rights of the citizens of other countries. In his last annual message Mr. Roosevelt very clearly defined the position of the United States toward the southern republics, pointing out that chronic wrong-doing on the part of any of those countries might force the United States to the exercise of an international police power. "We would interfere with them only in the last resort, and then only if it became evident that their inability or unwillingness to do justice at home and abroad had violated the rights of the United States or had invited foreign aggression to the detriment of the entire body of American nations." It appears to be necessary or expedient to reaffirm this statement of the position of our government.

THE GREGG GAS FRANCHISE.

Crimination and recrimination between members of the city council over the departure of Mr. Gregg, who sought to procure a franchise for supplying Omaha with "dollar" gas, is of comparatively small moment to this community. On broad gauge principles it is the duty of the mayor and council to submit to the citizens for their approval or rejection any proposition that would materially cheapen the cost of public utilities, provided it is coupled with guarantees that will safeguard the city against imposition and combination that would nullify the benefits to be derived, and providing, also, that the parties who seek the franchise are willing to deposit a sufficient amount to cover the cost of the election.

There are features in the proposed new gas franchise ordinance, however, that would justify the mayor and council in insisting on its radical modification before the proposition is submitted. The gas franchise ordinance which the council has been asked to submit for ratification to the people confers upon Frank M. Gregg and his successors and assigns the right to construct, maintain and operate gas works in the city of Omaha and to sell and supply gas in said city for a period of forty-three years from the date of the ordinance and the price of gas for the entire period is fixed at \$1 per 1,000 cubic feet for consumers and 80 cents for public buildings.

We doubt whether there are a dozen fairly informed people in Omaha who could be induced to vote a gas franchise for forty-three years to anybody. When the franchise was voted to the Omaha Gas company twelve years ago the council attempted to make the life of the franchise fifty years, but this attempt was met with strenuous popular opposition and was frustrated by an appeal to the courts, and the time was cut from fifty to twenty-five years.

It has been suggested that the Gregg ordinance was simply a scheme to extend the franchise of the Omaha Gas company thirty years beyond its expiration. Whether the suspicion is well grounded, or not, we feel sure the present company would cheerfully accept a thirty-year extension of its franchise on the same terms. Dollar gas fifteen years hence may be 50 cents too high, and while the proposed ordinance reserves the right to the city to buy the plant on the three-appraiser plan, its experience with the water works appropriation does not warrant the belief that the municipal gas plant could be acquired on very short notice.

The section of the Gregg ordinance also that exempts from paying any royalty on gas sold for the first five years would likewise be decidedly objectionable. It goes without saying that the new gas company would reduce more or less the output of the present gas company and correspondingly reduce the royalty to which Omaha is entitled. Other features of the Gregg ordinance would call for amendment before the proposition is finally submitted to the voters.

MR. LESLIE'S QUALIFICATIONS.

OMAHA, Sept. 26, 1905.—To the Editor of The Bee: In the evening issue of The Bee on Monday, the 23rd inst., you printed an editorial entitled "Mr. Leslie Should Withdraw," in which you undertook to present your reasons for his withdrawal.

The only objection to Mr. Leslie presented by you is his qualification as a lawyer. You have little or no personal acquaintance with Mr. Leslie and can form no personal opinion concerning his qualifications. I have known him intimately for about ten years last past. A portion of this time Mr. Leslie was associated with me in the practice of the law in the city of Omaha, and a continued acquaintance thereafter, that he is fully qualified as a lawyer to discharge the duties of county judge on behalf of the people of Douglas county. It is not the so-called leaders of the bar who make the best judges. They are usually too aggressive.

As chief clerk of the county court Mr. Leslie's duties have been such as to make him peculiarly well qualified to become county judge. By reason of his clerkship he has made a special study of the law relating to the administration of the estates of deceased persons and trust estates. He is especially well qualified to administer these estates. Nearly all the business of the county court comes within this branch of the law.

You say that Mr. Leslie "presumes altogether too much on party fealty and popular indifference." As a party measure Mr. Leslie has been nominated according to the Dodge primary law. He is therefore entitled to the vote of the people in the coming election. According to the law, the public has not been indifferent, but has chosen Mr. Leslie as the representative of his party for the position of county judge.

I have no hesitancy in saying that Mr. Leslie is as well qualified to discharge the duties of county judge as any man who has entered into that honorable office within the past twenty years, and in the matter of the administration of estates I am confident that he is better qualified.

ADDED ASSURANCE OF PEACE.

The terms of the new treaty of alliance between Great Britain and Japan give added assurance that peace in the far east will be maintained at least during the life of the treaty. The general scope of this agreement had been announced in advance of the publication of the text, but there are one or two features which were not before made clear. For instance, there is an unqualified declaration that the common interests of all the powers in China shall be preserved "by insuring the independence and integrity of the Chinese empire and the principle of equal opportunities for the commerce and industry of all nations in China."

CLEVELAND ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Ex-President Tells Why Women Are Better Off Without the Ballot. Ex-President Grover Cleveland, contributes to the October number of the Ladies' Home Journal an article entitled, "Would Woman Suffrage Be Enwise?" He holds that it would. Among other things he says:

It will not do to suppose that a majority of the sensible and responsible women of the land desire suffrage and admittance to the activities of politics. On the contrary, there is now a great preponderance of those who either actively oppose all movement in this direction or are contentedly indifferent.

A few years ago the question of allowing municipal suffrage in Massachusetts to women was submitted to all the voters of that state who were eligible to vote for school committees. The number of women at that time qualified to register and ballot on the question was about 575,000. Of these more than 800,000 declined to vote.

The total woman's vote cast in favor of the proposition was smaller than had sometimes been cast in school elections. There were forty-seven towns in which not one woman's ballot was cast in the affirmative and in each of 138 other towns fifteen women or less voted.

I think twenty states which refuse to women all other suffrage privileges permit them to vote for school officers, either without restriction or under certain conditions. It is alleged, however, that the number who avail themselves of this privilege is commonly very small.

It is said with apparent authority that at the election of school officers, which ought to interest all women who in good faith desire to be really useful by means of their suffrage, the proportion of women who vote in the state of New York is estimated at 2 per cent. in Connecticut at 1 to 2 1/2 per cent. and in Massachusetts ordinarily at not more than 3 or 4 per cent.

The decrease of their desire to vote on this question is indicated by such statistics as these: In the city of Chicago 29,315 women registered as voters in 1894. But in 1898 their number was only 1,485. In the year 1895 in the city of Cleveland 5,333 women registered, but in 1898 this number was reduced to eighty-two.

In the face of such an adverse majority and such indifference on the part of women it is not unreasonable to assume that the propagandists of female suffrage who continue to goad on the cause rely considerably for final success upon the aid of the numerous women's clubs, which, whatever their declared objects may be, are apt to pave the way to the reception of woman suffrage radicalism. I have lately received a letter from a thoroughly conscientious lady which illustrates the gradation from membership in a moderate woman's club to the most extreme affiliations. While protesting in a delightfully womanly way against my views in regard to woman's clubs she frankly admitted the consequences, in her own case, of acquiring the club habit. She first joined a "friendly" club, the "Woman's Improvement and Culture" of its members, then an art club, then a civic club, and finally, having been brought within the influence of certain missionaries in the cause of female municipal suffrage, she became, and continues to be, an ardent convert to that doctrine.

I do not claim that many instances have fallen under my observation which so completely demonstrate how apparently incomplete club membership leads to unanticipated extremity. It is an unusual, however, for women in all stages of such membership to admit that the formation of the club habit is one of its frequent accompaniments.

Those most active in pushing the demand for woman suffrage and in its indication to what they deem wholesome legislation accomplished in the few states where such suffrage has been granted. I am afraid, however, that in dealing with this feature of the question these advocates occasionally make a mistaken view of the relationship between cause and effect.

I believe it will be found that if the wise and progressive legislation in these woman suffrage states is weighed against such legislation in states where woman suffrage is withheld, the balance will certainly not be found against the latter. As bearing upon the credit due to woman voters for legislation where full female suffrage has been adopted, it is worth noting that the male voters exceptionally outnumber the female voters in all these localities.

It is sometimes claimed that woman suffrage would have the effect of elevating and refining politics. Neither its short trial in four states, containing in the aggregate a population very slightly in excess of one-tenth of the population of the city of New York, nor our political experience or observation supports this claim.

The states in which full female suffrage prevails are Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Wyoming. In the first two of these states the proportion of female voters is considerably greater than in the others, and yet the voters of Utah have lately elected through their legislature to the United States senate a man whose fitness is now the subject of the best of our editorial investigation, and not long ago they elected to congress another man whom that body rejected. These incidents may not go far toward discrediting woman suffrage, but they certainly do not indicate its invariably refining and elevating tendency.

I hope it will not be deemed ungracious if I refer to another circumstance which is at least interesting as a coincidence. Of the four states permitting full woman suffrage, Colorado should certainly be regarded as affording the best illustration of its results, as this state is most like the older states of the east in point of urban population, in the variety and extent of its business interests and in the proportion of women to men among its residents of voting age.

Less than two years ago a member of the house of representatives from that state holding his place by virtue of an apparent majority of the direct votes of the men and women of his district, resigned his seat for the reason, as he openly declared, that fraudulent votes had been cast for him in the election. An investigation of the case by a congressional committee developed the fact that some of the most glaring frauds were committed by women.

A New York newspaper in February, 1894, published a summary of the evidence taken by the committee, from which it appeared that one woman, admitting her participation in these frauds, confessed among other political sins that she gave directions to the women who were to do repeating at the polls and that two other women were associated with her in the manipulation of ballots, one of whom arranged to have a fight started at the election place, to afford opportunity to throw out the watchers and challengers of the other party.

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I write this letter as a matter of information to you and through your paper to the public, if you will kindly print it, and in no manner as a criticism upon you.

BYRON G. BURBANK.

The Bee cheerfully accords to Mr. Leslie place in its editorial columns for the appeal made in his behalf by Byron G. Burbank, but it regrets that it cannot concur. The most ardent admirer of Mr. Leslie will not contend that a man is qualified to be a judge unless he has been engaged in the practice of law for a reasonable period. To say that Mr. Leslie is as well qualified to discharge the duties of county judge as any man who has entered into that honorable office within the past twenty years is a most uncharitable reflection upon Judge Vinsonhaier and his predecessors in office, each of whom was a practicing lawyer of at least several years standing before he presented himself as a candidate for judicial honors.

Mr. Leslie's law practice with Mr. Burbank was chiefly confined to clerical work and the collection of rents. If Mr. Leslie had really been an attorney he certainly would not have given up his practice to serve two or three years in the position of bailiff, or court messenger, at \$75 a month, and six years as chief clerk of the county court for \$100 a month.

Mr. Leslie's familiarity with the probate business of the county court may count for something in his favor, but it also constitutes a drawback. The people of Omaha, we believe, want a radical change of probate court methods, which can be effected only by an incumbent who is free from all entanglement with the present county judge.

ROOSEVELT'S CONFERENCE.

Although the czar has taken the first formal step for a second peace conference, having a few days ago instructed the diplomatic representatives of the Russian government to invite the various governments to send delegates to another conference, with particular reference to settling certain international questions arising out of the far eastern war, the real credit for the movement belongs to President Roosevelt. It was he who took the initiative when in December last he caused a circular note to be sent to the powers signatory to the Hague convention calling attention to the need of another peace congress to determine certain questions requiring to be settled. Some of these questions were pointed out in the circular.

The note met with a generally favorable response, but the war being then in progress it was not deemed an auspicious time to convene a conference and so the matter was left in abeyance until the war should be ended and the belligerent powers could participate. The action on the part of the president of the United States, however, made certain the holding of another conference, so that what has now been done by the czar is in fact simply following out the proposition of Mr. Roosevelt.

All the credit for the first Hague conference belongs to Nicholas II, but the second conference will be of American origin rather than Russian and the credit for calling it rightly belongs to our chief executive.

Former Secretary of State George W. Marshall has volunteered the opinion under oath before the United States commissioner that the Union Pacific railroad was overvalued by the State Board of Assessment in 1904. He points backward to the fact that he made a motion in the State Board of Assessment, which was seconded by former Auditor Weston, that the assessment be lowered. But, fortunately for him as well as for the other members of the state board, the motion did not carry, because a majority of the board disagreed with him. How Mr. Marshall has managed to figure out that the Union Pacific or any other railroad in Nebraska was overvalued in the assessment of 1904 in the face of the market value and earnings passes comprehension. The appearance of Mr. Marshall against the state and in favor of the railroads who are trying to evade their just proportion of the burdens of taxation is a striking commentary of the pernicious influence exerted by political railway domination.

GO-BY OF THE EASY BOSS.

New York Commercial. Senator Platt has to avoid Omaha, Well, that isn't such a deprivation if one has passes over other lines.

EASY MONEY.

St. Louis Globe Democrat. It is estimated that the Panama canal will cost the government \$1,000,000,000. The easiest way to raise the money will be to authorize Mr. Shonts to start an insurance company.

FAR-FETCHED POPULARITY.

Washington Post. That "money contributed by the life insurance companies really belonged to the policy holders, and the campaign manager who accepted it probably looked upon it as a popular subscription.

DRAWING THE CORK.

Boston Transcript. The manufacturers of proprietary medicines are squirming over the recent ruling of the committee on internal revenue. It is calculated to expose a vast deal of bad whiskey disguised with a few drugs.

MONEY WAS UNNECESSARY.

Philadelphia Record (Dem.). The popular tide in favor of President Roosevelt was so strong that there can be now no doubt of his election if the corporations had not contributed one dollar to the republican campaign fund. He need, therefore, feel under no obligations to the corporations for the money which he did not ask of them and which they had no right to give.

FACT AND PROPHECY.

Portland Oregonian. James J. Hill, addressing Minnesota farmers, said: "There is one way, however, in which you may be helped, and that is by lessening the cost of transportation." "That's truth. Continuing, he declared: "Railroad rates would decline more slowly under government control than if fixed by those who intelligently managed railroads." That's prophecy. And there are two kinds of prophecies.

AN APPEAL TO EVIL PRESENT.

Chicago Chronicle. In defense of the Indiana state auditor, who is charged with improper use of the funds entrusted to his care, it is said that his predecessors have done the same thing. It is singular how men who are otherwise logical will urge this utterly illogical defense. If its principle were accepted no criminal could be punished, because a sufficient defense would be to show that somebody else had committed the crime charged against him.

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Announcement Extraordinary!

\$5,000

In Premiums to be Given Away Free. How to Obtain a Premium.

Send or bring us a customer and you will receive at once your choice of the following articles absolutely free: Carpet Sweepers, Axminster Rugs, Parlor Tables, Parlor Lamps, Pair Lace Curtains, Parlor Rockers, Gold Mirrors, Pile Racks, Parlor Clocks, Pair Rope Portieres, Large Framed Pictures, Bevel Plate Hall Racks, Pair Tapestry Curtains, Jardiniere Stands or any other article of similar value.

SPECIAL PREMIUM

With Every COMPLETE OUTFIT We Give Free A Chest of Silver

Roger Bros' 12 Pennyweight, 26 Pieces Put up in a beautiful silk lined chest This premium is worth \$15.00 at any store in Omaha.

We carry the largest stock in the city. Let us figure with you. Our prices are 25 per cent below installment stores.

OUR TERMS \$25 Worth \$1.00 a Week, \$100 Worth \$2.00 a Week, The quality of goods we sell are far superior to those sold at installment houses.

Omaha Furniture & Carpet Co.

Between 12th and 13th on Farnam Street.

As one or two others in that neighborhood, but is by far the most costly of any of them.

Pr. Foster Bain, one of the best known practical scientists in the United States geological survey, has resigned to become state geologist of Illinois. He is only 23 years old and, with a single exception, will draw the largest salary paid to any state geologist in the country.

BRIGHT AND BREEZY.

"Don't be 'larned 'bout me, 'n' dear," said Louschman; "doctor says I'm in the pink 'n' condition."

"Nonsense!" retorted his wife, "that doctor should have looked at your tongue, not your nose."—Philadelphia Press.

"I've mighty little use," said Uncle Allen Sparks, "for the man who keeps himself so busy with his law trying to save the country from going to ruin that he hasn't any time to look after the children while his wife is traveling around attending women's conventions and mothers' congresses."—Chicago Tribune.

Giffie—Jiggins must think a good bit of his wife. Spinks—Why so? Giffie—He gives her an allowance of \$20 a week.

Spinks—Oh, he's foxy. He knows she can get out at least \$30 alimony.—Louisville Courier Journal.

"I'm taking my riding lessons in strict privacy," said a woman. "So as to avoid the fierce white light that beats about the throne."—Pittsburg Post.

"It doesn't take your father long to brush his hair,"