

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. Charles C. Rosewater, general manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual and estimated circulation of the Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of November, 1906, was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Date, Circulation, Total. Rows for each day of the month from 1st to 30th, plus a total row.

Net total sales, \$42,028. Daily average, \$1,401.

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

In compelling Governor Folk to sue for his salary, St. Louis apparently regrets the reputation the attorney gave the town.

It transpires that the unwritten law is not a recognized defense in murder cases as they are tried in the courts of this vicinity.

The discovery that rubber can be made from wheat was doubtless made by the patron of a factory where pies are made by machinery.

With cash money at 25 per cent the Hill-Harriman interests should have little outside interference in their fight for new St. Paul stock.

Thirteen is again an unlucky number—this time for the baker's dozen of creditors who have to look to Count Boni de Castellani for their money.

When enough cars shall have been found, the real problem will be to get men to operate them, as the shortage of experienced trainmen remains unbroken.

Now that famine stalks in China, those legation guards at Peking should polish their swords, as the hungry man is always dangerous, even in the Flowery Kingdom.

The report of the Interstate Commerce commission shows that no dividends have been passed because of any effort to provide for the safety of passengers and employes.

The showing Colonel Chamberlain makes for the sale of beer in homes for disabled veterans will probably be the signal for a demand that "the beer halls must go."

With estimated gross receipts of about \$1,000,000 from Rosebud lands and net receipts of about \$800,000, the Indians are liable to consider Uncle Sam an expensive collection agency.

"Jim" Hill should have no trouble in proving that there is no water in his proposed issue of Great Northern stock since the showing must be made in Minnesota, where all water is now ice.

Now that congress knows all that the president knows about the San Francisco school affair and the Brownsville incident, the public will be interested in seeing its suggestions for improvement.

With diplomats demanding the withdrawal of Rausoul and Rausoul demanding the withdrawal of the warships, the sultan of Morocco seems called upon to decide between bombardment or revolution, with chances in favor of both.

Omaha's prospects for 1907 building operations are said to be as good, if not better than at any previous year's end. As long as our business and population continue to increase we will have to have more buildings with which to accommodate the increasing demand.

According to figures compiled by the state auditor, the state paid during the last two years interest amounting to \$199,523 on its warrant indebtedness. This represents, at 5 per cent, a constant floating debt of nearly \$2,000,000. It is interesting to note that the state constitution sets \$100,000 as the limit to which the state can borrow in time of peace.

STATE UNIVERSITY FINANCES.

The official estimate of the regents of the state university for appropriations at the hands of the coming legislature recently made public proves upon analysis to be a carefully juggled exhibit, evidently designed to conceal important sources of university revenue with a view to procuring increased state appropriations. The university estimate, for example, leaves out of account altogether the money which the university receives from the federal government out of the Hatch and Morrill funds. It also leaves out of account the cash funds, made up of matriculation and other student fees, which during the last biennium amounted to over \$100,000, and will doubtless exceed that sum during the next two years. It also leaves out of consideration a number of smaller special appropriations which are really absorbed by the university, such as those for farmers' institutes, experiment station work, state historical library, etc.

It is incomprehensible why the university regents should not be perfectly frank with the legislature and the taxpayers as to the university finances. There is no disposition anywhere to cripple the university or to hamper its operations, so far as they respond to legitimate demand, but there is a widespread and growing sentiment in favor of complete publicity of all university transactions, financial as well as others. The university appropriations have been increased in the last few years by leaps and bounds until they amount to a colossal sum, and with the other sources of revenue make the university expenditures equal almost to all the other expenditures of state government.

The taxpayers certainly have a right to insist that all this money shall pass through the state treasury and be drawn out pursuant to specific legislative appropriation upon warrants, safeguarded the same as for other appropriations. The university ought to be able not only to pay current expenses, but to erect its new buildings from time to time with even less than the mill levy which it has been receiving. The increase of the basis of assessment has increased the value of the university levy tremendously. To ask for additional appropriations for the university out of money raised by general taxation is going it decidedly strong.

PUBLIC LAND LAW REFORM.

It is perhaps too much to hope for a reform of the public land laws from the present short session of congress, but the president's special message states once more in forceful and uncontroversial fashion the imperative need of it. It is, indeed, in part no new revelation, for the abuse of the land laws has long been so notorious that the failure of congress to provide adequately against it is inexcusable.

But the president's summary of the fresh official disclosures of the ramifications of fraud whereby vast and most valuable portions of the people's heritage have been alienated ought to stir the national legislature to action. The purpose of the homestead law and of the timber, stone and desert land acts was beneficent, but it is for that very reason only the more intolerable that these laws should be longer permitted to be prostituted to robbery of the intended beneficiaries and to criminal enrichment of powerful railroad, mining and cattle corporations. The penalties of the criminal code are, indeed, being inflicted on some of the conspirators, but, after all, only comparatively few will be reached, and while some of the stolen land is being restored to the public domain, it is at best only a small part of the whole. What the stenchful and disastrous situation requires is thorough recasting of the land laws, and it cannot be done too carefully.

THE STANDARD OIL PROSECUTIONS.

The government does not attempt to conceal its anxiety over the point interposed by attorneys on behalf of the Standard Oil company in the criminal prosecutions for rebate violations, for, if sustained by the federal court, it would cut the ground from under the cases and also from under prosecution of Standard Oil or any other offender for violations committed before the new rate law went into effect and which was not pending in court at that time. As no prosecutions were then pending against the Standard Oil and very few against other corporations of like character, the issue is vital so far as the penal sanctions of the old law are concerned.

The point is one of abstruse and purely technical construction and grows out of a clause in the new rate law obviously intended solely to prevent embarrassment to the government in rebate prosecutions actually pending in court at the time of the enactment of the new law. Its purpose being to strengthen it and by no means to repeal the old law touching all past offenses, like those of the Standard Oil, for which prosecutions had not yet been instituted. But by reason of unavoidable circumstances in signing the act, in connection with certain decisions of the supreme court, a basis was laid on which the defense has constructed a strong appeal for a ruling that would have this sweeping result.

A serious phase of the matter is precisely the one which proved fatal to the government in the famous Beef Trust case, namely, that the government would have no appeal if the lower court holds for the Standard Oil contention, although the decision might in fact be error and might be so found by the supreme court if the point could be reviewed on the prosecution's appeal.

The failure of congress in the previous session and so far in the present one may thus be decisive of the issue.

Though the government hopes for a favorable ruling, the public will not fail to be profoundly impressed by a contrary result with the fact that the Oil trust has placed its chief reliance for escape from justice upon the mere technicality, which has no legitimate bearing whatever upon the question of actual guilt. It will not in such contingency pass unheeded that a trivial technical flaw in the manner of passing the law, either in fact or in the imagination of a trial judge, should at one fell swoop be construed to wipe out the whole criminal past of renowned corporation offenders, although the paramount purpose of congress was exactly the reverse. If anything were needed to bring on a day of reckoning such a colossal fiasco would supply it.

THE LIFE INSURANCE STRUGGLE.

The struggle for control of the New York Life and the Mutual Life insurance company under the new law providing for election of directors by the policy holders has been the most extraordinary in the history of the great life insurance companies. Two parties, representing the old management on the one hand and interests striving to oust it on the other, have in their canvass for the votes of the policy holders maintained organizations which confessedly required expenditure of huge sums of money which policy holders themselves certainly did not furnish. It has been widely surmised that in the background were powerful antagonistic financial interests, apart from the legitimate purposes of life insurance, contending for mastery over the vast trust funds and resources, although the ostensible representatives of both parties have vehemently protested that such was not the case.

The contest has been waged with such intense bitterness that a declaration of the majority of the policy holders, no matter for which side, seems now not likely to end it, since both have laid foundation for contest and continuing the struggle in other ways, and it is believed by competent observers that fresh investigations, judicial and legislative, are to follow. The essence of the whole effort for reform in the big life insurance companies has been to prevent abuse of their trust funds, and it was for this purpose that the law was passed providing safeguards for election of directors by the policy holders, to whom those funds belong, and in whose interest alone they should be administered. It is therefore a disappointing and unpleasant impression that has been created of dominant interposition by other interests hostile to stockholders in the very first election held under the reform law. It is, however, absolutely certain that public sentiment has reached a point at which perversion of these great trust funds to the behests of "high finance" after the manner exposed in the Armstrong investigation will not be tolerated, and such a result, if it has happened in the election, will be only a signal for more drastic remedial measures.

AMAZING LOSSES BY FIRE.

In the last five years the United States has been the scene of a billion-dollar country in conflagrations. The largest item was \$292,000,000 in San Francisco in April, last, and \$200,000,000 in Baltimore in February, 1904. A billion dollars, according to the engineers' estimate, would build five Panama canals. Most of the fire loss in this country could be avoided if the people would insist on reforms in building and inspection.

INHERITANCE TAX LAWS.

About half the states of the union have inheritance tax laws, so the federal census bureau finds, but only half a dozen of them extend the tax to direct inheritances, and then at a very moderate rate. Nevertheless, such laws are now sufficient to yield \$10,000,000 or more of revenue. It would not be rash to conclude from this that if these taxes were extended to all the states and graduated to the extent suggested in the present bill before congress, an aggregate yearly revenue of \$100,000,000 or more would result. But calculations of this nature, however much they may excite the cupidity of the national government, will also the more strongly array the several states in opposition to a surrender of the tax to the Washington authority.

FAMOUS IN NAVAL ANNALS.

Death of the Builder of the Confederate Ironclad Merrimac. Springfield Republican. The maker of the celebrated confederate ironclad Merrimac, Colonel John Mercer Brooke, has just died at Lexington, Va., 42 years after he and Ericsson revolutionized naval warfare by the use of iron-plated young officer in the United States navy when the civil war began, and was noted for his ingenuity. Following Virginia, his native state, out of the union he immediately devoted himself to devising a new type of ironclad, and presented it to the confederacy. France and England had already produced ironclads, but they were simply old-fashioned steam frigates sheathed over with iron. Brooke in his design out away the high free board and made a low hull, and introduced the turret steam ram. It was a wonderful success, as the Merrimac's easy destruction of the wooden squadron of the federals at Hampton Roads fully demonstrated. Only the sudden appearance of the unique ironclad Monitor, designed and built by Ericsson at the same time that Brooke was working, checked the Merrimac's conquering course. Colonel Brooke has never received, perhaps, enough credit for his performance in introducing that crude ironclad, considering it merely in its relation to the development of naval warfare.

UNDERPAID POSTOFFICE CLERKS.

Faithful Services Entitled to a Square Deal. Minneapolis Journal. The postoffice clerk is not getting a square deal. After he has prepared himself for a civil service examination and has secured his appointment, he usually commences work as a substitute with the prospect of occasional though not regular employment. Even when he gets a regular position, he begins at a salary of \$80 a year. Advances in pay of \$10 a year are made, but do not come regularly. A postal clerk may work six months at \$80 without an increase, or he may have an increase annually until his wages amount to \$100 or \$110 a year. There is no certainty or regularity, however, about the increase and comparatively few reach the \$100 or \$110 figure. A great majority receive less or less and the advance to \$90 or more only comes after years of service and when the clerks have become advanced in years and often have several dependents dependent upon them for their living.

This is a very meager compensation for skilled work and years of experience will be conceded and the injustice and hardship which it involves are made more conspicuous by the fact that there has been practically no increase in the wages of the postoffice clerks for twenty years. The present period of high prices and greatly increased expense for all the necessities of life finds the postal clerk no better prepared to meet them than he was twenty years ago.

The result of this policy is to deprive the clerks of many of its most efficient men in the postal service. They can't be induced to work for "Uncle Sam" because he is not willing to pay them nearly as much as they can get in outside positions.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

A few weeks back New York critics pointed the finger of scorn at the builders of the Pennsylvania state capitol, and with a virtuous wrath denounced them as shameless grafters. The Keystone state triennially reached into an overflowing treasury for \$3,000,000 in exchange for a brand of fixtures, furnishings and emblematic decorations, including brass fittings sold by the pound, furniture and by the foot and stained by wood for mahogany. Now these same critics are spelling in a different key. They have discovered a brand of architectural graft at home that harmonizes beautifully with the grade developed in Pennsylvania. A critical inspection of the new hall of Records reveals a painted plaster substituted for marble, artificially molded cement in place of sculptured Parian, and other marked departures from the plans. All these cheap imitations of the real thing are high above the floors and readily deceive all but the eyes of experts.

The Hall of Records was begun almost ten years ago. The land on which it stands cost \$1,841,553. The building itself, including decorations, furniture and maintenance, has cost so far \$14,443,713. The interest on these sums and the rent of quarters for the offices now housed in the building (a rent to be calculated at abnormal expense during the last five years), approximates a grand total of \$10,000,000. The cost of the comptroller. The capitol at Washington cost \$12,000,000. The Congressional library at Washington, covering acres of ground and regarded as one of the finest buildings in America, cost only \$5,746,000. The Boston Public Library, with its wealth of decoration, cost \$3,300,000. The Broad Exchange building, the largest office building in the world, cost \$5,500,000. The Park Row building, the tallest office building in the world, thirty-two stories high, with its 900 offices, was ready for occupancy in one year from the laying of its foundations, at a cost of \$2,750,000. The Trinity building, twenty-one stories in height, with its 500 rooms, was ready for occupancy in a year, at a cost of \$2,750,000. The St. Regis hotel, the most magnificent hotel in the world, was completed, including nearly a year lost in strikes, decorated and equipped in four years, at a cost of \$5,000,000. The Waldorf-Astoria, with its 1,500 rooms, its magnificent decorations and its elaborate devices, cost \$5,000,000.

The flow of American cash from New York to Europe for Christmas reached its top record last Saturday. The Celtic, which sailed on December 12, carried the largest mail ever sent from New York. This consisted of 4,000 sacks of mail containing 85,514 registered articles and 4,137 articles in the parcels post. On December 20 of last year the Celtic carried the largest mail of the year, with 3,277 sacks aboard, while the Cedric, sailing December 6, carried the largest registered mail in 61,227 pieces.

In the Celtic's mail on Wednesday were money orders that reached the total of \$95,048.88, in 54,823 orders, or an average of \$1.75 for each. The largest amount went to Great Britain. This was \$279,538. To Italy went \$163,974, while Sweden came third with \$32,000. Austria contributed \$23,000 and Hungary \$20,000. The Germans in America forwarded to the Patherland \$80,000, while the Norwegians sent home \$54,000. Denmark received \$13,000 from her sons in this country, while Switzerland was sent \$10,000. French residents of America contributed \$9,000 to the homegoing Christmas fund, Belgian residents \$5,000, while to Holland went only \$2,000. The smallest sum, \$125, went to Luxembourg. Other small sums went to Egypt and Portugal.

Following the Celtic on Wednesday was the Atlantic Victoria, which sailed a day or two later. It carried \$422,122. Saturday the New York sailed, carrying \$523,423. Of the sum carried by the Auguste Victoria \$133,748 went to Italy, \$85,000 to England, \$20,000 to Sweden, while Egypt received \$8,750 and Portugal came last with \$5,000. Of the money sent to Great Britain \$163,974 went to Great Britain, \$76,528 to Italy, \$45,000 to Austria, \$23,000 to Sweden, \$22,000 to Russia, \$22,000 to Hungary, \$44,000 to Germany, \$22,000 to Norway and smaller amounts to other countries. The total amount of the money carried by the three ships sailing last week was \$1,858,614.27.

The "telephone game" is being worked in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. The game consists of one operator, betting cheerfully "come-on" that he has a friend, a professor, who can read any card in the pack over a telephone. The swindle is carried out by means of a code, every card in the pack being designated by some common name of a man. When it comes to deciding the bet the operator simply calls up a confederate on the telephone, and he tells the card selected. By way of example, take the ten of diamonds, the code name for which is "Marvin."

"Prof. Marvin there?" inquires the operator. After some delay "Prof. Marvin," the confederate, begins a series of small talk over the phone, which finally winds up by the "professor" informing the dupe that the card he holds in his hand is the ten of diamonds.

The game is generally carried on in saloon tobacco stores, barber shops and other such places.

Some of the medical faddings at Bellevue hospital manage to find amusement even in the life of the people who flock to the institution for treatment. An old negro woman entered the reception room one morning last week and said she felt "mighty sick, indeed." When the doctor who was summoned examined her he could find nothing the matter with her. "What seems to be the trouble?" he asked. "I've sure I has gastritis, doctor, 'cause I get an awful pain in ma stomach," replied the woman. "Do you live near a gas house?" he inquired. "Yes, I live right across the street from one and don't know what you think I've got gastritis," answered the old woman. "Well, take this bottle of medicine home with you," said the doctor, "and if that gastritis is not gone in a week come back here again and I'll amputate your stomach." The old woman thanked him profusely and took the medicine along with her.

A coffee wagon has been added to the equipment of the fire department. The vehicle will respond to all third alarms, with a crew of three men, one of whom will make sandwiches and brew coffee. The wagon is the result of a suggestion made by the firemen themselves, who tell Commissioner Lantry that on freezing days of winter, when they were obliged to fight some big blaze, they would like to have some hot coffee to eat and the "hater man" Commissioner thought it was a good plan, had a wagon made and has assigned three firemen to do duty with it.

It has often been the custom of generously disposed persons to take hot coffee to the firemen, and in fact a temperance organization has had a coffee wagon follow the firemen around on occasions. The members of the department say they do not care to be the objects of charity.

SMILE THAT WOULDN'T COME ON.

Chicago Record-Herald. At the recent Gridiron club dinner in Washington E. H. Harriman and Stuyvesant Fish were compelled to face each other while jocular remarks were made by the other guests concerning the recent contest for control of the Illinois Central. It is said that Mr. Harriman smiled like the Cheshire cat.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Mr. Harriman has plastered his estate with "Keep Off" signs. As he aims to own the whole country, this exclusive spirit may be embarrassing in time.

William E. Sanderson, the new republican mayor of Springfield, Mass., is a "boss" in the yards of the Wason company, car manufacturers, and has worked for day wages all his life.

The New Orleans Picayune loving cup, an annual award to the citizen who has done the most meritorious service for the city of New Orleans in the preceding year, was presented to Charles Janvier last week.

Every man who could present at the box office a certificate from his wife that he had never told her a lie was to be presented with a free seat at a first performance in a New York theater. The house was crowded and every seat was paid for. "Nuff said."

Representative Malcolm R. Patterson of Tennessee, who was last month elected governor of his state, has resigned as a member of the house, in which capacity he gave his state little service. He was absent all of the last session, conducting his campaign, and has actually served only about two weeks of his present term in the house.

Closely following President Roosevelt's advocacy of honest criticism of judges comes the Bar association of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, with the public declaration that the judges of that section are lazy—positively and irredeemably lazy. In formulating the charge the lawyers discreetly omitted the customary salutation, "May it please the court."

The new president of Bolivia, Colonel Ismael Montes, is a young, progressive, energetic, patriotic man and takes an enthusiastic interest in enterprises that are now inaugurated for the development of the country. His father was one of the ablest generals of Bolivia, and he himself has quite a record as a soldier. Before entering politics several years ago he practiced law.

INCOME TAX TALK.

Some Powerful Supporters of the Proposition Heard From. Indianapolis News.

The income tax fudging sons powerful friends, Adolf Busch, the St. Louis millionaire, is out in an interview favoring it, and he makes a strong argument. He thinks that we ought to reduce the tariff, and though the income tax make the rich pay their proper share of the cost of maintaining the government, "any man," he says, "with money should be ashamed to oppose such a reasonable and just obligation." The whole situation would, in his opinion, greatly improve if the masses were convinced that the moneyed interests were not evading a single debt they owed to their government.

We think that the income tax is eminently fair, and that until one is imposed the rich will not pay their proper proportion of the taxes. Federal taxes are practically all on consumption. And the poor man with a family pays vastly more into the treasury than is paid by a wealthy bachelor. Men are taxed on their needs rather than on their property. And this, of course, is most unfair. Taxation should have some reference to the ability of men to pay. We do not favor the taxing of a man simply because he is rich. But neither do we favor discrimination in favor of the rich such as we now have.

But there is one point that has been overlooked, and that is the needs of the treasury. Taxation ought to be simply for the purpose of raising revenue for the support of the government. At the present time the government needs no more revenue. So there is no proper or scientific basis for any new taxes. To impose an income and an inheritance tax at the present time would be simply to increase the sur-

Advertisement for Peptol. Features a portrait of a woman and text: 'Thin Faces and Figures' vs 'Made Plump and Pleasing'. Includes a coupon for a free sample and address information.

plus, and thus to take money out of the ordinary channels of trade. Plainly, therefore, the first thing to do is to reduce some of the present taxes and to abolish others, and then look to those new taxes, both of which are just and fair, to make good the deficiency. A needless tax is as bad as an unjust tax. We ought to be able to show, not only that an income tax is fair—which is easy to do—but that it is a necessity. It will be impossible to make much headway while the government has more money than it can use. The people will ask why there should be any new taxes while the government has a large surplus. And the question can not be answered.

SMILING LINES.

"I notice you are an enthusiastic advocate of the rate bill, Mrs. Sparber." "What do you mean, Mr. Jokers?" "I perceive you are already cutting down the fare."—Baltimore American.

"Are you in favor of government ownership of railroads?" "No," answered Farmer Cornsont. "I ain't bother in much way nor the other. I have had claim against the railroad and claim against the government, an it was a stand-off which got settled first."—Washington Star.

The plutocrat—What are you crying for, boy? Haven't you everything for Christmas that you thought of?" The boy—Yes, but I wanted I wanted some things I didn't think of.—Brooklyn Life.

"They are talking of reforming the diplomatic service." "What, and establish a dangerous precedent?" "Yes, how do you mean?" "Filling the places of the married diplomats with bachelors.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Type (sawing)—Oh, let's go home." "What, and establish a dangerous precedent?" "Yes, how do you mean?" "Filling the places of the married diplomats with bachelors.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Have you any family influence you can bring to bear in getting your son this electrical position?" "Do you think that is really necessary?" "Of course it is; to succeed in the electrical business, you must have the most command good connections."—Baltimore American.

"Why don't you get somebody to endorse your policy?" asked the politician. "My friend," answered Senator Sorghum, "so long as you can get all the legislators you want, any politician don't make such a lot of difference."—Washington Star.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

"Christmas is coming." How do I know it? "Everything round me seems fer to show it; Ma gets a shopping 'most every day. Gets lots uv bargain, gee, I should say! Packages large an' packages small. Seems they keep comin' an' don't stop at all."

Sister is sweet to her no'riest beau. "Ever to write down on paper her name? Ma's takin' lessons in holdin' her tongue. Pa steps so jaunty an' tries to look jaunty; Brother Trent gave his old states to the noor."

That's a dead cinch, he is schemin' fer to noor. "Every one works, even father, these days; Long about Christmas we find that it pays; Mary Lavin, while don't the dishes. Ever to write down on paper her name? An' if Christmas don't come purty soon, I'll extend with hot air like a circus balloon."

"Now, ma, can't I get you a bucket of coal? Is the wash boiler bakin'?" Let me fix the hole. "Auntie May, can't I mail that letter?" "Well, grandpa, how are you, I hope you are better." "Ray, father, can't I help you saw up that wood?" "I can't stand it—I'm erittin' so good."

Christmas is comin'—how do I know it? "Everything round me seems fer to show it; If it doesn't make sense, I'll go up purty soon." "Per Jim filled with hot air, like a circus balloon."

RAYOLINE TRIBLE. Omaha, December, 1906.

Advertisement for Scott's Emulsion. Text: 'Convalescents need a large amount of nourishment in easily digested form. Scott's Emulsion is powerful nourishment—highly concentrated. It makes bone, blood and muscle without putting any tax on the digestion. ALL DRUGGISTS, 50c. AND \$1.00.'