

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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Table with 3 columns: Rank, Circulation, and Name. Lists circulation figures for various newspapers in Nebraska and surrounding states.

When Out of Town. Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

Only one more week for Christmas shopping. Don't wait till the last day.

When Missouri attempts to confiscate the property of the "oil trust," the real test of states' rights will occur.

Lans' law should be responsible for fraud, because legal culpability must attach to the man after something for nothing.

Give the departed revivalists one big credit mark: They did not this time placard Omaha as the wickedest city in the world.

Old residents of North Dakota may be compelled to teach the younger generation how hay burners saved the day before coal stoves were invented.

"Tobacco trust" cases are set for this week. For the general public the smoke from the chimney is more pressing just now than the smoke from the pipe.

Some surprising feats will have to be accomplished if American naval officers are to show that admirals can fight more effectively than commanders.

If the United States is to be called upon to determine judicially the difference between political reprisals and ordinary lawlessness in Poland, lex talionis may receive recognition in court.

The report that the Smoot case will be prolonged in the senate in order to delay legislation may be good news to the senator from Utah, but several other statesmen will be called on to explain at the proper time.

Now that the United States supreme court has decided that the secretary of agriculture has no right to establish quarantine lines within states, state officials will have reason to watch live-stock shipments closer.

Members of all political parties regardless of previous affiliations are invited to join Mike Harrington's new Public Ownership league and get in line to support Colonel Bryan as the democratic presidential nominee.

Army officers who complain so loudly of deficiency in the personnel of the artillery may be depended upon to make a good showing should occasion require the use of the guns. Complaints of this kind usually cease when action begins.

The prospect of a vacancy in the Omaha Park board discloses the fact that the number of local democrats hungry for official honors without compensation is much smaller than the number hungry for official compensation without honor.

"Bat" Masterson, as a newspaper reporter, may regret the "good stories" he wasted on predecessors while struggling for a reputation, but as he has succeeded in having himself arrested he must have held his faculty for getting free advertising.

The suggestion that Kansas employ an official press agent marks the passing of the special correspondent, whose weird tales have made the Jayhawkers state famous; but will the official writer receive as generous treatment when he has shown the "color" from the facts?

THE PRESIDENT'S PANAMA MESSAGE.

President Roosevelt's special message, summing up the situation of the Panama canal in the light of his personal investigation on the isthmus, will greatly strengthen public confidence in the outcome and should in many ways aid and stimulate the progress of the work.

The message places in clearer light than has heretofore been available the magnitude of the results achieved since the government took over the canal from the French company. The preparations in sanitation, in local administration, in securing laborers and feeding, housing and caring for them, medically and otherwise, in assembling machinery and materials, etc.—a task of vast scope and difficulty and requiring time—were as vital as actual excavation and construction of dams and locks, and the latter could be prosecuted effectively only after the former problems had been disposed of.

Not less gratifying and, to many, surprising is that part of the president's exposition which deals with actual excavation and similar striking features of positive construction, showing verily that "the dirt is flying." The work has already, for months, passed into a stage of realization upon the preliminary labor and expenditure, and is going forward on a rapidly-enlarging scale that is highly encouraging.

In short, as the president marshals the facts, seen with his own eyes, many of the great problems which had to be solved, and under which the French effort broke down, have now been conclusively disposed of and immense progress made towards the goal. Other problems undeniably remain and the president does not underestimate nor conceal the prodigious task to be performed. But he makes a showing that warrants his spirit of optimism and his profound conviction that this national undertaking can and will be completed with the same success with which it has been so far carried on.

Such assurance, aside from the beneficial effect it should have upon congress and all departments of the government, is especially opportune now, when the importance of the speediest possible opening of "the Strait of Panama" is becoming every day more apparent.

REFORM SPELLING INCIDENT.

Unnecessary mystery is being made of the effect of the joint resolution of congress as to spelling in printed public documents. No question whatever exists of the right of congress to adopt a rule requiring the government printing office to conform to the usage of the standard dictionaries, and the president himself has been prompt to signify his acquiescence. Indeed, he distinctly explained, when it was issued, that his executive order was merely tentative.

On the other hand, the president's right is also indisputable to employ the so-called simplified spelling, if he chooses, in his own private and official correspondence and in communications addressed to the various departments, which are not intended for printing under the laws of congress. If any contingency should happen requiring such communications to be printed, the printing office would, of course, follow the legal style.

It may be that a hostile spirit inside and outside of congress towards the president has found expression in exaggerating the "reformed spelling" incident, but in point of fact the whole matter is of trivial import and has been put by all parties concerned into definite and satisfactory state.

A TRANSPORTATION EMERGENCY.

The explanations of the insufficiency of our transportation system vary greatly in detail, but agree on the main point. The general impression naturally is that of shortage of cars, and at many points actual shortage is specifically proved. But at other places, including important centers, it is shown that great numbers of cars are unavailable for lack of motive power. Some of the foremost transportation authorities like J. J. Hill have expressed the deliberate opinion that motive power and cars cannot be used to best advantage because of track shortage, going so far as to hold that mileage should be doubled to meet present requirements, while still others are disposed to locate the trouble in terminal facilities.

Since conclusive evidence is produced of the insufficiency of the railroad machine in each of these vital parts, the cumulative effect is to bring out into clear light a serious transportation emergency. If it were mere temporary local embarrassment, which is not unusual during the season of crop movement, the matter would not be vitally important. But the indisputable facts seem to demonstrate that the transportation system has generally failed to keep pace with our enormous industrial expansion during recent years.

Notwithstanding the extensive preparations for new construction and betterments which the roads are making, and even though the increase of freight and travel should not continue at the present extraordinary rate, the

prospect for the immediate future is one of extreme strain to meet the demands of business.

The supply of labor and materials alone limits extension of transportation facilities and would barely suffice for new demands, even if the roads had to this time kept up with the development of the country.

AN EXAMPLE FROM CHICAGO.

Reports from Chicago are to the effect that the tangle which had been precipitated by the proposed municipal ownership of the street railway lines there—a tangle which long appeared to be as complicated and as interminable as that in which Omaha is involved over the acquisition of its water works—has been settled by compromise. After being in and out of the courts with varying degrees of success for both sides the question of purchase or readjustment with the Chicago street railways was finally sent to a conference of representatives of the city and of the companies, which just came to agreement last Saturday.

The terms of the Chicago compromise boiled down in a nutshell are substantially these:

An extension of the franchises for twenty years, reserving an option to the city to purchase at any time. Acceptance of an appraisal of \$50,000,000 as the present value of the properties, which amount the city, whenever it undertakes municipal ownership, must pay in addition to any sums invested from now on in the betterment of the roads.

A partnership arrangement between the companies and the city by which the net is to have 55 per cent of the net earnings and the companies 45 per cent, with free access to and control of accounts for the city.

Assurances on the part of the companies of immediate rehabilitation of the system and improved service all along the line. This example from Chicago should give at least a ray of hope to the long suffering people of Omaha groping in the dark for a settlement of the difficulties and embarrassments brought on by the bungling job of water works purchase under "compulsory" legislation. Omaha is fast outgrowing the capacity of the present water works to supply its needs and must soon have extensions and betterments, which seem impossible so long as the purchase scheme is tied up in the courts. It is becoming more and more imperative to find a way out without sacrificing the city's interests and without the jeopardy of dangerous delay.

The railroad tax-bureaucrats are trying hard to smuggle articles into the country weeklies designed to bolster them up for a continuance of immunity from paying city taxes on their terminal properties. In this way they are attempting to follow up the play they made during the late cam again, through Chairman Allen of the democratic state committee, to enlist the democratic state papers on the railroad side under pretense of making it a political issue.

The editors of Nebraska country papers know a thing or two themselves and not many of them will be likely to bite on the bait. Careful scrutiny of the report of the contributions to the last republican state campaign fund, and for that matter to the reports of the contributions to previous campaign funds, fails to disclose the name of the patriot who has just been re-nominated for surveyor of customs at the Port of Omaha, which lucrative job he has been holding for nearly four years. Perhaps he will do better next time.

Congressman Kinkaid in a letter to one of his constituents expresses himself confident that the judicial division bill will be passed before congress adjourns. With two sets of judicial officers in Nebraska they can easily arrange time between them so that one or the other can be on hunting trips continuously.

Chancellor Andrews' reply to the Salvation Army solicitors threatens to stir up a hornet's nest. There is no question that a great deal of our public and private charity is misdirected or wasted, but neither is there any question that on the whole much distress is relieved and many sad hearts made happier.

Every one connected with the Omaha revival meetings expresses himself as highly satisfied with their success. The real test of success, however, will come later when the pastors of local churches try to figure out whether the attendance on their Sunday services has been increased.

The cry, "Down with the Vatican," raised over in Italy, will be tempered by recollection that the Vatican brings thousands of tourists and millions of dollars to Rome each year, which would follow the pope to any new abode he might take up.

The appeal of a local contemporary to make the figures in our official finance reports plain, or at least plainer, can be readily answered. But then some people will have to go to school again and learn arithmetic. The important-if-true discovery that the real cause of traffic congestion is a dearth of locomotives and not a shortage of cars would indicate that the trouble is not due to the enforcement of the law requiring the use of safety devices.

Judge Brewer might save himself much perturbation of mind by conveying four of his associates, and

"mere technicalities" would no longer prevent the collection of honest debts.

The Road to Popularity.

The statesman who will successfully advocate a movement for the simplification of government reports will be one of the most popular men in the country.

Seeing Things.

Honolulu is seeing things again. This time it is two regiments of Japanese, completely outfitted, disguised as laborers. If Honolulu is to be the playground of Japanese it ought to be admitted to confess it.

Shifting the Weight.

Every time Mr. Rockefeller takes a bunch of money out of one pocket and puts it in another, the report goes out that he has lost a few millions or so. He has never yet been known, however, to lose anything where he couldn't find it when wanted.

A Christmas "Box."

And now the Sugar trust and the Brooklyn Copper company have pleaded guilty and have been fined \$50,000 for accepting rebates. The previous, and, for a time, insidiously held theory that there were no such things as rebates seems to be almost shattered.

Oklahoma's Perplexity.

Oklahoma's constitutional convention is engaged in a heated debate respecting the designation that should be applied to the Deity. This will occasion some surprise in the effort east, where it is generally believed that the Oklahoma designation of omnipotence is usually indicated by a three-em dash.

Lamentations of Millionaires.

The gloomy tendency of millionaires to look on money as a curse must be intensified by the fearful effects of the public accept their earnest warnings to beware of getting in love with its accumulation. As a matter of fact, the world at large insists on getting its experience of the danger of such matters at first hand.

Protesters Too Much.

Sometimes it really appears as if Mr. Carnegie's protest too much in the matter of reproducing great riches has given much money to quasi-philanthropic causes, but he is still one of the richest men in the country or in the world. Might it not be advisable for Mr. Carnegie to confine himself to that state of poverty which he deems so virtuous and fore preaching against swollen fortunes and their owners?

Centenary of Post Longfellow.

The plan of the school authorities to provide for a celebration of the 100th birthday of Henry W. Longfellow is something a bit out of the ordinary, but none the less reasonable. The school children have been taught repeatedly of the lives and greatness of public men and patriots. There is no reason why an equally instructive and beneficial lesson could not be taught from the life of Longfellow, the eminent American writer, poet, statesman and gentleman whose memory will always be revered. To awaken in a child's mind an interest in Longfellow is to open the door to a knowledge of good literature in later years. It is not as if this be done better than by observing the life of some other child and of his work as a poet.

Anomalies of Prosperity.

National prosperity continues to show that it entails certain penalties as well as pleasures. The very force of the swelling tide tends to react upon itself. This business activity is so great that money commands high prices. It is not only the gamblers who suffer. Legitimate enterprises are halted by the difficulty of financing them. It is well known that the published rates for money do not by any means reflect the actual rates which are so modestly, is worth what it will bring, and neither lender nor borrower is likely to take the public into confidence respecting transactions far above the nominal rates. The scarcity of money is one disagreeable anomaly. The scarcity of labor is another. Here, too, the services are hampered and delayed by the circumstance that men are not to be had to do the manual labor. They cannot be secured even by offering extravagantly high wages. There are simply not enough men in the country to do the work of the country. The tide reacts upon itself again.

LIMIT OF SAFE PROSPERITY.

Danger of increasing the pressure considered. New York Sun. Replying to a question regarding the probable results of the present session of congress, the editor of the Sun said he hoped that nothing would be done which would tend to increase our national prosperity. The statement is a little startling until it is carefully digested.

It is a question whether this country is not today very much like a youngster who has eaten more than he can digest for him and yet is hungry for more. Nothing is of real value unless it can be properly utilized and controlled. The United States may be said to be crippled by its present prosperity. We have not laborers enough to work the mines, the fields and the forests, and there is even a shortage of money for the proper conduct of business. It is true that there are many who have less than they want and some who have less than their circumstances. But never before in the history of this country, and perhaps any other country, have the comforts, the conveniences and even the luxuries of life been so widely distributed as they are among American people today.

In 1870, a single generation ago, the total wealth of the United States, as represented by the aggregate value of all real and personal property, was officially reported as \$30,000,000,000. The total of the present year is officially estimated as a little exceeding \$120,000,000,000. The population of the country in 1870 was 38,000,000. It is now approximately 80,000,000. Within that generation wealth has traveled at a much swifter pace than has population. Within six years the value of our agricultural products has increased from \$1,747,177,000 to very nearly \$3,000,000,000, according to the figures of Secretary Wilson. Within five years the value of our manufactured products, according to figures given by the census bureau, has risen from about \$1,900,000,000 for the year 1891 to nearly \$7,000,000,000 for the year 1896. The total value of our manufactures in 1900 was \$20,000,000,000. Our population actually engaged in gainful occupations are unable to do all the work there is to be done. We need both skilled and unskilled workmen. Our present supply of more than 2,000,000 freight cars is inadequate for the transportation of our merchandise. Nearly \$500,000,000 of money in actual circulation is insufficient for our business needs.

As a nation we are pored with prosperity, and it may be that we are near to the danger line, if not actually upon it. Wisdom may lie in effort to hold what we have rather than in efforts to obtain immediately a greater abundance.

PATRIOTIC SELF-SACRIFICE.

Why Congressmen Turned Down the Salary Rate.

That eminent vehicle of the melody of staidness, the Congressional Record, with admirable modesty, refrains from editorial comment on the moving spectacle of congressmen rejecting an advance in salary. The words of each commentator are printed with the usual precision, a record of unblemished patriotism to edify future critics who give a grain. The atmosphere which gives a fitting background to the picture—the tone which lent charm to the uttered words are omitted. These features are officially overlooked are supplied by some Washington correspondents who will not be so easily satisfied with business and desire in the house of representatives on Friday, December 14, 1906. A few paragraphs will brighten the picture.

"It is impossible to maintain an average salary in Washington with all expenses considered, on \$5,000 a year," said Representative Clark of Florida, and every man who heard him agreed with him.

"The ghost of the salary grant of 1873 stalked ominously through the hall, and he scolded the hungry lobbyist stiff. He had before them the picture of the political cemetery that they were built after that bill passed, and while they looked longingly on the Lullaby resolution they voted it down. One after another, up with watering mouth and despairing voice and announced that he was irrevocably against any such iniquitous proposition, and that \$5,000 was enough for him.

"Where are you going?" asked one congressman who had voted for the resolution, as another who had voted against it went out.

"To get my shoes half soiled and stand on my landlady," responded the patriot in a howl.

"Most of the men who vote against this resolution will do so hoping to God it will pass," said Clark in his speech and George Washington and the cherry tree incident of hitting the cherry tree with John Wesley Gaines, who was courageous enough to raise his voice in favor of the increase, when the low chanting of those scoffers who stood near him of this new version of an old refrain: John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines.

"The Tennessee congressman did not place upon grounds of necessity and right and justice his insistence that his salary should be increased. He based his argument upon the self-sufficing policy that as George Washington once put \$3,000 of government money into his own pocket after saying he did not want it, he heard at the foot of Pennsylvania avenue, a Lamar of Florida carried off the honors of the day.

"The people of my district," cried Lamar in thunder tones, planting one foot far behind the other and advancing his chest a couple of inches, "are being robbed of their earnings by the railroads and this congress will not relieve them. While they are suffering shall I accept an increase in my salary?"

"We haven't all of us married rich wives," said Sullivan of Massachusetts, with a glance of painful severity that paused at intervals in its sweep around the room. "My wife is continued, 'is safe from the investment in the classes of figure. If you raise it the cheap men are likely to be displaced by better ones, for it will be then an object to them to come here.

"There are some men in this house who, judged by the value of their services, are worth not \$5,000, but \$25,000. Here there was wild cheering. "And there are others," he added, "who are not worth \$1,000." A deadly silence followed. "Either the salaries will be raised," continued Sullivan, "or else two classes of men will be displaced by better ones, for it will be then an object to them to come here.

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"The year now closing will be remarkable for the persistency with which the public has kept its hands off the securities market, in a striking feature of the change which has come over the minds of millions of people who believe with him that to restore this distrust it is necessary to restore individual responsibility and prevent the corporations from being the ruling place of the irresponsible, dishonest or corrupt manager." When the corporations have adopted fairly and comprehensively the principle of publicity they can then depend absolutely upon the sympathetic support of the public in any socialist attack upon corporate wealth.

END OF A BAD SPELL.

Congressional documents relieved of Bohemian Orthography. Pittsburg Dispatch. Copies of the presidential and departmental documents in reformed spelling will soon become of value chiefly as curious mementoes of an amusing episode in American history. The house, by the overwhelming vote of 142 to 25, voted a provision into the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill that no money appropriated by that act shall be used in connection with printing documents authorized by law or ordered by congress or either branch thereof unless the same shall conform to the orthography recognized and used by generally accepted dictionaries of the English language.

THE LAST INDIAN WAR SCARE.

A Knack on the Spot for Western Correspondents. Leslie's Weekly. Another "Indian scare" has been peaceably concluded. The "ferocious" Utes have submitted to the arguments of the soldiers sent to subdue them, and have given up the hunting trip on which they had started when the western correspondents seized the opportunity to write a series of "space stories" to the effect and credulous eastern press. One of our own correspondents illustrates the baselessness of the scare by this little story of a prominent ranch owner in the territory "infested" by the Utes. He had come into the nearest town, Sheridan, Wyo., forty miles from his ranch. When he told his friends that he had left his family at home, they asked if he was not afraid to do so. "Afraid," he echoed, "the Utes are as peaceable as any of my neighbors. One of the squaws is helping my wife wash and another is pitching hay on the ranch." The sensation mongers among newspaper men and that section of the western people in whose eyes "the only good Indian is a dead Indian" are responsible for these stories of "outbreaks," and eastern publishers should by this time have had experience enough to refuse to be made the victims of their readers' such silly and mischievous hoaxes.

Improved Wheat Food. While you would starve if obliged to live on white bread alone, life and health could be supported by the use of Dr. Rice's Wheat Flake Celery Food. Palatable—Nutritious—Easy of Digestion and Ready to Eat. Can be served hot. Put in a hot oven for a few minutes or cook in boiling milk. 10c a package. My Signature on each package. Dr. W. C. Rice.

PERSONAL NOTES. Governor-elect James H. Higinson of Rhode Island announced his personal staff and all the members are, like himself, unmarried. Nearly half of the Indians of the United States live in Oklahoma. The new state has 105,700 Indians as compared to 254,000 in the United States.

LAUGHING GAS. "Do you expect to make a hit in your new part?" asked the friend. "How shall I say?" answered Mr. Stornington Barnes. "Who shall venture to predict whether the careless public will duly appreciate what is placed before it?" Washington Star. The earl of Warwick heaved a deep sigh. "They call me the king maker," he said. "I'd rather be a peacemaker, but there's no money in it."

"Where are you going?" asked one congressman who had voted for the resolution, as another who had voted against it went out. "To get my shoes half soiled and stand on my landlady," responded the patriot in a howl. "Most of the men who vote against this resolution will do so hoping to God it will pass," said Clark in his speech and George Washington and the cherry tree incident of hitting the cherry tree with John Wesley Gaines, who was courageous enough to raise his voice in favor of the increase, when the low chanting of those scoffers who stood near him of this new version of an old refrain: John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines.

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DISTRUST OF THE PUBLIC.

Publicity Forcing Reform in Corporations. Wall Street Journal. Persistent hammering away at critical methods of doing business whether by industrial corporations, transportation or insurance companies, has at last resulted in a change in the attitude of the public towards them. Whatever the outcome may be in the form of law, there can be no doubt that the corporations in general, which have been so long in the habit of being regarded as the average man or woman only a few years ago. The year now closing will be remarkable for the persistency with which the public has kept its hands off the securities market, in a striking feature of the change which has come over the minds of millions of people who believe with him that to restore this distrust it is necessary to restore individual responsibility and prevent the corporations from being the ruling place of the irresponsible, dishonest or corrupt manager." When the corporations have adopted fairly and comprehensively the principle of publicity they can then depend absolutely upon the sympathetic support of the public in any socialist attack upon corporate wealth.

BEST SEASON OF ALL.

New York Times. Let other sing of summer with its airy, fairy ring, And the blue waves idly lapping on the shore, But give me old December with its bluff and hearty ways, When the winter comes to meet you with a roar. When the turkey bird invites you and the wonderful mince pie, Your gastronomic gladdens divides With the buckeye cakes and butter that are piled before your eyes And the maple syrup running down its sides. There may be some fun in frying on a strip of sandy beach, When I give me the blessings of the fall, When the kind of food 'in end of any I season and in reach And their odors come to meet me in the hall. There's the smell of turkey stuffing and the cabbage, straws and truss, And I greet the good old steak and onions fried, But best of all the griddle cake with butter cooking through, And the maple syrup running down its sides. Don't give me jams and jellies or the health promoting food—I want the good old flour mighty quick. The stuff that keeps you healthy 'till 'till likely to be good. And I'll be ready willing to be sick. No equivalent fodder but a good square meal for me. A solid, simple something that abides, Like the good old-fashioned griddle cake with butter flowing free. And the maple syrup running down its sides.

Christmas Week. THE HOLIDAY SHOPPER'S BUSIEST TIME IS AT HAND AND THE SHOPS ARE CROWDED. A MAN'S STORE FOR MEN'S THINGS. SIMPLIFIED THE PROBLEM OF SHOPPING FOR MEN. THE WOMEN WILL FIND HERE JUST WHAT THE MEN WANT. A GLANCE THROUGH OUR SPLENDID DISPLAY OF FURNISHING WILL FURNISH PLENTY OF SUGGESTIONS. Browning King & Co. R. S. WILCOX, Manager.