

## THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

DELIVERED BY CARRIER.

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Sunday Bee, one year, \$1.50.DAILY BEE (including Sunday), per week, 10c.  
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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. I, Charles C. Rosewater, general manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, depose and say that the actual number of full copies of The Omaha Daily Bee, published during the month of October, 1906, was as follows:

1. Total number of copies printed	30,850
2. Total number of copies distributed	30,850
3. Total number of copies sold	30,850
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99. Total number of copies not distributed	30,850
100. Total number of copies not sold	30,850

Less unsold copies, 11,022.

Net total sales, 19,828.

Daily average, 30,850.

C. ROSEWATER, General Manager.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of December, 1906.

(Seal) 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.

Cornelius Shea now realizes that no man can afford to make an enemy until after a car has passed upon his case.

Now that inspectors of the general land office have "fallen out," the public may learn more of the tenor of those confidential reports.

The real test of power will come if the United States decides that land secured by fraud in the west shall be restored to the public domain.

An eight-hour day being demanded at the Homestead mine, W. R. Hearst has an opportunity to show that his love for laboring men survives defeat.

The alleged rivalry between marines and blue jackets might be a good thing to continue rather than stop, since emulation is conducive of good work.

The appointment of a former Rough Rider to a place on the Civil Service commission shows that another man has been found who is not afraid to "follow the leader."

Plans already drawn promise another year of great activity in building for Omaha. The material progress of the community has reached a point where it can only go ahead.

Strange that in all observance of Thanksgiving day in Great Britain no one toasted that king whose arbitrary laws made the celebration possible by driving the Puritans from home.

If the Omaha Water board would only take the public into its confidence occasionally it might have more influence. Keep-it-dark methods in public matters will never be popular.

In revising its rates for postoffice boxes the postal department evidently desires to begin its reform where it will be most generally felt, but the change will hardly wipe out the deficit.

In requesting congress to pay expenses incurred by officers in returning to the Navy department seems to desire to make shore duty less attractive.

Divisions of profits from the Northern Securities deal shows that Uncle Sam failed to score in the right place when it dissolved the combination, as the participants got away with the swag.

The prince of Wales says he hopes to see the day when Great Britain will produce its own cotton—but so far he is not known to have invested his loose cash in enterprises looking to that result.

The desire of the Navy department for two vice admirals will no doubt be followed by a request for an admiral without a prefix—but naval battles will continue to be won by men of lesser rank.

With no minister of worship and education in the new Spanish cabinet, responsibility for threatened "reforms" may be divided between other ministers so none may have more than he can bear.

The block signal operator is now blamed for the Southern railway wreck. The traveling public had an idea that block signals were automatic, but the "human element" seems to still control.

## SHAPING LEGISLATION.

A senator-elect, who is without legislative experience, writes to The Bee suggesting that the governor and the incoming attorney general shall confer with the outgoing incumbents of those offices concerning legislation needed along certain lines. There is much wisdom in this suggestion, and it contains practical force as well. It is the practice of the governor in his message to suggest needed changes in the laws, or such new laws as his experience in the administration of his office had led him to believe were necessary. It was left to individual members of the legislature to provide these bills and put them into shape for enactment. All too frequently it has been the case that the recommendations of the governor have been either ignored or forgotten, and a great deal of needed legislation has gone by the board through the indifference or neglect of the law-makers. Another obstacle has been the fact that many members of the legislature attended its sessions with preferred bills in their pockets, and in furthering the interests of these pet measures they have overlooked the greater public necessities. Our statute books have been loaded down with measures that are of minor interest and importance, and the great constructive laws have received too little attention.

If Messrs. Mickey, Sheldon, Brown and Thompson could get together and present to the legislature a bill or series of bills which would embody the ideas covered by the pledges of the republican platform, it would go a long way toward securing the needed laws. No doubt exists as to the purpose of the Nebraska legislature to enact laws necessary to carry out the platform pledges on which the incoming administration was elected. Governor Sheldon is irrevocably pledged to legislation that will give the new railroad commission ample power for the exercise of its authority and discretion in its fullest scope. He is also equally pledged to the enactment of an anti-pass law and to similar laws which will be for the benefit of the people of the state. Beyond public suggestions as to the general tenor of these bills he has undertaken nothing.

Under our constitution the executive has the privilege at the expiration of forty days of offering bills for the consideration of the legislature, the time then having expired for legislative initiative. It would not pass the bounds of the executive prerogative nor trench upon the exclusive privilege of the legislative branch of the government should the governor secure the introduction of a measure prior to the expiration of the forty-day period. If such a bill were introduced it would have an especial advantage in its inception, and would undoubtedly secure more careful consideration. It would be subject to the same course as other bills and could be altered or amended as would suit the mood of either house or senate, but it would bring directly before the legislature the ideas which are abstractly expressed in the governor's message.

## ONE RESULT OF ROOSEVELT'S TRIP.

One good result of the president's visit at Panama, worth all the trouble of it even if there were not other substantial benefits, is the destruction of the superstition that the chief executive must not set foot on foreign soil during his term. That superstition had even been extended into a theory or vague impression that if he should do so he would be disabled for the office which would be devolved upon the vice president during such absence from the country.

There never was any foundation for such a view either in the constitution or in anything else, but it required the obtrusion of rude fact, which the president has now notably supplied, to dispose of it conclusively. It chanced that no president before had gone abroad, but precedent has now been reversed. It is common for rulers of other nations to pass freely from their own to other realms, and henceforth the absurdity of the notion that our chief executive is under any disqualification to do likewise as he may have public occasion should be conspicuous enough to shut off traditional nonsense and sensationalism.

## LAND FRAUD DISCLOSURES.

The disclosures that have been recently made concerning government lands in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, although not all in the form of legal proofs, all corroborate the impression made on the public mind by the legal proofs in the Oregon prosecutions, namely, that only the fringe of the frauds perpetrated by corporations and individuals under the national land laws has yet been brought to light. Robbery of the public domain has been demonstrated in numerous cases, aggregating millions of acres, much of it being the most valuable land because of timber, mineral or water, but the serious feature is that all the facts of the uncovered rascally point to the existence of far greater rascality the precise details of which have not yet been officially uncovered.

What is still more ominous is the indications, which multiply as inquiry progresses, of collusion between great railroad and other corporations and public officials to despoil the public domain. That such far-reaching and elaborate frauds as it seems certain have been perpetrated could be successfully carried on without the knowledge and indeed the co-operation of the trustees of the national inheritance and administrators of the law seems impossible, and the guilt of an extensive gang of officials, ranging through all grades of the public service up to the United States senate and house of representa-

## LIVES WAS EXPLICITLY DEMONSTRATED.

Enough has been made certainly known or highly probable by subsequent disclosures, which are now being daily added to in startling manner, to make imperative the concentration of all the powers of the government not only to bring to justice the guilty parties, no matter how influential and high they may be, but also to recover to the utmost extent possible the land of which it has been robbed.

## ANTI-FOREIGN RESTRICTIONS.

Notwithstanding congress at the last session gave much attention to the subject and passed an elaborate law amendatory of our immigration restrictions, extensive preparations are being made to put pressure on congress at the coming session for radical change. The substance of the scheme is to impose severe educational tests and the real purpose is greatly to restrict immigration in general and wholly to exclude large masses of immigrants coming particularly from three or four European countries. The point of literary is selected because it is believed, at least by many of the anti-foreign agitators, to be the most effective that could be chosen for reducing new-comers to a minimum.

It is agreed on all hands that there should be safeguards against admission of paupers, criminals and other dangerous and undesirable classes, and in fact our laws, like those of the other great nations, embrace stringent provisions for this purpose—how stringent only those who have studied the subject fully realize. Nor will there be serious difference on the point that some educational test may properly be made. But on the other hand, the sober sense of the country will require that the test be reasonable, just and so qualified as to minimize abuse. It will not permit a drastic, extreme anti-American inquisition to be rushed through congress, merely because there are some evils which it is desirable to remedy.

If there be any point in which American pride, liberality and justice combine more than in another it is in making this country a land of opportunity. Time and again anti-foreign prejudice has run riot, but such demonstrations have been only temporary and fortunately the intervals between them have been constantly lengthening. Public judgment, which has always asserted itself in the long run on the side of justice and even of generosity in our attitude towards those who would come hither to better their condition, will not fall now.

Insofar, therefore, as the present agitation is prospective, it is doomed to disappointment and it ought to be disappointed. As to the educational test, it should be a question, not of general terms, but of the specific provisions, and the matter is pressed for action it should be taken up with the utmost caution and with the determination that no act be tolerated that is inconsistent with traditional American policy.

Local retailers are making preparations for their holiday trade and "Christmas exposition week" promises to be a notable event in Omaha's business history. The remarkable growth of the city during recent years has been no more notable in any phase than in the development of its retail business—a fact which the citizens of the country adjacent are finding out.

The "wave of crime" that set Omaha aglow a few weeks ago seems to have subsided and with it has gone the discussion concerning ways and means for increasing the local police force. This matter should not be lost sight of. The Omaha police force is not sufficiently numerous and steps should be taken to provide for its increase to a point where it can properly patrol the city.

The extension of fall weather into the winter has enabled the farmer to get a mighty good start on his next season's work. All of which means that with an ordinary supply of weather the next year's crop will be as big as the last. Nature is not providing a very firm foundation for the apprehensions of those who doubt the permanency of our present prosperity.

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Nebraska is to have a pure food bill similar to that enacted by congress. This bill will be largely in the nature of ornamental legislation, for nowhere under the sun is food more plentiful nor wholesome than that afforded by Nebraska.

Nebraska towns are setting forth the opportunities for investment and are offering some very attractive propositions for life capital. The prospects for material development were never better than they are at present.

## CONSTRUCTION OF ORDINARY CONSTRUCTION.

and 25 percent can be saved on the cost of insurance, the argument would seem to be in favor of the fireproof building.

The report of trouble on the Tennessee while cooling at Panama is said to have been due to poor ratings; and as the president took dinner with the men later it is probable that the "strike" was a success.

## HONORS EVEN.

Mr. Gompers having been elected in spite of opposition, the American Federation president and Mr. Littlefield should now shake hands and call it square.

## POLITICAL DOCTORS DISAGREE.

In view of his friendship for the Filippino it is difficult to see how Mr. Bryan can endorse Senator Morgan's plan to have the democratic party declare that it is and always has been a white man's party.

## GENEROSITY WITH A STING.

E. H. Harriman declares that he wants the railroad to be owned by the people as stockholders. There can be no doubt that such an arrangement is generally pretty profitable to the gentlemen who are in position to manipulate the stock.

## VERY, AND IT COMES HIGH.

Of course, it is a mean and short-sighted policy that takes no account of the needs of posterity, and yet even all unselfish and kindly soul must find it difficult to worry over the question of our coal supply in or about the year 2000.

## VERY GOOD REASON.

The Union Pacific has accumulated a surplus of more than \$100,000,000 during the last ten years besides paying handsome dividends. This is another reason why Mr. Harriman can't understand why anybody should be in favor of government ownership of the railroads.

## CAN ROCKE FENCE IT?

Latest estimates of the wealth of the United States place it at \$100,000,000,000. This is the wealth of the nation as a whole. If Mr. Rockefeller's wealth were to keep on increasing at the present rate there would be no chance for him to get it all even if he lived to be 80 years old.

## SERVILITY OF ULCER JOE.

Notwithstanding the possibility of Mr. Gompers having a free hand in managing the political affairs of the American Federation of Labor, Uncle Joe Cannon, the well-known statesman of the Eighteenth Illinois district, finds it impossible to become excited over the situation.

## CANADA AND POSTAL PRIVILEGE.

It is a pity that Canada finds it necessary, as she thinks, to abrogate the postal convention between herself and the United States, but it is not impossible she has cause for doing so. Her objection is to the wholesale transportation as second class matter of publications which can be included in that class only by means of a more liberal construction of the law than she is accustomed to prepared to give. The impression is not altogether unwarranted on this side of the line that some publishers abuse the postal privileges.

## FUTILITY OF POLE HAULING.

A good many of our most intelligent commentators of the Peary Arctic expedition seem to be at a loss to understand how to handle it. Of course, the whole tendency is to be complimentary to Peary as a daring man, but there is doubt as to whether his expedition was practical or scientific.

## A BAD EXAMINER.

The Union Pacific report was so admirable in so many respects that the results shown were creditable to Mr. Harriman's management, that it is a pity that it gave an example of bookkeeping not in keeping with the highest principles of publicity. The Union Pacific's share of the October dividends of the Southern Pacific included in the Union Pacific's income for the year ending June 30. True, the money had been earned, but it had not actually been paid. It was in the nature of a "bill receivable." If a bank should report as a part of its today's cash money to be received tomorrow, that would not be different from the Union Pacific transaction. The dividend thus added to the year's income was not necessary to justify any policy. The financial results of the year were fine without it. It was simply a wanton piece of irregular bookkeeping that seems to have been entirely unnecessary. It is therefore fairly open to criticism. The times call for absolutely correct bookkeeping.

## CONSOLIDATION OF CITIES.

Case of Pittsburgh One of Interest to Philadelphia Press. The opponents of Greater Pittsburgh are uniformly working for delay. They cannot expect anything better, but delay serves their present purpose. It keeps in place politicians whom consolidation would oust and preserves the influence that the union of the two cities would dissipate. Those interests have utilized the processes of two courts to gain time and their resources are not half exhausted.

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## POLITICAL DRIFT.

Smulke got 67,544 votes in Illinois and Pietswaki got 27,984 votes. Not even Minnesota or upper Michigan can show a similar contest like that.

Over in Canada, in the province of Quebec, there is a town called Buckingham. There was some rioting there the other day and the mayor neglected to read the riot act. He has been arrested for neglecting his sworn duty.

By defeating a public officer for re-election the young women of a county in Colorado have brought him face to face with the bare fact that it is unwise for him to discharge a girl stenographer because she insisted upon wearing a peek-a-boo shirt waist.

President Roosevelt's friends declare that the republican party in most of the states will be thoroughly reorganized by the time the republican national convention assembles in 1908. The president, it is believed, believes that the younger men in the party should come to the front.

In Pittsburgh a corruption fund of \$70,000 was stolen, which indicates a lack of honor among thieves, and was presently returned by being hung into a hallway by an arm attached to some person unknown, first did not open the door wide enough to disclose his identity. The mayor is reported to have evidence that four members of the select council divided \$40,000 in connection with a franchise ordinance.