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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. Address will be changed as often as requested.

The Syrian voters of Omaha demand recognition. What is the matter with Abu Ben Adem, did not he lead all the rest?

If the defunct Omaha populist conglomeration would fall in with the Fontanelles braves they may stand a chance for resurrection.

The political pendulum is swinging so violently in Great Britain that wise liberals will take precautions against its backward stroke.

The report that Leach Lake Indians are destitute may mean that in one case the speculators have killed the goose that laid the golden egg.

The Fontanelle club was organized to smash the machine. As there is no machine to smash, the Fontanelles have constructed a machine of their own.

Next to the selection of Charles A. Goss for United States attorney, the greatest surprise of the season is Governor Mickey's valdictory from public life.

The democratic double euder is wrestling with the problem of how to feed United States jurors, but it is dumb as an oyster about the jail graft. 'Twas ever thus.

Now that a German prince is complaining of the high price of meat it may not be so difficult to reach an agreement on the new trade treaty with that country.

Now that a woman's suffrage bill is pending in congress Reed Smoot may see an opportunity to divide and conquer opposition since women helped to place Mr. Smoot in office.

Congressman Morris' discovery that the administration's Philippine tariff bill was drawn in the interest of the Sugar trust will be a revelation to the Sugar trust as well as to his constituents.

If the Associated Charities can supply two wholesome meals for 20 cents a day, why should the county pay 45 cents for two meals a day furnished by the sheriff to prisoners in the county jail?

The Wichita convention resolutions have the old ring but show evidences of greater political experience than that responsible for the third party movement. They also give greater promise of success.

A seat in the city council at \$1,500 a year seems to offer great attraction for men who make their living out of politics. That accounts for the multiplicity of candidates who are willing to sacrifice themselves for the next three years.

It is not so much a question of where the blame lies for Omaha's relative position as a grain market as compared with other cities, as to whether Omaha is getting a square deal from the railroads. More it has no right to ask, and less it should not accept.

For many years the state has carried its own insurance on public buildings, but a change of policy has been decreed by the State Board of Public Lands and Buildings and the practice of insuring state buildings will be resumed. Judging by the first policy taken out on the outbuildings of the Hastings Insane hospital at a premium of 4 per cent, the insurance companies will reap a rich harvest of the new departure.

FOR AMERICAN SHIPS. It appears probable that at the present session of congress there will be action on the bill, now before the senate, providing for an American merchant marine in the ocean-carrying trade. It is said that the indications are favorable to the passage of this measure, which is understood to have the approval of President Roosevelt and of the republican leaders in both branches of congress. The bill accords with the report of the merchant marine commission.

In his speech on the bill Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire said it is estimated that the annual cost of transporting the imports and exports, the mails and the passengers, in the over-seas trade of this country is about \$200,000,000, nine-tenths of which goes to the ships of foreign nations. He declared that if even so much as one-half of this immense yearly expenditure could be transferred to our own ships and seamen would have to be multiplied fivefold—benefiting directly not only the ship-building and ship-owning states, but all the states that furnish the timber, steel and other materials entering into ship construction, and creating an important new market for the products of American farms.

Mr. Gallinger urged that the lumbermen of Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas, the iron miners of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the coal miners of Pennsylvania, Illinois, Maryland, West Virginia and Alabama would have more work and more wages if the great ships that convey our deep-sea commerce were built of American material, wrought together in American yards.

These are considerations which are generally but little thought of in connection with the question of building up a merchant marine for our foreign commerce. The adoption of the policy contemplated in the measure before the senate would give a tremendous stimulus to American ship-building and this would be felt in numerous other industries. There can be no doubt that if given such encouragement as the pending bill provides for the ship-building industry of the United States would within ten years equal and perhaps surpass that of Great Britain, giving employment to a vast army of well-paid labor. Undoubtedly public sentiment is more favorable to the promotion of an American merchant marine than it has been before since our shipping was driven from the seas.

NO CURRENCY LEGISLATION. It seems to be practically settled that there will be no currency legislation at the present session of congress. Representative Fowler of New Jersey has introduced a bill proposing certain changes in the currency system, but there is no probability that it will pass the house and may even not be discussed outside the committee on banking and currency. As to the senate, it is stated that the members of the committee on finance, while making no public statement, in private vigorously express the opinion that there is nothing in present conditions to demand legislation. The general opinion in congress appears to be that there is money enough in the country for legitimate business, that speculation is responsible for temporary troubles, and that to provide means for relieving the needs of the speculators would only encourage them further to protract the era of bull prices of securities.

This that is in accord with the view of the legitimate business interests of the country is not to be doubted. No complaint has been heard from these interests that there is not an adequate supply of currency and in view of the fact that the per capita of circulation is larger than ever before there is no good reason or justification for the demand that it be increased, or that the system which is working so satisfactorily for legitimate business be in anywise changed. A leading financial paper remarks that it is not the inelasticity of credit which is the defect of the financial situation. We have an enormous stock of money in this country, it goes on to say, and the increase in per capita money circulation in recent years has been remarkable. 'The trouble seems to be that too much of this money is at certain times in the banks, and too little of it at other times, for the purpose of providing for the credit needs of the country.' This could hardly be remedied by legislation. If the banks of New York and other financial centers would stop giving support to wild and reckless speculation, as they have recently been doing, agitation for currency legislation would cease. It proceeds mainly from the stock speculators and the bankers who are in alliance with them.

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS. Bills have been introduced in the New York legislature intended to put a stop to contributions to a political campaign fund by corporations. One of these measures forbids any corporation to use any of its funds for direct or indirect contributions to political parties, committees, or organizations, and provides for an instant forfeiture of charter if the offense is committed and proved. Another bill looks to the punishment of the corporation officer who contributes, while the former provides for the punishment of the corporation itself, which is unquestionably the proper policy. As a New York paper remarks, punish the corporation itself, and not merely the individual officer, who can be sacrificed, and a deterrent influence is at work calculated to dry up at its source the stream of political corruption. 'Extend the theory that a corporation is a person to the extent of holding it responsible for acts done for its benefit and the corporation may get a legal conscience if not a moral one.'

There appears to be strong probability

that this measure will become a law and if so it will at least put a check upon corporation contributions to political campaigns and very likely have the desired effect of entirely cutting off this resource of campaign managers. Legislation of this kind should become general.

MISTAKES OF MANUFACTURERS. A late number of the consular and trade reports contains an article by Charles M. Pepper, special agent of the Department of Commerce and Labor, which points out the mistakes and blundering of American manufacturers in the trade with Mexico. He says that our manufacturers are yet very far behind their European competitors in packing goods properly and complying with customs regulations, and cites a number of cases in evidence of this. Of course such carelessness and indifference on the part of our manufacturers is a serious detriment to trade. What is true as to Mexico undoubtedly is the case with exports to other countries and measurably explains why American manufacturers have not a larger share of the trade of the countries of South America. It has long been pointed out that our manufacturers fail to give proper attention to the peculiar requirements of those markets and the disclosure made in regard to exports to Mexico shows that there is carelessness and indifference in other respects which is hurtful to foreign commerce. It is well that attention is called to this from an official source and it ought to have a beneficial effect. American manufacturers can no longer rely wholly upon the home market. Production in nearly all lines is a good deal in excess of the requirements of our own people and there must be foreign outlets for the surplus. In order to secure these the special demands of the markets must be studied and carefully complied with. This is especially true of the countries south of us. Moreover, there must be a careful observance of all regulations respecting importations into those countries. We cannot neglect this without injury to ourselves, for our alert commercial rivals are ready to take advantage of any shortcomings on our part. American manufacturers are not lacking in energy and enterprise and they are steadily increasing their trade in the markets of the world. They will undoubtedly in time avoid such mistakes as are noted by the government's special agent regarding exports to Mexico.

AS TO MUNICIPAL LIGHTING. From now on until after the city election the people of Omaha will be bombarded by political demagogues masquerading as municipal ownership champions with misinformation about public lighting. A red letter and a red figure campaign for dollar gas and a municipal gas plant has already been opened by the paper that sandbagged and helped to defeat the proposition for a municipal electric light plant last year, and the catchy refrain has been echoed by the Jacksonian majority candidate. Anybody who has given the subject serious thought must realize that the clamor for a municipal gas plant is a delusion and a snare. The use of gas for public lighting will soon be a thing of the past. A writer in the Chicago Record-Herald, discussing the gas agitation in that city, poses these pertinent queries:

Why should we consider propositions of 90-cent gas or even 75-cent gas? If the price of horses is high, may we not consider the automobile? The gas company has indeed been progressive and enterprising, while people sleep, and has shown by the use of clever advertising men what excellent things may be accomplished with gas, both illuminating and heating. But, after all, it is not about time to wake up and take notice of the marvelous changes wrought by electricity?

As a matter of civic and civil engineering, the piping of our streets, the continued destruction of costly paving by construction and repair work, the conducting of an inflammable and poisonous gas through our streets and buildings, causing such disasters as occurred in Dearborn street and Archer avenue not long ago, and the causing more or less ill-health through the breathing of poisoned air wherever gas is used, is a sufficient argument against the general use of gas as an illuminant.

In this new age of electricity we send unnumbered volts of power through our streets, some of it harnessed by and much of it wild and beyond control, to the destruction of gas mains and peril of innocent folks who live above our streets. The remedy for a great part of the evils mentioned above and the solution of cheaper light lies in the substitution of electricity for gas with the location of the power plant at the mine. While Omaha is not in position to avail itself of electric energy generated at a coal mine in its vicinity, it will soon be in position to do its own public lighting at the lowest expense without investing in a gas manufacturing plant. Omaha is now paying over \$90,000 a year for street lighting. When Omaha secures possession of the water works it will be in position to do its street lighting for one-half what it now pays to the electric light, gas and gasoline companies.

An expenditure of less than \$50,000 for dynamos and additional boilers will enable the city to generate its own light at the Florence water-works station, and an outlay of \$100,000 more for wires and poles and conduits will enable it to do its own public lighting at the actual cost of production. When that time comes the streets of Omaha will be illuminated by arc lights of 1,200 or 1,500 candle power, instead of 60 or 80-candle power gas lamps and 200 to 300-candle power electric arc lamps. What is more desirable still, it will be able to conduct its municipal affairs without the demoralizing intervention of public lighting corporations.

Candidates for municipal office with a damaged record should not count too much on the protection afforded by the voting machine against independent vot-

ing. Most of the voters have become familiar enough with the voting machines to turn down the candidates whom they do not want elected.

The Omaha & Council Bluffs street railway is to be extended to Fort Crook this year. Plattsmouth next year and Nebraska City by 1908, and as much farther south thereafter as the conditions will warrant. This is an attractive program. There is almost as much rainbow in it as there is in the Beatrice, Lincoln and Omaha Interurban. In the meantime Omaha will be content with a tramway train to Fort Crook every thirty minutes.

South Omaha's packers are rushing orders for meat products to Germany before the new German tariff law goes into effect on March 1. But there is no serious danger of Germany maintaining the embargo against American beef and pork for any great length of time unless its people can adjust their stomachs to broiled horse flesh and automobiles on toast.

There was a slight mistake in the figures given out the other day from the court house, in which the taxpayers of Douglas county were assured that the estimates for this year's expenses of county government were about \$180,000 below those of last year. It now transpires that a mistake of \$100,000 was made in addition and subtraction.

We have now heard what the candidate for mayor of the Jacksonian democracy promised to do if he were mayor; we have also heard what the Bensonian candidate would be inclined to do if he were mayor, and we shall presently hear what the inscible Brooth would do if he were re-elected into the mayor's office.

The present campaign in Great Britain shows that independent voting is not confined to the United States, but the world will wait to learn whether the votes are cast conscientiously or as a result of political hysteria before congratulating the United Kingdom.

Flattened Out. Chicago Record-Herald. Secretary Taft has sat on Poulney Bigelow. Let us hope there was something soft under Poulney.

Discarded Talent. Boston Transcript. There has been a general dropping of prominent insurance men from directorates in the recent New York bank election. Talent, which was estimated at such dizzy figures a few short moons ago, is now relegated to the junk heap.

The President's Measure. It deserves to be recorded that a Methodist audience vigorously applauded a distinguished preacher in this city last Sunday evening when he said of President Roosevelt that \$50,000 a year was a beggary salary to pay a man who was 'worth more than any half dozen kings on earth.'

Fighting Bob Has the Floor. San Francisco Chronicle. Fighting Bob Evans has achieved a great reputation as a talker. If he tries to answer all the questions put upon his unattractive job of Sunday when he managed to run around and ram the greater part of his feet, he will have an admirable opportunity to exercise his particular talent.

Foremost Becomes Secondary. Boston Globe. Now, alas! it is learned that the Oregon must pass from the first to the second line of defense, and hereafter do duty in home waters, having been superseded by the more up-to-date type of battleship.

This news will be received by the American people with sentimental regret, as they recall the prowess of this magnificent vessel under its splendid commander, Captain Clark, in the war with Spain. The wonderful voyage of this battleship from the Pacific coast to Cuba, and the brilliant part which it played in the chase of the Spanish squadron on its flight from Santiago harbor, are an imperishable part of the most glorious record of the American navy.

War on Lobbyists. However much the lobbyists may have swindled their employers, it cannot be denied that they have also swindled the public and thwarted the popular will many times, and the revolt against them, showing strength in many states at one time, is a comforting symptom of the resawakening of public spirit now manifest throughout the country. Legislative agents will always be maintained by those whose interests are involved in proposed legislation. There is no cause to prevent such from pursuing their calling unmolested. They may be of real and positive advantage to the state on account of their intimate knowledge of the subjects with which they deal and of the information they can procure. But these are of a different class from the pass distributing influence wielding lobbyists too familiar about many American legislative halls, whose passing may be a reason for real and general thanksgiving.

CITIES WITHOUT DIRT OR NOISE. The Ideal Found Where Water Generates Electric Power. Technical World. As one by one we see the old steam plants in our large buildings discarded, we begin to approach the realization of the ideal electric city. The tourist, when stopping in the city of Niagara Falls, notwithstanding the immense manufacturing industries which have grown up there within the last few years, will see almost no chimneys delivering their smoky contribution to the otherwise clear atmosphere. Here every steam plant has been shut down, and in its place are two or three small plants, in which it is necessary to use steam in the treatment of wood pulp for the manufacture of paper. In these mills the power processes are performed either by the direct agency of water power or by electric power through the agency of motors.

The visitor to some of the model factories recently built will wonder how it has become possible to preserve the absolute cleanliness that is found on every floor and in every department. He will find that small electric motors have displaced the old systems of shafting and belts, with their connections from floor to floor, their rasping noise and vibration and their accompanying dust and dirt. The result is the ideal workshop. Electricity gives the most perfect lighting, the most perfect source of power and the most nearly noiseless and dust-free method of transmitting the office or the home.

Systematic Efforts to Discredit President Roosevelt. Every crank with a hammer, every sorehead who is willing to knock the administration, can secure aid and encouragement by applying to the north end of the national capital. Applications should be made quietly. Noise is tabooed in that quarter. Noise must 'come from the country' so that it may be weighed and measured out as 'public opinion' manufactured for the occasion. The senate and the influence which abide there wants every available diversion that might turn attention from the vital issues which the president presses for action. Systematic efforts in that direction are visible in spots throughout the country, and are greeted with such hilarious joy in certain quarters in Washington as to justify the suspicion that the very thing which knows what is coming. And there is more to come. But the searchlight of publicity is already turned on the conspiracy, exposing the knackers and the source of their inspiration.

The Washington correspondent of the Boston Transcript and the New York Evening Post explain in detail the plans of the conspirators and what they seek to accomplish. In part he says: Within the next two or three months a good deal of newspaper and magazine material, designed to show that President Roosevelt is losing his grip, will be printed and distributed in large and low class publications are now coming here on assignments to write on such topics as these: 'Coming Back at the President,' 'The Rising Tide Against the President,' 'The President Has Passed High Tide in His Popularity,' etc. Possibly the very first published estimate for stories of this character is highly significant, but it looks to an unbiased observer as if some persons had set out to make a case whether the evidence sustained them or not. The truth is that Washington is about the last place in the United States one should consult for estimates of how the president stands with the people; and that is the real test—his standing with the people of the country as a whole. The professional politicians have always been against him, and a lot of 'vested interests' have never become reconciled to him. To make things worse, the president is 'up against' the same game he has had to play ever since he entered the White House. The only difference observable at this time is that he is a trifle 'stiffer' than ever before, because he is so much nearer victory.

Without attempting to discuss the question whether the president is losing his hold on the country, it seems worth while to describe the situation here at the capital. Within the last few months there has been a change in the attitude of many newspapers toward him. This is particularly true of large and influential newspapers. It is vituperative in confidence to say that Washington correspondents of some of these have received instructions that from that time forth they should assume an 'independent attitude' in dealing with the Roosevelt administration. Up to this time there has been a disposition to strain a point in order to treat the administration in a distinctly friendly way. A few papers of influence have broken off all relations with the White House on the ground that they wished to be absolutely free to analyze every move of the administration critically.

It is rather significant that it is the independent republican newspapers rather than the democratic that are taking this new turn. It was remarked the other day by a man high in the councils of the administration that the president is now receiving better treatment from the democratic press of the country than he is from the republican. This is not unrelated to the party situation in congress.

The senate, undoubtedly, would like to reduce the president's popularity before the country. It would go home next June or July supremely happy if it could hear the country saying: 'Well, the president has lost out, and we fear he has been "put up" by the president.' The president is not without a great many influential friends in the legislative body, but the leaders, who formulate the legislative program, are not in sympathy with the White House. Whatever congress does to embarrass the president, if it gets up enough courage to do anything, will be done at the White House. The congressional leaders are not certain that the country would stand by them in a fair, open fight on the president; indeed they are well convinced that it would stand by the president; but if they can contribute anything that will tend to make the chief executive unpopular it will give them great pleasure to do so.

It is that mysterious body the senate that will do most of the work intended to make the path of the president rough. The house leaders could hardly manage it if they were so disposed, and most of them are fairly loyal to the president. The disloyal ones will quietly pat senators on the backs. It is an exceedingly delicate situation, and the president is reluctant to give the president the railroad rate legislation he is asking for, but, ponder as it will, it is unable to find a way of escape. It seems to have made up its mind to dilly-dally with the subject as long as possible, in the end to do as little as possible. In the meantime it will harass the president in a quiet way whenever it gets a chance. It can hold up appointments, and it is already doing that. It still has in a pigeonhole the nomination of Franklin Lane of California as a member of the Interstate Commerce commission. It pretends to object to Lane because he is a democrat. If it is as interesting if not significant fact that the nomination was referred to Senators Foraker and Keen, two fierce anti-railroad rate senators. Lane is supposedly in favor of the rigid enforcement of any railroad rate bill that may be enacted, and the presumption is that the senate intends to hold up the nomination until it sees what kind of a rate bill comes out of the legislative hopper. If it is a mild bill Lane will be confirmed; if it is a somewhat drastic measure the objection to confirming a democrat will be declared valid.

Jews or Jewels. Chicago News. Dr. Madison C. Peters, in his newly published 'The Jews in America,' says that 'not jewels but Jews were the real financial basis of the first expedition of Columbus.' He continues: 'Dr. Kayserling has, beyond a doubt, pointed out that two Marranos, or secret Jews, Louis de Santangel and Gabriel Sanchez—the former the chancellor of the royal household and comptroller general in Aragon, the latter chief treasurer of Aragon—monarchically rich merchants, who enjoyed the favor of Ferdinand and Isabella, supplied the funds needed to fit out Columbus' caravels. Isabella did not sell her valuable jewels to fit out Columbus for his voyage. It is generally supposed that she had already pawned or sold them to defray the expenses of the wars then devastating her country. Dr. Kayserling clearly shows that the Jewish story is false and mythical. In the account book of Luis de Santangel and the treasurer, Francisco Pinelo, extending from 1491 to 1493, Santangel is credited with an item of 1,000 maravedis, which he gave to the bishop of Avila for Columbus' expedition.'

The Jar of Coughing. Hammer blows, steadily applied, break the hardest rock. Coughing, day after day, jars and tears the throat and lungs until the healthy tissues give way. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral stops the hard coughing. Consult your doctor freely about this. We have no secrets! We publish the formulas of all our medicines. Made by the J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass. Also Manufacturers of AYER'S HAIR VIGOR—For the hair. AYER'S PILLS—For constipation. AYER'S SASSAPARILLA—For the blood. AYER'S AGUE CURE—For malaria and ague.

STATE PRESS COMMENT. Rushville Recorder: The land fraud cases are filling people with apprehension, all goes to show that government indifference in the past has been largely responsible for many of the irregular filings that have piled up, and which now threaten to play the notes for him. He is able to retain the combinations a long time in his mind. He lost his sight through an accident at the age of 3 years.

John D. Rockefeller a few days ago sent his check for \$12,000 to Lamont M. Bowers, one of his lieutenants, with a letter expressing high appreciation of Mr. Bowers' services during the year just ended. The recipient, who is said to draw a salary of \$25,000 a year, has shown especial skill in promoting the Rockefeller trust schemes, one being the Insured Oil trust.

The 17th of January will be Franklin day at the library of congress. Mr. Putnam, the librarian, has arranged to have an exhibition of Franklin imprints on that day, showing all sorts of examples of the printer's art in the day of Franklin. The library of congress is rich in Franklin imprints, and it is believed an exhibition can be made which will have great interest for the public.

LINKS TO A LAUGH. She—I am sorry, Mr. Jones, that I cannot accept your affection. He—Then all you have to do, my dear madam, is to return it.—Baltimore American.

The Bride—Oh, George, mother has been so cruel to me! I made some biscuits for my good grip and she said I'd better try them on the dog first! The Groom—Very nasty of her. And I thought she was so fond of dogs, too.—Cleveland Leader.

Casey—The doctor says what I love is 'in-somny.' Cassidy—Oh, shore, Ol'Ve had that trouble mesel an' Ol'Ve's only wan cure for it. Casey—What's that? What'd ye do? Cassidy—Might go to sleep an' furgit all about it.—Philadelphia Press.

'Well,' replied the up-to-date manager, after a moment's thought, 'don't see why we shouldn't be ready to open in two weeks. Another rehearsal or two will give our star a good grip and he'll be better than any other after that there's nothing left but to write a play around it, two weeks, I should say, at the outside.—Puck.

The senator had been arrested for felony, but resented the suggestion of resigning. 'Why?' he exclaimed, 'amputate myself from a salary just when there's no chance for grafting? I may be crooked, but I'm not daff.' So all they could do was to bounce him from the committee.—Philadelphia Ledger.

'Were you annoyed while on the witness stand?' 'Slightly,' answered the great corporation magnate. 'The judge and one or two other people in the court room seemed to think they were quite as important as myself.'—Washington Star.

THE MODERN AUTHOR. Baltimore American. If you want to be an author of the up-to-date type And find your work among the six best sellers, You must take an altogether melancholia view of life And top gloom's notch past other fiction. You must get your local color from the gutter and the coal-room, never think And select a phase of life that's very yellow. Or otherwise you cannot teach a moral, or lesson great, Or have your books like very hot cakes sell, oh!

Don't let a gleam of humor or a healthy human throbb Of any kind get in your style of writing; Don't picture men and women who are neither takes nor snobs. From your love tales take out all that is inviting. Remember, love and cheerfulness and wholesomeness of taste Are deadly sins in modern story telling. For the epicurean palate of the reading public now For ought be a taint to help along the selling.

Avoid romance as you would fly a plague—it isn't safe. Dissast society or vivacious, it rather. 'Tis the only life worth noticing in this big world of ours—the only field in which real life to gather. Avoid the light and flowers—seek the gloom and gather weeds. If life is often dull and heavy, never tell it. Both are most fatalistic and the artist's touch you need. In your novel—or, my dear, you'll never sell.

Coal. Wood. Coke. Kindling. We sell the best Ohio and Colorado Coals—clean, hot, lasting; Also the Illinois, Hanna, Sheridan, Walnut Block, Steam Coal, Etc. For general purposes, use Cherokee Lump, \$5.50; Nut, \$5.00 per ton. Missouri Lump, \$4.75; Large Nut, \$4.50—makes a hot, quick fire. Our hard coal is the SCRANTON, the best Pennsylvania anthracite. We also sell Spadra, the hardest and cleanest Arkansas hard coal. All our coal hand screened and weighed over any city scales desired. COUTANT & SQUIRES 1406 FARNAM Phone 930.