

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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A POST MORTEM PARODY.

Chairman Allen of the democratic state committee is not even a good loser. He has given out a post mortem election statement in which he finally admits that the republicans have won in Nebraska, but tries to explain it by ascribing democratic defeat to republican misrepresentation. Before the returns from half the state are in he pretends to see signs indicating that the railroads and the brewers, and all the other interests with whom he had made a hard and fast alliance, gave the democrats the double-cross and swung in for the victorious republicans.

The author of the tell-tale terminal taxation letter, begging democratic editors to insert, free of charge, arguments for railroad tax evasion, which the railroads three years ago were glad to pay for, humorously declares, "We lost because we stood for reform," when the only hope of democratic victory hung on the slender promise of support from the railroads and their allied dependents. His slur at Douglas county is made up of the whole cloth because the only districts where the democrats carried were the liberal elements.

The trouble with Chairman Allen is that he is being charged by democrats all over the state with frightfully mismanaging their campaign and dispiriting by his succession of blunders any chances they might have had of making gains. This is a good time for the democratic state chairman to keep quiet.

NEBRASKA IN THE NEXT CONGRESS.

Nebraska will be represented in the next congress by a delegation made up of five republicans and one democrat. The only face in the delegation new to legislative halls will be that of Judge John F. Boyd, who will succeed to the seat now occupied by Congressman McCarthy of the Third district. Congressman Pollard, Hinshaw, Norris and Kinkaid in the First, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth districts, respectively, are re-elected, while in the Second district Mr. Hitchcock will resume the place he held as the lone democrat three years ago.

While the republican majorities in all cases are materially reduced from those polled on the Roosevelt tidal wave of two years ago, they are decisive enough to show approval of the position taken by Nebraska's representatives in the lower house on the great reform measures enacted in conformity with the legislative program promulgated by the president.

Barring the democrat, who will be like a fifth wheel to a wagon, the Nebraska delegation in the Sixtieth congress ought to prove a good working crew fully competent to take care of the interests of this state in matters that may come up for the attention of the national legislative body.

THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL FIGHT.

It is not likely that the summary ouster of Stuyvesant Fish from the presidency of the Illinois Central will end the struggle for control of that great railroad property, or that it can be ended short of a final explicit expression of the will of the stockholders, the real owners, who, of right, should dispose of its future. Whether action of the directors was prompted in part by motives of revenge for Mr. Fish's courageous stand for thorough investigation into abuses of the big life insurance companies in which directors and high finance interests back of them were implicated, as is charged, it is obvious that the stockholders were not consulted, but that on the contrary effectual measures were taken to prevent an expression of their will.

It will be strange, therefore, if the vital issue of stockholders' rights is not decisively raised. The question whether the Illinois Central, which has a unique and honorable history for more than a half century as an independent railroad, shall continue in its independent career, or be subordinated to the interests of a combination of other railroad systems, the whole dominated by a few money-swollen magnates, is fundamental and the most momentous that could be thrust upon the stockholders. Whatever may be said as to the question of veracity between Mr. Fish and his opponents, whose aim is widely believed to be to destroy the independency of the road without saying to its owners, "By your leave," that point is trivial, and the apparent effort to shift the issue to that question is suspicious, to say the least.

The issue regarding this great western transportation property may well become a test case at this particular juncture, for if the Wall street interests undertake this summarily to crush a man of the stamp of Stuyvesant Fish for presuming to stand out against them this is a favorable time for the real owners to assert themselves. At the very least, not until the stockholders shall have fullest opportunity deliberately and explicitly to sanction or repudiate such a step should it be conceded even from their standpoint. Then there remain: the other question whether the public has any rights to be protected. For if the practical result should be to deprive the public of the benefits of the development of the Illinois Central as a great independent north and south system by which the interior of the continent is served from the gulf, especially as the situation will stand when the Panama canal is completed, then a public emergency is involved transcending any possible stockholders' interest.

All these and many more possibilities

SECRETARY HITCHCOCK'S RETIREMENT.

The announced forthcoming retirement of Secretary Hitchcock from the cabinet, coming so soon after the announcement of the cabinet rearrangement which was supposed to be final, naturally causes surprise. Excepting Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, Mr. Hitchcock is the last of the presidential family of McKinley, and remained up to this time in the cabinet only at the personal solicitation of the president.

Secretary Hitchcock's chief claim to credit in the public service arises out of the reforms he has instituted in the administration of the land laws with a view to safeguarding from spoliation what remains of the public domain and restoring to the government immense tracts of whose title it had been divested by fraud and official connivance. The great and important changes inaugurated under him, involving the prosecution of a small army of offenders, including government officials and their confederates, amount almost to a revolution in the practice of the department and are probably now so thoroughly established that they will not again be reversed.

The administration of the Indian bureau under Secretary Hitchcock, however, has not been at all satisfactory. He not only gave former Indian Commissioner Jones a free hand for pernicious activity, but for some inexplicable reason stood by the Indian bureau underlings, who were protecting graft on the Indian reservations and refused to go back of the returns of bribed inspectors even in the face of overwhelming and convincing proof. Notwithstanding the noteworthy improvement in the Indian service since Commissioner Lennp took charge, there is still room for much more progress, which it is hoped may be brought about under Mr. Hitchcock's successor—reforms which friends of the Indian had practically given up all hope of achieving so long as Secretary Hitchcock blocked the way.

The new secretary, James R. Garfield, comes to the head of the interior department with an enviable record for conscientious work as head of the bureau of corporations. If he lives up to his reputation for courageous and unflinching devotion to duty, he will execute the task of cleaning out the thieves on the Indian reservations which Secretary Hitchcock refused to do.

IRON MARKET INDICATIONS.

The situation of the iron market and industry presents one of the most extraordinary facts in the industrial world. On a few occasions iron has ruled as high as the present quotation of \$24 per ton, but they have been merely temporary and recognized at the time as extreme strains of accidental demand. On the contrary the demand today is universal and refers to conditions which extend indefinitely into the future, on a basis, too, to which the business world has already actually adjusted itself. The iron supplies in this country are already contracted from six to nine months ahead, but with new enterprises on foot which at the end of that time bid fair to leave pig iron stocks more depleted even than they now are.

With universal industry firmly adjusted on such a scale to the material that is regarded as basic, it is impossible now to foresee a probable point for shrinkage in prosperity. There is absolutely no sign of the underconsumption that ordinarily begins when the price of an article of general consumption becomes excessive. On the contrary, all the indications point to a marked increase of demand on the basis of the higher general price level that has been reached.

FOREIGN VIEWS OF HEARST.

The serious view almost unanimously expressed by the British press concerning the strength shown by Hearst in the New York election is worthy of closer attention here than is usually given to foreign interpretations of our politics. If the yellow prophet's presidential ambitions become formidable to the extent of menacing mastery of one of our great national parties, foreign apprehensions might indeed become a dangerous factor affecting our credit and material interests. The instant attitude of the British press at least is that of alarm and suspicion of our stability and manhood.

Our reliance, however, against an indiscriminate revolt in the line with Hearstism is upon honest and rational correction of trust and corporation abuses. The historic service that President Roosevelt has performed has been to arouse his country to sane contemplation of the situation and to courageously inaugurate measures accordingly. The impression made abroad by failure now in New York to conclusively trample Hearstism into the dust is only one among many unfortunate consequences, but we may reasonably hope that the steady progress of the president's policy of specific and positive reform, supplemented by the co-operation of every legislative and executive agency, state and national, and supported by a crystallizing intelligent public opinion, will reassure conservative judgment everywhere.

Are we going to have any charter changes this year? If so, the formulation of plans and specifications should not be allowed to wait until the last minute, when the corporation lobbyists

BYLAWS AND THE CONTRACTORS' HIRELINGS.

usually get in their fine work.

The returns on the telephone franchise question show that the new franchise has carried by something better than two to one. This vote has been given both by reason of dissatisfaction with the policy pursued by the present telephone company and on faith in the pledges of the proposed new company. If the promoters of the new telephone company are wise they will see to it that every promise they have made is redeemed in a liberal interpretation and without haggling or quibbling. It is quite possible for a franchised corporation to make itself popular with its patrons and the public by fair treatment, although few of them seem to realize it.

The Burlington tax agents are again making their annual rounds tendering the treasurers of the various counties through which that road runs the various amounts in payment of taxes which they are willing to pay, but which are 20 to 25 per cent less than what they are assessed to pay. If all property owners undertook to scale down their taxes in this fashion the different counties and school districts would soon have to close shop. And yet some of the well-meaning capitalists who have money invested in these tax-shirking railroads profess to be at a loss to understand why the people of Nebraska do not regard them as benefactors and philanthropists.

It is to be hoped that Commissioner Garfield's recent experience with "immunity baths" will be of value to him when he is "put up against" the smooth gentlemen who enrich themselves by violating or evading the land laws.

Having cogitated long enough to see the election fit by, Governor Mickey should be ready to deliver his verdict as a court of impeachment in the hearing on the charges against his Omaha police commission appointees.

President Harahan, the new executive of the Illinois Central, is by no means a stranger to Omaha. He will be expected, however, in his new capacity to see to it that this end of his line has a square deal.

Secretary Hitchcock's ill-health is to be regretted, but some of those "confidential" reports of Indian inspectors sickened a lot of people familiar with the facts before the secretary was affected.

Comment of the British press on the recent election is chiefly interesting for what it does not say—but even men more familiar with the subject find difficulty in analyzing some of the returns.

EXPERIENCE PROVOKES CAUTION.

Minnesota Journal.

The untoward wind of Lo, the poor De, was sharp enough to get away from in front of the man behind the gun.

NEW GET BUSY.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Some day we shall become so perfect in this country that a defeated candidate will never think of insulting the intelligence of the public by crying "fraud."

SILENCE OF BANK LOOTERS.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

The least that can be said for Messrs. Stansland and Hering is that in consenting to plead guilty, thereby preventing a trial which would bring out all the facts, they have no doubt placed many of our citizens under everlasting obligations.

TINTED COMMERCIAL HONOR.

Philadelphia Record.

Commercial honor must be a low ebb when manufacturers of cans are willing to decorate them with Italian inscriptions and pictures of olive trees designed to convince the purchaser that the contents are imported olive oil, while in fact they are domestic cottonseed oil. It is just as much counterfeiting as imitating money is, and it is just as dishonest.

NEW DIETITIAN OF CHINA.

Ladies Weekly.

The most powerful individual in China today is Yuan Shi Kai, the viceroy of Tientsin. He is virtually the dictator of the empire, having as his ally the old emperor dowager. No decree is issued from Peking without his approval. He is credited with having caused the Chinese government to issue the recent anti-opium decree. Yuan is a man of great force of character and a believer in progress. He has taken many steps to modernize his country. Numerous attempts have been made to assassinate him. It is hoped that through his efforts China will be transformed into a progressive land.

MEANING OF INHERITANCE TAX.

Chicago Chronicle.

To dispose of property by will is not a right, but a privilege which organized society grants to its members, but, being a privilege, society reserves the power to limit it. That is what an inheritance tax means. In return for the privilege of leaving his property to his heirs instead of having it taken possession of by society the testator implicitly agrees to pay any inheritance tax that may be imposed. When this is sought to evade by means of an inter-mortem gift of large value society refuses this to be conceded. That is the lesson of the judicial decision in the Pabst case at Milwaukee.

BEAGER SMASHING AND DAMAGE.

Springfield Republican.

Western railroads are working toward an agreement to compel passengers to pay an insurance fee on all trunks containing property value in excess of five-hundred dollars to limit their liability to damages to \$100 for the loss of any piece of baggage uninsured. One recent case which stirs the roads to this matter has been the recovery of \$5,000 from one of the companies by the wife of a wealthy Chicago citizen for damage to the contents of a trunk in a railroad wreck. It is thought to be asking too much to hold a road liable to large damages on baggage which is carried free by them. That does not seem to be an unreasonable view. But how about this damage to baggage which is being constantly and needlessly inflicted by the railroads through their employed baggage men?

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

Greater New York is great in many ways. In no way does the consolidated city present a more imposing front than in the aggressive amount of money required to run the municipal machine. The budget for 1907 recently declared by the Board of Estimates and Apportionment totals \$194,421,506.95, an increase of \$2,925,000 over the budget for the present year. Nearly one-third of the increase is absorbed by mandatory increases in the salaries of school teachers, \$3,000,000 in to make up deficiencies in tax collections and the balance is needed to pay increased interest on the city's debt. The interest charge for 1907 amounts to \$20,780,000. In 1908 the city's budget was \$175,500,000. "The increase for 'ten budgets," says the New York Times, "is an average of over \$5,000,000 annually, and the pace is growing rather than slackening. This is even more apparent from the figures of the city's debt than from the annual expenditures. The net debt is now a trifle short of a round \$200,000,000, and will be over it when the controller makes his next bond issue within a few days. The burden was thought to be light when the present New York began with \$125,000,000, but it is obvious that it is larger now, relatively as well as absolutely. The city's population has grown, but it has not doubled, the annual growth of population being below 1 per cent. Assets, or taxable values, have also grown, but only from \$250,000,000 to \$325,000,000, or, say, 30 per cent.

Thousands of persons stop in front of the cigar store of Joseph Lieberman at 20 West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street to read a sign in the window denouncing the tobacco trust as trying to crush him for failing to sell out his business. Lieberman has been in the tobacco business in Harlem for fifteen years. His placard reads: "The trust, the largest commercial bog in the world, is the card of Minto, who is the tobacco trust as trying to crush him for failing to sell out his business. Lieberman has been in the tobacco business in Harlem for fifteen years. His placard reads: "The trust, the largest commercial bog in the world, is the card of Minto, who is the tobacco trust as trying to crush him for failing to sell out his business. Lieberman has been in the tobacco business in Harlem for fifteen years. His placard reads: "The trust, the largest commercial bog in the world, is the card of Minto, who is the tobacco trust as trying to crush him for failing to sell out his business. 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