

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), one year, \$4.00. Daily Bee and Sunday, one year, \$5.00.

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WHEN THE STATE COMMITTEE MEETS.

The republican state committee has been called to meet next week. The call issued by Chairman Warner intimates that "it will probably be the most important meeting held for some time."

The first question to be met involves the adoption of some form of direct primary expression, conforming to the platform declaration of the last republican state convention.

The question of the rank and file is largely in favor of direct nominations has become more and more apparent. The main objection urged to providing for a direct expression of preference this year is that it is unwise to anticipate a primary law which will make direct nominations compulsory upon all political parties.

Another overshadowing question to be decided, independent of the method of nomination, turns on whether the call shall or shall not include the nomination of a candidate for United States senator.

Nebraska democrats tried a convention nomination for United States senator in 1894, but have not repeated their experiment, and it is understood that they will make no senatorial nomination this year.

As to the minor question of time of convention, sentiment throughout the state seems to favor a date neither early nor late, presumably some time in August.

The joint resolutions and memorials to congress from the several state legislatures since President Roosevelt's message to the Fifty-eighth congress a year ago last December, urging enactment of laws to enlarge the powers of the Interstate Commerce commission, are an interesting study suggestive of the public unity and insistence for such legislation.

Within the year eighteen state legislatures have taken action on the subject, and of these only two, Illinois and New York, failed to indorse the president's policy.

Excepting Massachusetts, the other fifteen state legislatures, most of them unanimously or by overwhelming majorities, adopted joint resolutions calling upon congress in the most positive and explicit terms to regulate and enforce interstate rates.

The Colorado legislature "instructs" the Colorado senators and members of the house "to use every effort to secure the passage of such legislation."

Opponents of Hennings for mayor presume a great deal upon popular ignorance. They are trying to make people believe Mr. Hennings is illegally holding onto his office after the date set for merger of city and county treasuries simply to draw the salary.

The mis-marking of packages of merchandise for the purpose of getting cheaper freight rates is an offense not less than \$500 nor more than \$20,000.

Not all the rebating is brought about by collusive arrangement between the shipper and the carrier. Sometimes the shipper goes it alone.

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It is a sign of immense progress when high Standard Oil officials condescend to answer at all, as the vice president, the general auditor and several others are doing, to questions put in a judicial hearing by the attorney general of Missouri, although, indeed, those questions have not as yet penetrated very far into the oil monopoly's viscera.

It is hinted that the nomination of a republican candidate for congress in the First Nebraska district may be by direct primary vote.

Secretary Shaw, who contends that "business" is the purpose of government, will find all the trusts joyfully agreeing with him.

The war claims of the Boers for the destruction of their property amount to upward of \$200,000,000.

Dr. Wiley's discovery that a large percent of the whiskey is merely pruned juice will remove a great load from the public mind.

The no-pass blight which has settled upon the country is another reminder of how men in these reform times may praise the latter outwardly, but in their hearts look back regretfully on the past and sigh for the "good old times."

The visit of Secretary Root to South America is admirably timed and cannot fail to produce far-reaching results.

The Ohio legislature, which has been busy considering the relation of the United States senators to the people, and which has strongly indorsed popular election, now has a new proposition before it tending toward that end.

Senator Fulton of Oregon has entered into the full togetherness of his office. For many years—so many that no man now in the senate remembers when he did not do so—the late Senator John H. Mitchell, Mr. Fulton's colleague, had been in the habit of giving to his friends of the senate a luncheon from the largest salmon to be had from the northwest.

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