

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, 1905. C. C. Rosewater, general manager of The Bee Publishing company...

Subscription information: Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 30th day of June, 1906.

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

Now for the Glorious Fourth. This is ordinarily the fire department's busy day.

If the Colorado supreme court keeps up its record, Kansas may lose some of the distinction gained from court made law.

With British spinners willing to pay 10 cents a pound for American cotton, corn will have to look to its dairy won crown.

About this time eight years ago things were becoming quite lively in the neighborhood of a place called Santiago bay.

Oklahoma should be glad that the Indian Territory is pulling off its race war before it assumes the name of its associate in statehood.

The drawings for Crow land indicate that even as strenuous as is the Iowa political situation, it could not keep all the voters at home.

Colonel Bryan's real problem will come when he undertakes to draft a platform which will satisfy all the men who have declared for him.

The casualty list has already commenced coming in, but it will take several weeks before the names of all the victims are added to it.

The board of directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad company having discovered that it has done its duty, the whitewash brush should be passed to the executive officers.

Creditors of San Domingo will find it more difficult to get cash from a New York bank than to draw concessions from the insular government—but the money is in sight at least.

With concessions to the peasants on the subject of land tenure, the Russian government may hope to divide them and conquer. But the peasants will have a word to say after they get the land.

The outbreak of cholera among the natives of the Philippines will give American medical science its chance to contribute toward making the Philippines glad they have been annexed by Uncle Sam.

The Panama canal project has one advantage over that at Suez, since its bonds will carry interest at the rate of 2 per cent, while the latter at times sold at a discount, even with 5 per cent interest.

When the Interstate Commerce commission's decisions cease to be merely advisory, lawyers will probably insist upon the adoption of rules which will enable them to delay the game as long as possible.

Having settled to its own satisfaction that there is not land enough for all in Russia, it will still be difficult for the government to use this as a basis to justify reducing the population through riot.

Criticism of the record of congress on the subject of labor laws comes with bad taste from a party which depends for congressional representation upon states where peonage and child labor is permitted.

A lot of Nebraska people have drawn winning numbers in the Crow Reservation lottery, but why anyone situated in Nebraska should want to go out there to get a land bonus will have to be explained.

INDEPENDENCE DAY.

Today is the one hundredth and thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and the occasion will be duly celebrated not only wherever the American flag floats, but in many foreign countries wherever American citizens may happen to be.

It has become quite the custom to lament the decadence of the times and the degeneracy of our public and private life, especially in the light of disclosures exposing scandals in government and business. But no one who looks back over the record of American progress and achievement within the comparatively few years that have elapsed since the birth of the republic can be pessimistic about the future.

The free institutions that were erected by the founders of our government have been vindicated time and again and are more firmly entrenched today than ever before. No country in the world is so entitled to be called the "land of the free and the home of the brave," and no other people have as much to show in the way of accumulated wealth and its widespread distribution as the American people.

While a millionaire addicted to snobbery will now and then expatriate himself in order to associate more intimately with titled aristocrats of European monarchies, all the rest of the inhabitants of our country are more than satisfied with their form of government and the conditions which it provides for comfortable livelihood, and would not give up their American citizenship in exchange for citizenship in any other nation of the world.

When they travel abroad they take their greatest pride in heralding themselves as Americans and when they return home they realize more than they can express how greatly they value the American name and how glad they are to set foot again upon American soil.

What sort of government and what sort of institutions might have been developed on this continent had there been no Declaration of Independence on the Fourth Day of July in the year 1776 no one can tell, but this much is certain, that except for that historic event our present government and our present institutions would never have been ours to hand down to succeeding generations.

INDEPENDENT OPINION OF CONGRESS.

What the Springfield (Mass.) Republican deliberately says under the head, "What Congress and the President Have Done," is significant, because that paper is recognized as one of the pronounced types of strictly independent journalism, always a severe critic and standing for the strictest ethical ideals in government. Concluding the long list of important measures enacted during the session just closed, the Republican deliberately declares that "it is a record of great achievement," and adds: "We may question its wisdom, but it has been a congress session since the civil war that has more closely held the public attention or dealt affirmatively with so many matters of public interest." And of great matters before congress, in its opinion, "what was left undone is insignificant compared with what has been done."

There can be no doubt that the mature judgment of the country, when it is definitely formed upon full information, will coincide with this strictly nonpartisan opinion, especially in view of the fact that most of the important enactments are measures long under consideration, but blocked by special interests, or of measures "exalting the powers of the federal government both at the expense of the states and of the power of monopolistic interstate businesses to do as they will in the exploitation of the people."

The most extraordinary fact is that most of these measures have gone through under no pressure of public disorder or industrial hardship and depression, but under conditions encouraging to the policy of drift and "letting well enough" alone. It means far more than it would if it was the expression of a mere partisan advocate that the Republican regards the decisive impulse under these circumstances to be unquestionably President Roosevelt, and that he acted upon no mere disposition wantonly to meddle with and disturb existing arrangements, but in the conviction that a large measure of injustice and wrong enters into the industrial order of the time.

NEW NATIONAL BOND ISSUE.

The sale of \$30,000,000 Panama canal bonds under the Spooner act, which authorized a total issue of \$130,000,000 is to be made direct to the people, without the intervention of any syndicate of bankers and financiers, under substantially the same method that was so successfully carried out during the war with Spain, when a \$200,000,000 bond issue was subscribed several times over. There will thus be no share or commissions intermediate between the treasury and the subscribers, and no profits that are not open to the small investor as well as to the rich speculator.

Considering that the interest is only 2 per cent, that the bonds cannot be had at less than par, and that they are payable at the government's option after the short period of only ten years, a small demand might naturally be assumed, but it is anticipated in well informed quarters that they will be much sought and even that competition may take them at considerably above par. Though the interest seems low, it is payable quarterly, the bonds are exempt from both state and national taxation, and there is the possibility, if not the probability, that they will not be called till the

full thirty-year period of maturity, so that there value may be steadily enhanced by demand as security for national bank circulation.

Paying a net rate of interest higher than that of the eastern savings banks and higher than the average on the great majority of industrial stocks, with perfect freedom from their fluctuations and hazards, these bonds really are attractive to a large and increasing number who have surplus accumulations and desire secure investment and steady returns rather than big and quick profits, with corresponding risks. Such investors have come to constitute an immensely greater financial resource for our government than the frugal trade and farm classes in France, whose net earnings and savings are individually so much smaller. They can supply almost out of their small change the funds required for the canal as the war progresses, without calling for extra current taxation and the treasury policy is a wise one that affords them the opportunity.

SECRETARY WILSON'S STATEMENT.

Secretary Wilson's statement, issued by direction of the president, shows the promptness and thoroughness with which the new meat inspection system is to be organized and enforced and is notice to the world of the signal benefits which must flow from it. Not one moment is to be lost and no effort of the government to be spared in utilizing the powers conferred by the new law, and when these are put in force no nation will have such far-reaching supervision of all forms of fresh food as the United States has now decreed.

Secretary Wilson in his statement properly emphasizes one great fact which has lately been too much lost sight of, but which the new law in due time surely be the means of bringing into bold relief, namely, that American live stock are the healthiest in the world, the percentage of diseased animals being remarkably small and steadily decreasing because of the popularization of approved scientific preventive methods, and that inspection of live animals before and at the time of slaughter always has been thorough. This was stated expressly, though briefly and with insufficient prominence, in the report of the president's special expert investigators of the Chicago packing industries. The objectionable and offensive conditions which they found and the report of which caused such a sensation, related to sanitation and methods of preparation of canned meat and similar meat derivatives.

Consumers of our meats the world over will not fall to be favorably impressed by the fact that the government is bending every energy to put in force, beyond the possibility of evasion, an adequate law extending inspection over every particle of the process of meat production "from pasture to package." The stamp of the government henceforth will carry an absolute guarantee of the purity and wholesomeness of every ounce of meat products that are carried from one state to another or into foreign countries.

The result will inevitably increase the demand for our meats both at home and abroad, whatever temporary injury may have been caused by recent exposures. Thus the substantial and permanent interests of our American farmers and ranchmen, no less than those of our packers, will be ultimately safeguarded by the inspection law, which, indeed, was absolutely indispensable, after public sensibilities had been shocked, to prevent permanent and grave damage to those vast interests.

The forty-sixth star in the American flag has been officially welcomed by a salute fired for the first time in Manila bay. That is where the inhabitants of our far eastern possessions get decidedly the best of it by having Fourth of July come to them half a day earlier than it reaches us. This is something that the signers of the Declaration surely never dreamed of.

The Postoffice department still occupies first place among other branches of the government in point of size of its requisition on the national treasury. Of all the money paid out by the national government, however, this brings its benefits directly to the greater number of people.

Don't be in too great a hurry for full returns of the Douglas county primary election. To tabulate completely the returns on only the two opposing state delegations of eighty-three each, voted for in eighty precincts requires the addition of 13,280 numerals before the total can be had.

It looks as if we were to have a resumption of the ocean greyhound racing unless the ocean racing, like the automobile racing, turns up a bad accident at the start. The old adage about "slow but sure" is just as good on the water as it is on the land.

Staid old Massachusetts, threatened with a political scandal, would be amusing were the case not serious. New Englanders may be willing to admit that graft threatens the foundation of the republic when the shock hits so close home.

A Toledo judge has not only fined the ice men, but has sentenced their attorneys to imprisonment in the cooler for contempt. That ought to give all parties to the controversy a chance to lower their temperature.

We sometimes have to go away from home to learn the news, which perhaps explains the declaration of a Des Moines paper that the contest in Ne-

braska is a repetition of the fight waged for and against Governor Cummins' demand for a third term over in Iowa. Nebraska republicans have not yet been apprised of the fact, but we presume they will take due notice of it now.

The fact that proceedings in a Standard Oil suit in Ohio are instituted in the probate court does not necessarily mean that the prosecuting attorney considers the corporation dead, though he doubtless hopes to kill it.

Two of a Kind. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Squeezing the lemon syndicate and breaking the ice trust should be accomplished simultaneously in order to produce the best results.

Also His Salary. New York Tribune. There is a general belief that congress earned its vacation this year, and on the whole representatives who were on the winning side of the great public measures—and most of them were—have nothing to fear from their constituents.

The Smart Thing to Do. Indianapolis News. If there really is no great elevator trust, the smart thing for the alleged members of it to do, it would seem, would be to let the government plunge right ahead, and then give it the racuous ha-ha. But it might not work out just right that way.

Well Qualified Witnesses. New York Tribune. The summoning of Japanese seamen and surgeons to testify in Admiral Roosevelt's case is an interesting and by no means unprofitable incident. Nobody is better qualified to tell of his doings, and of the hopeless impossibility of the task which was assigned to him, than they, and we may be sure his reputation and honor will not suffer unduly at their hands.

One Corporation Excepted. New York Sun. Washington sends forth the virtuous decision of the republican congressional campaign committee not to seek contributions under a different name, but to stand as the committee "assert positively" that this will not be a "money campaign." Their appeal will be to a free and enlightened electorate by a party poor but honest. One corporation—the federal government—will be allowed to make the use of its printing plant and postal service without compensation for the manufacture and distribution of "literature." All others are barred.

Progress on the Farm. Chicago Chronicle. The congestion of population in cities has led to much moralizing on the decay of farm life and the indisposition of farmers' sons to pursue the father's calling. Yet our census reports show that between 1850 and 1900 the number of farms in the country increased from less than 1,500,000 to nearly 6,000,000. This is not wholly due to larger population is shown by the fact that, while in 1850 there was one farm to every sixteen persons, in 1900 there was one to every 12.5 persons, the farms showing in numbers faster than the population.

There is shown in this fact one reason why farm labor is so inadequate to the demand just now.

Cobalt and Placid. Harper's Weekly. Our neighbor, Thomas Edison, has got the horse annihilated again. He has been out after cobalt, and found lots of it somewhere, and he is to make the storage battery so cheap, light and compact that every vehicle will very soon be self-propelling. Later, a good many of neighbor Edison's storage battery yarns have got separated from their sequels, and the sequel has got to be made.

NO LONGER A PAD. Postoffice Regulations Designed to Promote Postal Card Business. Cleveland Leader. The Postoffice department has about arrived at the conclusion that the souvenir post-card has developed from a fad into an institution. There is no complaint on that score, for the cards often take the places of more bulky letters and they are easy to handle. But on their account the public is demanding at least one change in the postal regulations.

The rule of the department is that every letter and postal card shall be stamped on the back with the date of its receipt at its postoffice destination. The result is often defacement of the pictures on the souvenir cards, and some of them are beautiful. To meet this objection the postoffice in New York and several other large cities have been allowed to omit the receiving stamp. Now the postmasters of similar cities are asking for the same exemptions.

There is little doubt that the department will soon make its special ruling in this respect general. The cards are a real requirement and many of them are neat and artistic. Often the pictures tell more than can be put in a letter. The vulgar and offensive specimens which were rejected in New York are readily disappearing. Those which border on the indecent are held out by the postmasters and sent to the dead letter office. It seems certain that the picture post-cards have come to stay.

AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION.

Steps to Formulate a Demand on Congress. Chicago News-Herald. Reports from Des Moines indicate that the convention of delegates of the states to discuss ways and means for securing the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people will be largely made that with a series of formal demands and propaganda. With nineteen states already on the list of those that have made their formal demand on congress to call a constitutional convention, and with only eleven more needed to force congress to act, it is evident that a little muscle and a little dose of "get-together" will bring the result.

How much can be accomplished by a state that starts out to interest the others is shown by the work of the committee of the Des Moines convention in the Pennsylvania legislature in 1890 and reappointed in 1891. Prior to that time most of the states had been urging congress to "propose" or "submit" an amendment. Their resolutions were merely expressions of desire, not formal demands which could compel obedience. Pennsylvania pointed out to the other states that their work was going astray because the senate would never yield to their wishes till it was forced to. The point was so effectively made that with a series of formal demands followed. Georgia and Arkansas in 1890 and 1891 also appointed committees of correspondence and helped out the work of the Pennsylvania committee.

The Des Moines convention can take into account what progress was made by the less strenuous means of correspondence and be assured that with two-thirds of the necessary preliminary work accomplished the other third will

THE DAY WE CELEBRATE.

July 4 and its Relation to the Declaration of Independence.

There are those who assert as historical truth that "the day we celebrate," July 4, plumes itself with more feathers of significance than the event warrants. One writer in Harper's Magazine insists that July 2 is the proper date to celebrate the immortal declaration. Other July dates have been claimed for some of the honors and that is not to be discussed seriously. The Declaration of Independence was agreed to in the continental congress in Philadelphia July 4, 1776, and so there is no occasion for tightening the lid on our exuberant exhilaration. What was done on July 2 was to agree to resolutions of independence as framed originally by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia.

But that the declaration adopted on July 4 was then formally engrossed and signed, or even agreed to by all of the thirteen colonies, says the Springfield Republican, is shown to be untrue in a volume recently published by the Macmillan company, written by Herbert Friedenwald, entitled "The Declaration of Independence; an Interpretation and Analysis."

Jefferson himself has recorded that after the declaration had been agreed to it was "signed by every member present except Mr. Dickinson." The declaration itself reads, "In congress, July 4, 1776, and is said to be 'the unanimous declaration of the thirteen United States of America.'" But it is here shown beyond all power of disputing not only that the document was not signed on that day, but that, as the New York delegates had no power to act at the time, it was not unanimously adopted or proclaimed on that day, and in this connection it may be worth observing that the familiar tradition of the ringing of the bell of Independence hall in Philadelphia on that day to make loud the proclamation of independence is a legend without the faintest show of authority. So the bell has of late years been going round the country under a measure of false pretension.

These are matters of interest, if not importance. The facts as here brought out, though not altogether for the first time, are that had the declaration been signed on July 4, and had the signatures been confined to members of the congress present, quite a different name would now stand appended to the document, and they would have numbered not more than forty-nine, and possibly only forty-five. Instead of the fifty-six which appear on the original parchment, it is known that only five members were present on that day, and their identity is known, and the four others needed to make up the full membership roll of the thirteen colonies may have been present, but left no certain trace of being so.

It is made pretty clear from the printed records of the time that the declaration was adopted on July 4, with the votes of the New York members lacking for want of authority. The first published copy of the document, that which is the New York members passed in their approval; that on July 19 it was decided to engross the document on parchment and to have it signed by every member of the congress after being engrossed, and the secret journal of the congress first published in 1821, records that the signing took place on August 2, 1776, when "the Declaration of Independence being engrossed and compared at the table, was signed by the members." Thus the Declaration as sent out to the colonies and read to the soldiers immediately after July 4, was lacking signatures, and it was not until January of the following year that congress agreed to a publication of an authentic copy with the signatures attached.

It is the conclusion of this author that the matter which swayed the Declaration signed by the men who promulgated it came as a kind of afterthought, and that secrecy was maintained for some time thereafter in the possible idea of protecting the signers from the British government, and in suppressing the revolt, in which case, as Franklin had said, they would all hang separately even though they had hung together. But if the fathers ever had any such purpose in mind they did not cling to it long, for congress published the signatures in January, 1777.

The evidence all goes to show that the signing of the document extended over quite a little period of time, and did not take place altogether on August 2 or any other day. Several signatures were present in congress on July 4 never signed at all; seven men whose names do appear appended to the document were not members of congress on July 4. Some of the men who signed are known not to have been present at the signing, and some of the signers, furthermore, seem to have appreciated the importance of getting their names attached to this immortal document—never dreaming that it was to obtain the place it has in the literature and politics of the world. But there were some who did. Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts was one. He had compelled him to leave Philadelphia twelve days after the adoption of the Declaration, but he continued anxious about the signing, for on July 21, writing from Kingsbridge, N. Y., to John and Samuel Adams in London, he wrote: "I have signed for me your Declaration of Independence; if you are to be signed as proposed; I think we ought to have you privilege, when necessarily absent, of voting and signing by proxy." This offers further proof that he was not only signing on July 4, but that at that time when Gerry left Philadelphia, there had been no signing. Gerry did not return to Philadelphia until September 2, and presumably did not sign until then.

As we have said, this is of interest, if not especially important; but it is instructive in going to show that there was no blazoning forth of the document on July 4, full-rigged or with names attached, and accompanied by the pealing of bells, as tradition has it. The Declaration itself was adopted, lacking New York's vote, on that day, and quietly sent forth for proclamation in the colonies; but as an engrossed and signed document, fully supporting the legend at the head, "The unanimous declaration," it, came into existence some time after July 4.

Our author enters into some study of the genesis of this great paper, and a consideration of the political philosophy which it voices. We need not follow him to this extent, beyond noting that, while he does not appear to follow this particular school of thought in regard to government as enthusiastically as might be expected, he hesitates not to concede the mighty influence which the Declaration has had heretofore in shaping our own political institutions, and which it is yet to have in that direction. We occasionally diverge from the teachings of this great popular creed—not the ideals which it holds up, as either ridiculous or unattainable; but it is only for the time being, for against all these paths of divergence the Declaration operates as "a shining beacon," and the light it sheds will always so operate. For, let the wise man of politics and political theory argue as they may, and conclude what they will, there will still remain in the popular consciousness a deep and abiding conviction that the doctrines proclaimed in the preamble of the declaration are essentially and eternally true.

Advertisement for CALUMET BAKING POWDER. It makes you long for dinner time. Best for flaky pastry, wholesome bread and biscuit—best for crisp cookies—best for delicious cakes, toothsome muffins, doughnuts that will melt in your mouth. Everything you make well, it will help to make better, because it's "best by test."

FIRST AID FOR INJURED. Simple Home Remedies for Fire-wound Burns. As in times of peace we are admonished to prepare for war, it is as well for the mothers of "Young America" to get their medicine chests ready to do battle with burns of all kinds.

Where a child has burnt himself and the pain causes great nervousness, put a teaspoonful of alum in a pint of water and bathe the parts frequently. Keep the burn wet with the solution, which extracts the heat in a remarkable manner, and put the small patient in bed. The lotion should soothe into a calm and refreshing sleep.

For the first application to a burn nothing is really more soothing than a lotion of equal parts of lime water and linseed oil, and this mixture would always be handy in the medicine closet. When the skin is broken it should be applied on lint, as ordinary cloth will adhere to the surface and cause much pain and suppuration.

Heat the vasoline and stir in the powdered oxide of zinc, being sure to mix well; add also the balsam and let stand until cool. Apply on lint, using the same precaution as specified above.

PERSONAL NOTES. Alexander Muir, author of Canada's national hymn, "The Maple Leaf," has just died at Toronto.

Andrew Carnegie's library gifts in the United States last year numbered 21 and amounted to over \$3,000,000.

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