

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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5.	31,780	19.	31,390
6.	31,710	20.	31,370
7.	31,550	21.	31,820
8.	31,450	22.	31,250
9.	31,490	23.	31,430
10.	32,720	24.	32,090
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C. C. ROSEWATER, Secretary.
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 25th day of February, 1906.
(Seal) M. B. HUNTER, Notary Public.

WHEN OUT OF TOWN.
Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

It is a little early yet to pass sentence upon March for either lamb-like or lion-like propensities.

Omaha seems already to be gathering seeds of the crop sprouted from the seeds sown by that Pat Crowe verdict.

With "Billy" Saunders as his guide, philosopher and friend, Benson will surely be able to steer clear of grafters.

Trying to maintain June tornadoes and January blizzards at one and the same time in the month of March must be trying on the weather man.

Maine seems to be striving to supersede New Jersey as the home of corporations with more capital stock than cash; but the contest is not yet decided.

King Edward is on his vacation, but advance reports of his plans show that he will have to work full time to take all the recreation he has scheduled.

Candidates for city offices who want to ride into office by the gas route might apply to the commanding officer of the signal corps for the loan of a balloon or two.

A Colorado treasurer is short in his accounts. It was supposed Colorado people were too busy with dynamite and revolvers to be guilty of common crimes.

The outlook for the Nebraska land leasing bill is said to be much brighter than it has been before, but that still leaves a great deal of rainbow in the skylight.

Now that John N. Baldwin has become a resident of Omaha, the Missouri river will no longer be a barrier to his becoming a delegate to Nebraska state conventions.

Evidence is accumulating to warrant belief that Frederick Palmer is making a play for the position made vacant by the retirement of Press Agent Bishop at the earnest suggestion of congress.

That French official who loudly proclaims that the French strongholds are in good condition should remember that a successful army usually does its fighting near the strongholds of the enemy.

Now that the Russian law regarding the powers of the general assembly has been promulgated, the public will await the promulgation of the exceptions before applauding the liberality of the czar.

Former Chairman Wallace sees a threat to the success of the Panama canal in the construction of a railroad across Central America; but the former chairman is best known as a railroad builder.

If the Hungarian trouble reaches the fighting stage it will be well for Francis Roosevelt to remember that, since the United States hailed his father as a hero, we have achieved an international reputation.

And now it transpires that Dr. Osler never said that all the old men over 60 should be chloroformed to death. What he did say was that the world would be better off if its mossbacks occupied lodgings in the cemeteries.

The way to clean Omaha of hoboes is to build a workhouse that will make a police court sentence mean hard labor. A workhouse for petty offenders would be the most effective quarantine the city could have against visitations of vagrants who are so easily tempted to commit serious crime.

PUBLIC OPINION AND THE SENATE

Former Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow of Kansas, in his interview at Washington does not overstate the weight of public pressure for the enactment of the Hepburn bill unamended by senate amendment. It would be almost impossible to overstate it. The paramount demand of the people of Kansas, as Mr. Bristow describes it, is equally the demand of the whole country.

If the prospect of the passage of the Hepburn measure by the senate is brightened, it is because of the menace of public displeasure and condemnation of the intrigues that have been in progress among senators to dehorn that measure when it should arrive from the house. No sign has been wanting since this session began, even if we shut out from view the whole course of events at the session a year ago and since, to prove that such a scheme for thwarting the will of the country has been in actual existence, and many friends of rate regulation have feared the scheme to kill it might succeed. The conspirators, until very recently, have been correspondingly encouraged.

But it must be dawning even upon the railroad representatives that they have misjudged the character of the movement led by President Roosevelt for subjecting the interstate railroads to veritable and enforceable restraints under public authority. The time has gone by when such evidence of public opinion as Mr. Bristow affirms can be stigmatized and dismissed as a mere expression of western radicalism or as a passing popular vagary. What senatorial agents and conspirators for corruption despotism are beginning to see is the clenched fist of the American people.

It is a signal demonstration of the definiteness and resolution of the public mind that interests so powerfully entrenched in the senate as are those within the purview of the Hepburn bill find their deep-laid conspiracy of stealthy opposition in danger of collapse at the moment when the fight on the floor of the senate is just beginning. The senate, although removed from the direct accountability to the people by which the house is held, is finding out that this is a time when public opinion will reach far and hit hard with "the big stick." This is the true explanation of the reports coming out of Washington of better prospect that the Hepburn measure may pass the senate substantially unchanged.

PHILIPPINE TARIFF BILL

It now looks as if the Philippine tariff bill, reducing rates on the sugar and tobacco of the islands imported into the United States to 25 per cent of the Dingley rates, which passed the house of representatives by an overwhelming majority, will fall in the senate. The active work against the bill by the American sugar and tobacco interests has evidently had the desired effect upon a number of senators, as shown by the opposition that developed in the committee having the bill under consideration. It was stated a week ago that from an informal poll of the senate it was thought that the bill will be defeated unless a compromise is effected, and it was suggested that the bill be amended so that sugar and tobacco from the Philippines would be subject to a tariff equal to 40 or 50 per cent of the Dingley rates. Since then the situation is said to have become rather less favorable for the measure. There has been talk of a bargain among republican and democratic senators to sacrifice the Philippine bill as the price of a combination to secure the passage of the railroad rate bill, but probably there is nothing in this.

The fact is that most of the republican senators are more concerned about the American interests which would be affected by the proposed reduction in the tariff on Philippine products than they are in the industrial future of the archipelago. They have been looking carefully into the matter and have come to the conclusion that the bill passed by the house would have results injurious to the home sugar and tobacco interests. Senator Hale a few days ago presented figures showing the low cost of producing sugar and tobacco in the Philippines, and although Secretary Taft questioned the accuracy of these figures there can be no doubt that they are accepted by many senators as correct. There are among the democratic senators several who are in sympathy with the American sugar and tobacco interests and it is reasonable to assume that they exert a considerable influence with their party colleagues. As now indicated the failure of the bill in the senate seems almost assured and it is entirely certain that it cannot pass as sent from the house.

PUBLIC BUILDING REFORM

A new policy in regard to public buildings is announced, on the authority of the chairman of the house committee on public buildings and grounds, Representative Bartholdt of Missouri. He is quoted as saying that so long as he is chairman of the committee there will be provided good, sensible workshops for the government when new court houses and workshops are needed and not highly ornamented, expensive palaces. Post-offices, he said, will be only two stories high, so that the clerks and other workers may have plenty of natural light and not be forced to utilize artificial light, as they now have to do night and day in some of the newest and most costly buildings. "We will build better and more serviceable public buildings than we have ever had before and at one-fifth of the cost."

A schedule adopted by the committee for the cost of public buildings provides that towns of 10,000 population, where the postal receipts are \$20,000 or more, public buildings shall cost not more than \$50,000. For towns of less than 10,000 population \$40,000 buildings.

From that minimum the cost will increase up to \$500,000, that being the limit for any building. Mr. Bartholdt declared that there have been wasteful extravagances, and bad judgment as well, in the building of federal structures in the past, a statement which will hardly be disputed and which can be supported by abundant evidence. It is stated that the pending bills for post-offices and other federal buildings call for a total expenditure of more than \$55,000,000, but the bill that will be reported from the committee will carry only about one-fourth of this amount and such a measure the house will probably pass. The spirit of reform in this direction appears not to have reached the senate, as that body is going ahead with its own public building bills and has already authorized about \$7,000,000 expenditure for new postoffices and court houses, most of the bills getting through by unanimous consent. The house managers intend to fight these expensive measures and it is predicted that there will be a royal battle in the conference on the public building bill.

The position taken by the house committee in this matter will undoubtedly have popular approval. No one will desire that there be a penurious policy in providing public buildings, but a stop should be put to the indefensible extravagance which has obtained in this direction.

LET THE WEEDING OUT BEGIN.

Although the new direct nomination law, enacted for Douglas county by the last legislature, was put into operation last fall, its first real test under critical conditions will come in the impending municipal primaries. The vindication of the law as a step in the right direction in election reform devolves upon the rank and file of the voters of the different political parties who are to make nominations under it.

If it rested with the candidates the direct primary would be swamped by direct embankment. With the bars completely down by the abolition of all filing fees ninety-eight candidates have filed on the republican side alone for the twelve places in the city council. It will take discrimination and common sense to separate the grain from this large amount of chaff and bring about the elimination in the primary of the incompetents, incapacitated and disreputables who appear to be almost in a majority in the grand total of the long list of names filed.

The weeding out process, however, can and should begin at once. Whether candidates are legally entitled to withdraw their filings or not, they have a right at any time to announce their withdrawal from a hopeless race and to commend their friends to the support of stronger or better qualified competitors. This is especially applicable to the horde of avowed councilmanic candidates most of whom should take the advice of the great poet and "Stand not upon the order of their going but go at once."

MAKING PROGRESS

Evidence grows that the reactionaries in Russia have about lost their hold upon affairs and that in the near future their influence upon political administration will practically end. According to the latest advices the result of a series of special councils, under the presidency of the emperor, is the granting of the main guarantees of liberty and the adoption of measures intended to assure the fulfillment of these guarantees. It is clearly indicated that the czar has virtually rid himself of the more or less dictatorial element whose sinister counsel, blundering and corruption have brought so much disaster and humiliation to the empire and is earnestly desirous to improve conditions under the advice of Witte and others who have shown their absolute loyalty to the throne while urging changes and reforms in the interest of the people. It is a great triumph for these men that they have been able to overcome the long-winded influence of a bureaucracy whose position seemed but a very short time ago impregnable, so strong appeared to be its hold upon every department of the government, civil and military.

There is, therefore, good reason to believe that political regeneration in Russia is at hand and after that has been realized improvement in other directions will follow. But there are grave industrial and agricultural problems to be solved which will call for the exercise of the wisest statesmanship. Especially is the agrarian problem regarded as serious. A writer familiar with Russian conditions points out that the peasant population forms 92 per cent of the total of 110,000,000 in European Russia and 85 per cent of the whole of the empire. While the peasant population has been doubled since the date of the emancipation of the serfs, the lands allotted to the freemen have not increased. The average size of a Russian peasant family is seven, and despite famine and pestilence, starvation and emigration to Siberia, there are now over 100,000,000 peasants tilling the land which forty-four years ago produced just about enough to feed the 50,000,000 of serfs. As the number of the peasants have increased their small holdings had to be divided and subdivided for the sustenance of the growing generations, and the constantly increasing demands of the government have sunk them deeper and deeper into poverty. There can be no doubt that the land question is the burning issue with the peasantry of Russia and the most difficult problem confronting the government.

The land question has already received attention and among the suggestions is one that private estates, in excess of a maximum acreage, must be expropriated by the government at a price dependent upon actual market values and distributed on easy terms of payment to the peasantry, as the only

effective means of putting an end to the agrarian troubles disturbing the empire. Of course this is opposed by the great landowners, but it is more than likely to be ultimately adopted when the people are able to make their wishes and demands known through a national assembly. The work of political reform, however, must first be accomplished and in this good progress is being made. It is a very much greater task than most people outside of Russia have any conception of.

LANDS IN THE RANGE REGION

One grave difficulty in the way of devising a system of public land leases for grazing purposes, at least so far as the desire of big ranchmen in western Nebraska for summary relief from existing conditions is concerned, is the lack of definite official information concerning the land in question. Generally speaking it is of course believed that a large amount of land in the aggregate is permanently unfit for other than grazing purposes, and that it can be used to best advantage, or at all, only in quite extensive tracts. But the limits of such lands have not been officially ascertained and marked off. They do not lie in a solid body, and it is known that within the general boundary of the region of insufficient rainfall there is not a little land, in valleys and other favored places, which is desirable for homesteads.

In his message at the opening of the present session of congress President Roosevelt enlarged upon this point and recommended that the remnant of the public domain be strictly classified, as a preliminary to a system for leasing that portion which might thus be certainly found fit only for grazing purposes. The president pointed out that there has been no satisfactory ascertainment of this character. It goes without saying that such an ascertainment could be had only by most thorough methods and careful safeguards, all of which have been wanting in the classification of lands under the swamp land act and various other land acts through which such costly blunders and innumerable frauds were permitted to creep in.

Public sentiment is no longer negligent of the remaining public lands, but on the contrary is now keenly insistent that every acre suitable for cultivation, or that by any chance might become so, shall without fail be reserved for the homesteader. Recent investigations by the federal authorities in this and other states have only made the public more sensitive and cautious. Authority for range leases which a few years ago might have been given without hesitation and almost without consideration would be withheld now. No leasing measure carrying the liberal provisions of the bill approved as late as the winter of 1903 by the secretary of the interior and the president would today be seriously entertained. Yet that measure was then emphatically rejected by the big cattlemen themselves, in spite of the fact that it had been devised in good faith to help them out of the very troubles in which they now find themselves.

A proper measure for relieving the situation in the range country is a desideratum, but such a measure must resolve every doubt in favor of the homesteader.

The confession of our fellow townsman, Jacob E. Markel, before the Panama investigating committee that he expected to make only \$50,000 a year for five years out of the cancelled catering contract instead of \$1,000,000 a year, as credited up by disappointed competitors, takes him down several pegs in the public estimation by putting him in a class no higher than insurance presidents and trust magnates instead of in a special class all by himself. If the famous Markel contract had shrunk to such mean proportions it is no wonder so little fuss was made over its abrogation.

There is a good time coming for Omaha taxpayers. Jim Dahlman promises if elected mayor to give this city an economic administration. Benson and Hennings say the same thing and Broacht will promise anything. We are now of economy and retrenchment with a big "R" all along the line. But there is always some difference between before taking and after taking.

Several more Iowa and Nebraska colleges are being exposed to pollution by proffered gifts of Carnegie money to help erect new buildings badly needed. If Colonel Bryan is in any way officially connected with these institutions another batch of resignations with explanatory letters may shortly be expected.

If it takes the new labor party of Great Britain as long to find a "leader" as it takes the conservatives to determine between Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain, the life of the new Parliament will be ended only by the statutes of limitations.

Perhaps the best way for Omaha lawyers to prevent division of the state into two federal judicial districts is to go down to Lincoln and see that the judgeship endorsement goes to someone whom nobody wants.

ANCIENT CORNER APPLAUDS

Baltimore American.
Young Mr. Rockefeller is still vigorously defending Joseph's corner in corn, so probably has not had time to turn his attention to Jacob's investment of his mess of pottage in his brother's birthright, since he has brought those ancient commercial transactions under fire.

A CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN

Baltimore American.
Whatever views may be held of divorce, there is one feature of divorce trials which is repulsive to all people of good feeling, and that is a pity there is not some law to abolish, and that is bringing little children into court as witnesses against accused parties. Such impressions as are then gained might never leave a child's mind.

and general public policy seems to be against the practice.

VALUABLE INFORMATION

Indianapolis News.
Senator Tillman's idea that information on the railroad rate question which was gathered at an expense of \$20,000 ought to be presented to the senate seems reasonable, but at the same time it must be remembered that a number of the senators have excellent facilities for securing information from other sources.

MILITARY MISFEASANTS

Springfield Republican.
It needs a very little war to make a score of new generals. This was thoroughly developed in the debate on the clause abolishing the rank of lieutenant general of the United States army. We have today a lieutenant general for almost every year that has elapsed since peace was made with Spain.

LATEST AMERICAN TRIUMPH

Brooklyn Eagle.
We have made-believe coffee and tea and ketchup and wine and candy, and we put up tomatoes that prove to be turnips, but the great American inventor has gone ahead of himself in manufacturing a chop that consists of butchers' scraps pounded together and fastened with glue to a bone that has done service in a restaurant. Some day the hero meddler will go to the man who dares to eat.

SHYSTER LAWYERS AND REFORM

"Maryland, My Maryland," Starts an Innovation.
St. Louis Republic.

Protest in Baltimore against the common or garden variety of shyster lawyer in general and the particular species known as ambulance chaser has taken the form of a proposed measure entitled the Pratt shyster lawyer bill, which is just now the subject of considerable discussion. Its provisions are interesting:

"Whereas, for his own gain, and having no existing relationship or interest in the issue, directly or indirectly, solicits another to sue at law or in equity, or to make a litigious claim, or to retain his own attorney's services in so suing or making a litigious claim; or where, being an attorney at law, knowingly prosecutes a case in which his services have been retained as a result of such solicitation; or who, being an attorney at law, directly or indirectly, agrees to procure another to be employed as an agent, witness, or otherwise, or procures another to be so employed in consideration of his so soliciting litigious business, or undertaking to solicit it, or in any other way compensates or agrees to compensate another for so doing, shall, upon conviction thereof, be imprisoned by the court for not more than three months, or by both. Any solicitation as aforesaid shall be prima facie evidence that the person so soliciting is doing so for gain. The term attorney at law shall include counselor at law; provided that nothing herein contained shall impair or affect the disciplinary powers of the courts of this state over attorneys and counselors at law appearing and practicing in the same."

It is observed that this measure, however drastic, imposes no hardship upon the lawyer who is honest and who is endeavoring to reach the flourishing shysters who maintain ambulance chasers and make a business of drilling perjurers. That there are such flourishing shysters in every big city, including St. Louis, is incontestable. The bench and the bar know them. And that the shyster business exists in every other class ought to be practically checked by a conviction of the profession generally. It is worth noting that the business of ambulance chasing is not confined solely to lawyers who seek the plaintiff's side of the contention against corporations. The corporations themselves have been known to be guilty of employing shrewd claim agents who do the same kind of "dirty work."

A weeding out of shysters generally and the enactment of laws dealing with the more flagrant kinds of shysters would be a very desirable reform in the law, and the enactment of the day, but if such a reform is accomplished honest lawyers must first overcome their reluctance to making an issue against their corrupt brethren. The complaint is constantly in the mouths of honest lawyers before the juries, but none of the great men are willing to take the first stone. Clean men should undertake to clean out their honorable profession, to dislodge and to prosecute the rascals and carry forward a crusade for higher standards. They should either demonstrate the courage of their convictions or they should cease the very common pretense against the degradation of their calling.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE

The straw hat and the early robin have so far resisted the climatic temptations of the cornbelt. Wise guy, shrewd bird.

Gallantry in vehicles is not a lost art in New York City. One wise Indian cheerfully surrendered his seat in a balloon to a woman.

It is fairly certain that John D. Rockefeller dodged the Missouri inquirers by taking a secret passage—from his own to his son-in-law's home. The hole was found intact.

A receiver has been appointed for a Chicago company which sold \$1,000,000 worth of stock, contracted debts to the amount of \$250,000 and magnanimously left \$100 in change for the receiver to play with.

A Milwaukee woman is suing for \$500,000 because some people persuaded her husband to leave her. The assertion that a Milwaukee husband is worth that sum is enough to put a clean smiling face on Milwaukee river.

Some congressmen with knowledge to burn declared, in discussing the pure food bill that the roseate hue of whiskey afforded no guarantee against a headache next morning. What experience speaks it behooves novices to listen.

Musically inclined people will sympathize with the Chicago judge who paused in his solemn deliverances to enjoin a phonograph which blatantly reeled off "Listen to the Old Guy's Chin." Justice would have winked had he used an ax.

Ex-Senator William E. Chandler of New Hampshire is putting in some hard ticks with tongue and pen in Washington in favor of railroad rate regulation. The railroad regulated William out of the senate-shyster and he is in the right mood to reciprocate.

The patriotism of ex-Governor Hogg is as broad as the Lone Star state. As soon as the supreme court pronounced against express companies the general Hogg leaped into the breach and organized an independent company to do the business. The ex-governor is not blind when a good thing bumps his way.

Within the limits of Cook county, which means Chicago, there are 1,400 grass widows drawing annually \$672.00 in alimony from former husbands. The average number of divorces annually is 2,500 and they cost the county \$100,000 a year. Here is an abundance of fuel to start an output of hot air from the sociological professors for which Chicago is justly celebrated.

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on a great body of young men employed by a trust, when they know their president has led deliberately on the witness stand, has led for the good of the business. There are plenty of such cases revealed in our commercial investigations. The young man loyal to his employer and yet trained to honor the truth must almost inevitably come to the conclusion that lying is one of the necessary implements in successful business—and as time goes on he probably will conclude that it is all right if it will aid in getting you anything you want. If the good of the business justifies lying, it justifies all other things—law-breaking, cruelty, treachery; unconsciously the young man becomes a Machiavellian in his theory of the relation of honor to business.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES

Mrs. Shopper—These goods are not at all what I want. Have you shown me everything you have?
Third Saleswoman—Ma'am, I haven't shown you an old account of yours that we've had for some time—Cleveland Leader.

He—Will you be my wife?
She—Pardon me, but how many clubs do you belong to?
He—I belong to six, but—
She—Then I'll take a chance. You'll probably be away from home so much that it won't inconvenience me.—Chicago News.

"Mr. Wise is an agnostic isn't he?"
"Not at all. What led you to think that?"
"Miss Passway told me he didn't believe the bible."

"Ah! she means the Bible in which the record of her birth is entered. He noticed that she had been tampering with the date."—Philadelphia Press.

Suddenly Archie clasped his hand on one of the upper necks of his waistcoat.
"Crushed your cigars again, I suppose?" said Miss Jarner, with a bewitching blush.
"No, thank heaven," exclaimed Archie. "I remember now that I put them in the other pocket before I came."—Chicago Tribune.

"Say!"
"Huh?"
"If—if you wanted to kiss a girl and wasn't sure if he could get his father's consent,"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Did you hear that the daughter of that rich man in the next block had been driven from home?"
"No. When did it happen?"
"Just after she got into the carriage."—Baltimore American.

A LITTLE FARTHER ON

W. D. Nesbit in Chicago Tribune.
Just a little farther on waits a wondrous scene. When the glories of the sun and moon are as a flag is lifted up. When the glories of the sun and moon are as a flag is lifted up. And the sky will seem to pour us wine from out a magic cup. And we'll sing because of knowing all the songs the wind is blowing. And the earth will be the gladder for the dreary days agone. Then we'll catch the murmured words in the singing of the birds. When the earth has rolled to springtime—Just a little farther on.

For the good old earth it knows where the robin and the rose are waiting. Wait to set our hearts to leaping for the beauty of the day. And when the music of the violins that dance.

To the music of the brooklet that once more is leaping. Ho, the blossom petals drifting in the breeze forever shifting. And the forest flaming green for their battle with the snow! Then we'll catch the melodies of the waking honey bees. For the good old earth is rolling to the robin and the rose.

Shut your eyes, and you may dream of the dandelion's gleam. Where the careless hand of springtime has been spilling all its gold. While the maiden on night tides aside the wintry blight. And its carpet smooth as velvet is by fairy hands unrolled. Then we'll know the tang and tingle of the blossom scents that mingle. And we'll taste the life of the living in the wondrous April dawn. For we're swinging to the wiles of the singing and the smiles. To the blessedness of springtime—just a little farther on.

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