

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County: Charles C. Rosewater, general manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full copies of this newspaper published during the month of November, 1906, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation category and Number of copies. Includes rows for Total, Less unsold copies, Net total sales, Daily average, and Subscribers leaving the city temporarily.

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

Merry Christmas to one and all. Christmas is the children's day. Help them to make the most of it.

"Handsome is as handsome does" is a trite saying that applies with special force at Christmas time.

California does not seem to be as proud of its representative in the president's cabinet as it should be.

The base ball magnates will now begin to make the patrons of the game think each club is being organized for a pennant winner.

That "cold weather" story from the Yukon comes in dime to make residents of Manitoba wonder why it should be considered strange.

The sleigh drawn by reindeer is obsolete. The twentieth century Santa Claus travels in an automobile and has placed an order for an airplane.

Governor-elect Sheldon evidently believes that the plums will be just as thickly received whether dropped into Christmas stockings or held over for New Year's gifts.

In refusing a peering before accepting the place of ambassador to the United States, James Bryce shows his distrust of the time-honored idea that "republicans dearly love a lord."

The demand for "moral training" in the public schools would be more easily supplied were there fewer shining examples of "captains of industry" brought into court for law violations.

United States senators who may contemplate punishment for Senator La Follette may save themselves trouble by attending strictly to business and letting the Wisconsin senator do the same thing.

The story that Americans are being fished by wildcat mines in Mexico is an unwarranted reflection upon the American mine promoter who keeps the greater part of the money at home until he jumps the country.

"Tariff-rippers" by their decision not to call congress in special session to consider the tariff until after the next general election leave Governor Cummins free to continue his campaign of education.

While denouncing the wasteful habits of Americans John D. Rockefeller is not supposed to refer to the custom of using lamps in place of the candles of the older time before the Standard Oil company became a reality.

By ruling that the prosecuting attorney at Findlay started suit against the Standard Oil company in the wrong court an Ohio judge has demonstrated that the corporation's attorneys knew the law, though they failed to suppress the fact.

Those Austrian postal employees who could think of no more forcible method of pressing demands for higher wages than in complying strictly with regulations pass a severer comment on the rules than would be permitted in the imperial Parliament.

Archbishop Ireland's statement that royalist sentiment on the part of ecclesiastics is responsible for much of the trouble in France at least shows a spirit of fairness which might well be followed where the government presents the statement of its case.

CHRISTMAS. Christmas has been sentimentally defined as the day on which mankind pursues a course of conduct that should prevail during the other 364. It is the time of giving and forgiving; when men and women put aside the strife and bickerings of life, forgetting its harshness and remembering only its amenities.

Whatever of divinity is left in man assumes the ascendancy on this occasion, and for a season at least human effort is directed to the end that all shall be made comfortable and contented if not actually happy. Happiness, incidentally, is a relative condition and depends on that healthy state of content which is not inertia, but a philosophic acceptance of what can not at the time be bettered.

The Christmas spirit, exemplified at present in much giving and receiving of presents, may be the gainer because of the discontent of mankind with existing conditions. It is not improbable that the precepts of the moralists will some day prevail to the extent that the good of others will be the ambition of the individual, and then life will be "one grand sweet song," instead of "a grand rhapsody," as it is now. Yet even that match," as it is now. Yet even that condition of beatific existence could not efface the sentimental lovelessness of Christmas.

Whether Santa Claus takes on the fleshly embodiment of a loved one or retains the impersonal quality a millennium of children have endowed him with, his recurrent visitations will still be fraught with such attributes of love and personal attachment as are in no other way manifest. A Merry Christmas to all, then, and "long live Santa Claus!"

SENATE AND CABINET. An examination of precedents and decisions of the supreme court develops the fact that the action of Secretaries Hitchcock and Wilson in suspending proceedings under a recent act of congress regarding Indian lands was not only warranted, but praiseworthy, notwithstanding the attempt of some senators to make sensational use of it in a senate committee hearing.

To their faces the cabinet members were theatrically upbraided with nullification and violation of the expressed will of congress, under circumstances, too, which insured the widest publicity, as if some extraordinary wrong or contempt had been committed. It appears now that, quite the contrary in point of fact, there was no violation nor intention to violate the law, but that there was only action in strict accordance with one of the oldest departmental practices and approved legal principles, well within executive discretion as to manner and means.

The inference accordingly is strong that the attack is inspired not so much by regard for the law as by hostility to the administration and desire, to discredit it. There is absolutely no question that the very course of the departments was with a view to the public good and advantageous for it, and the public, if such congressional perversity continues, will not be slow in showing that it understands the difference between rational and candid criticism and a captious and mischievous spirit.

THE LIFE INSURANCE ELECTION. The result of the election of directors for the New York Life and Mutual Insurance companies, whichever set of candidates may turn out to have been chosen, is to raise serious doubts in many minds regarding the system provided in the new law, and a serious movement is already on foot to amend it. The object of the new law was verily to put the management of the companies under control of the policyholders, the reverse situation appearing in the light of the Armstrong investigation to have grown up with many evil consequences.

But while the legislature endeavored to provide opportunity for every policyholder to have a voice in the selection of directors, it is complained that the election has failed to meet expectations in many respects. The multitude of policyholders scattered not only throughout this country, but also in foreign countries, is so great as to involve immense obstacles to concerted and intelligent action. Thus consolidated financial interests playing for a great stake in controlling such huge assets could bear the expense of comprehensive organization and canvass for policyholders' suffrages at enormous advantage over the majority of policyholders.

The danger is therefore pointed out that the law in its present form may work out practically to restrict the average policyholder to choice between two or more directorial tickets, none of which might represent genuine and exclusive policyholders' interest, but rather the antagonistic interests of "high finance," precisely the root of many of the worst abuses disclosed in the management of these trust funds. It is doubtless possible still to improve the present law, but it is to be remembered that as it stands it is an improvement of the legal conditions existing before the Armstrong investigation. Then control of some of the big companies at least was firmly held in the hands of numerically petty cliques. It is no small advance to have control submitted to serious contest and the publicity which such an election as has been held necessarily causes. The certainty that public attention will be critically concentrated periodically upon the conduct of the

companies, even though by force of selfish interest, cannot fail to be an important restraining influence against abuse, and thus an efficient public sentiment will be created and maintained and a guaranty had that no backward step will be taken, no matter who controls.

REPORT ON CURRENCY BILL. Either the report of Chairman Fowler of the house banking and currency committee goes too far or the bill for uncovered bank notes which the committee has agreed on does not go far enough. The bill in substance embodies the plan proposed by the representatives of the American Bankers' association and the New York Chamber of Commerce for so-called "emergency" issues of credit notes by a national bank up to 3 1/2 per cent of its capital stock, two-thirds thereof under 3 per cent and the last third under 5 per cent tax, the proceeds to be used for redemption of the notes of failed banks.

But the essence of the committee's argument, through its chairman's report, goes out of sight beyond the provisions of the bill, being in reality a plea for unlimited credit note issues by banks. The ground explicitly and elaborately taken is that there is and should be no distinction between bank debts evidenced by deposit entry and by circulating note, and that "it should be at the option of a depositor of a bank to say whether he shall have currency credit or a book subject to his check."

The position taken by the committee is so radical and, indeed, so revolutionary that it would necessarily endanger the measure, if it had the remotest chance of enactment in this session. It is conceivable that many, even with no small degree of distrust, might be induced to acquiesce in a measure for strictly limited emergency credit notes who would vigorously oppose it when involving commitment to the principle of unlimited issues.

Moreover, popular hostility in this country to uncovered bank emissions is ingrained and inveterate. The pending scheme for narrowly restricted emergency notes has not been evolved from any pressing popular demand for relief, and so far as it has been considered at all it has not changed the general attitude of suspicion or at least as yet of suspended judgment, where it has not aroused protest. It is a device, not of the judgment of the body of the bankers of the country, but rather of a fraction of them mainly grouped in the east and moved by special considerations.

Since state bank credit notes were annihilated in 1862 by the national law no public resolution has been more fixed than not to tolerate the paper inflationist practice whether by national or by state banks. The committee's reasoning runs directly counter to that resolution and would cause a popular uprising if it were generally assumed that the enactment of a measure going to the lengths advocated were imminent.

The railway inquest into the frightful accident in which President Samuel Spencer of the Southern railroad lost his life Thanksgiving day puts all the blame onto the operator at one end of the block, who let a second train pass him before securing a release from the first. The report says nothing about contributory negligence by the train men, nor does it go into the conditions of service that would lead the operator to become careless, nor the overworked state of the road, said to have been notorious at that time. It may be and doubtless is the proper thing to bring the accused operator to account, but that will not excuse the officers of the road from making the necessary improvements and taking every additional precaution to prevent repetition of such frightful accidents.

Some of the state papers are laboring under the delusion that the Nebraska club women are trying to secure a revision of the inheritance tax laws, when as a matter of fact their efforts are directed at a change in the law governing the distribution of estates of husbands dying without wills and has nothing whatever to do with the inheritance tax. The Nebraska inheritance tax law should be left alone, at least until we find out what congress is going to do in the way of a federal inheritance tax law.

Members of congress seem to have experienced no difficulty in getting home during the holidays. Inasmuch as the anti-pass clause is not supposed to be in full effect until after the first of the year, it will be interesting to watch and see how many of them take pains to get back to Washington before the tolling of the bell.

Pleading that he is compelled to violate a federal law in order to hold his position, the captain of a California steamboat has simply made public a condition generally known to exist in many corporations, but his blunt frankness may be as fatal to his job as his previous disregard of law.

Iowa's legislature does not meet until January 14. Nebraska's law makers who convene on January 1 will, therefore, have two weeks advantage of those across the Missouri river. The chances are even, however, that they will both wind up at about the same time and place.

An Awkward Problem. St. Louis-Globe Democrat. Meat has become so dear in Germany that many are compelled to drop it from the bill of fare. It is an awkward issue in the coming election for the officials who have been at pains to disparage and

exclude American meats, which may be safely pronounced the best exported anywhere.

Original and Unique. Indianapolis News. Another promising way to reduce the Postoffice department's annual deficit has been suggested. That is to pay the railroads only what they earn. The idea is so original and unique that it will doubtless rouse vigorous objections on the part of the railroads.

The Limit in Robbery. Kansas City Times. The robbery of a pawnshop by Omaha likewise shows to what extremes men will go in order properly to celebrate the coming festival of peace and good will. It is easy job to rob a pawnshop, which ordinarily is far from deficient in the matter of protecting its own interests.

"Fire Alarm" in Action. Senator Foraker protests that President Roosevelt is an autocrat. This, of course, must be exceedingly displeasing to a politician who would like to see the government run wide open. Still, it doesn't seem so awfully harsh for Foraker to call Mr. Roosevelt an autocrat when you pause to reflect what the president thinks about Foraker.

Troubles of Prosperity. Wall Street Journal. The car shortage which is interfering with the progress of business in many parts of the northwest, is, as has more than once been pointed out, identically the same in character and effect as the shortage in credits.

These are phenomena that raise the question in the minds of thoughtful observers: Is our prosperity getting a little too prosperous? Railroad Assertions Discredited. Baltimore News. Objection to the railroad rate bill on the ground that it would discourage railroad enterprise has been conspicuously refuted by results. In exactly seven days \$33,000,000 of new stock was issued by three western roads to provide for great extensions of plant. The Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad alone has just made an issue of \$100,000,000 to extend the road to the Pacific coast. The passage of the railroad rate bill seems to have marked the opening of a new era of railroad enterprise.

The South Waking Up. Chicago Chronicle. It has taken the southern people forty years to make up their minds to welcome immigration, and even now they welcome it grudgingly. But what the ultimate results will be no one can foretell. The probability is that the negro will be crushed between the northern and southern millionaires and that the south will experience an immense increase of political power. In resolution toward the southern states it will point to a complete assimilation of their civilization to that of the north and to an ultimate equal division of power in the government.

A CHECK TO EXPANSION. Minnesota's Objection to Railroad Stock Watering. Philadelphia Ledger. A very important ruling is that of the attorney general of Minnesota, invalidating the proposed addition of \$50,000,000 to the capital stock of the Great Northern railway. This Minnesota corporation is already capitalized at \$150,000,000 in shares, with bonds outstanding to the amount of \$23,000,000. The proposed issue of stock would make the total capitalization of the system \$203,000,000 on 4,000 miles of road, or above \$50,000 per mile for the main line and branches, some of which, it is said, could not have cost more than \$3,000 per mile.

The dividends upon this excess of capitalization, the attorney general says, are "an unwarranted tax" on the patrons of the road. Railroad regulation and rate regulation would be a farce if a domestic company be permitted to increase its capital stock at will, to an unlimited extent, for the purpose of buying stock of subsidiary companies composed of the same stockholders.

The Minnesota law requires that any increase of stock must be authorized, upon application and hearing, by the State Railroad commission. As application has not been made, the attorney general has thus a prior reason for declaring the issue invalid, but the reasons he gives why the increase should not be authorized are of general application. The Great Northern is a typical example of a "system" built in the manner described, in which most of the states have hitherto been acquiescent. As we see in our street railways at home, the vast inflation of capital provided in this way has imposed burdens upon transportation that have become insufferable, and that call at least for limitation. If Minnesota has retained sufficient power to put restraint upon Mr. Hill's further expansion, the effect must be of the utmost significance.

PERSONAL NOTES. President Roosevelt will deliver the principal address at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Agricultural College of Michigan in May.

A Yokohama paper suggests that Japan may not be getting its share of American business under the tariff treaty. The Japs are picking up even the art of humor. Damages of \$3,000 because of an accident that incapacitated her from dancing should make a Milwaukee belle satisfied just to think of former waxed rod triumphs.

Edward Trickett, fire warden and formerly chief of the fire department in Kansas City, retired a few days ago and for the first time in thirty-one years passed an entire night at his home. Many kindred of George Washington, our first president, dwell on and about the original Washington plantation in Westmoreland county, Va. The present occupant of the plantation is named George Washington.

Tom Cale, the delegate from Alaska for the two years' term beginning March 4 next, has arrived in Washington. He is 60 years old, but exceptionally vigorous for his age. He was born in Vermont, but went to Alaska as a prospector ten years ago. Sympathy and confidence in large measure will go out to the Chicago woman who vehemently denies that her deceased husband was a woman. "I was his wife," she explained. "I given relations 'til I guess ought to know." That ought to hold the doubters.

Congressman John E. Andrus, who represented the Yonkers (N.Y.) district for several years, has taken delight in playing the role of Santa Claus. The pages and telegrams and telegraph boys of the house. This year, as usual, his gifts to the youngsters consisted of \$2 and \$5 bills. Colonel Andrus is worth \$20,000,000, made out of the manufacture of paper.

Abraham Simmer, one of the most famous philanthropists in the west, has gone to California for the winter on account of his health. His home is in Waverly, Ia., but his charities have been distributed all over the country. He is now working to establish a home for exiled Russian Jews at St. Paul. He has already bestowed in various ways more than \$500,000.

CHRISTMAS POETRY.

The Angel's Song. (This, the most poetic of all the Christmas hymns, was written by an American, Edmund Hamilton Sears (Sandfield, Mass., April 6, 1810—Weston, Mass., January 14, 1892). Its author was a Unitarian minister, a graduate of Union college, Schenectady, and of the divinity school of Harvard. Although the hymn is comparatively new, being published in the Christian Register in 1853, it has become popular and its use in church services at Christmas is almost universal. Along with the O, rest in this manger, it has been carried on the streets in England and in the colonies on the last few nights before Christmas day.)

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending over the earth To touch their harps of gold; To praise their King who now lies in man. From lowly thatched roof and stable stall; The earth in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing:

Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled, And still celestial music float Over all the weary world; Above us and beneath us they do reign, And ever o'er us they do reign, The blessed angels sing.

O ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whom forms are bending low, Who toil along the climbing way, With painful steps and slow, Look up! for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing; O, rest in this manger, and bear the angels sing:

For lo! the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold, And we with their years are rolling on, Come round the age of gold! When peace shall over all the earth Its triumphs accomplish, And the whole world send back the song, Which now the angels sing!

My Gift. Out on the night I send "A merry Christmas" to you, my friend; And with the angels I bear "A merry Christmas," from you, dear.

Down in your eyes I gaze, Dear, beautiful, trusting eyes; Soul thrilling soul, in that paradise, Toward the east, their light replies.

Deep into your heart, I go, Dear, dear, loyal heart of gold; And where its richest treasures flow, I'll bring you a gift of old.

Into the depths of your soul I look, Longing and loving, dreaming of you, And find in that holy place a book, Scribbled with my love for you.

Come with me, friend, out into the night, Let us together sing the star, Lustrous, shimmering, mystical light, Away o'er the desert air.

Hand clasping hand, eyes meeting eyes; Never a word, as exulting we rove; Soul thrilling soul, in that paradise, Finding each other, and love.

Broken Bow, Neb. Star-Led. Star of the East that shinest, Shook through the clouds dim, Lead where the Christ child reclined, For we would worship Him.

We bring Him love for gold, The love that shines in our hearts, The love that was born when the nail and the thorn Revealed Him crucified.

We bring Him the incense of prayer, The prayer of a life's daily need; Like incense it rises where our Savior lay, Where ashes and oxen feed.

We bring Him for myrror our griefs, Bitter our cup with wine, But we offer it there, with our love and our sighs.

To the Child in the manger laid low, And our three-fold gift He receives, And bestows the crown of His love, And the light of that star through the snow.

Christmas Tree in the Nursery. With wild surprise Your great eyes Peered through the window— Looked out—and winked— At a very queer sight In the dim star light. As plain as can be:

A fairy tree That shone and glimmered, And shined and shimmered, Red, green and blue; Silver and gold; Their sharp eyes beheld: Small, round, big, bare; And jama in jars, And red and white, And tangles and money, And candles and dolls, And crackers and puffs, A real bird in a tree, And all sorts of things For the little shaver's eye.

Four black eyes, Through his little surprise; And then grow bigger, When a tiny little finger, Jambled in his eye! (Is it a fairy?)

From the treetop cries, "With a will and a woe! Come, children, wake now! Your joys you may take now."

Quick as you can think, Two small toes, In four rows, Like little piglets pink, All kind in the middle one, And before you can wink The tree stands bare!

Richard Watson Gilder. A Song for Christmas. Sing me a rhyme of Christmas— Sing me a joyful song, And though it is filled with laughter, Let it be pure and strong.

Sing of the hearts brimmed over With the story of a day— Of the echo of childish voices That will not die away.

Of the blaze of the tasseled bugle, And the limescale clatter and beat Of the drum that thrills to master Squadrans of scampering feet.

THE OFFICE OF FOOD. The office of food is to supply heat and energy, to furnish the vital materials for growth and repair. DR. PRICE'S WHEAT FLAKE CEREAL FOOD. As it is made from the whole grain of wheat, with celery, will furnish the elements to supply heat, energy, growth and repair. Palatable—Nutritious—Easy of Digestion and Ready to Eat.

Merry Christmas. Knabe, Kranich & Bach, Kimball, Bush-Lane, Hallet-Davis, Cable-Nelson, Weser Bros., Whitney, Hinsel, Burton, Kramer, Biddle, Gilbert and Hospe Pianos. You Know the Best. A. HOSPE & CO., 1513 Douglas Street.

REDEEM THE PLEDGES. Tekamah Herald: W. B. Rose, chairman of the republican state committee, has written an open letter to the republican members of the incoming legislature suggesting the better methods of enacting into law the pledges to reform measures incorporated in the last state platform. He also points out the usual methods adopted by the lobby in defeating wholesome legislation. If the members-elect will take heed and act on the advice they will be wise. Any member who will play the part of a traitor to his constituency in this season had better move to some other state. The people are in earnest. Political bossism, free passes and railroad dictation must go.

Wisner Free Press: The republican party is bound by its platform, by the word of its state committee and by the utterance of its newspapers and campaign speakers to perform certain definite things, including the enactment of a law for the regulation and control of railroads, an anti-pass law, a direct primary law and a law of railway terminals. The party press, which advocated these measures so effectively before election, can assist in a good cause still further by keeping them before the people and by insisting that the men to whom responsibility for their enactment was entrusted shall exercise every precaution to write them upon the statute books in such language that no court can overrule.

Norfolk Press: It is stated that the democratic members of the legislature are forming a combination to "put the republicans in a hole" during the coming session and if possible prevent the passage of any effective laws aimed to carry out republican platform pledges, the aim being to create campaign thunder for the next election. This may be good politics, but it isn't good citizenship. The moment a man is elected to an office he should cease to be a partisan and become a servant of all the people. The member of the legislature who aids in defeating wholesome legislation for mere partisan purposes becomes a servant of the corporations instead of the people. It is to be hoped the democratic members of the legislature will rise above the level of the partisan.

Premont Tribune: In his letter of timely advice to members of the legislature, State Chairman Rose didn't say anything about the employes of the house and senate, which is an important matter. There are at least one or two men looking toward the clerkship of the house, whose services might well be dispensed with. Old employes who have been handy men for the corporations in the past ought to be left out. They have positions, particularly that of the chief clerk, in which they can effectively hinder and delay the process of legislation. Bills can be shifted and all sorts of little tricks played that will thwart the ends of justice and legislation, and employes have not always been doing it. It is essential to have them in harmony with the progressive legislative program. Some of the old railroad strikers will be on hand ready to accept favors from the legislature, where they can the more effectively serve their corporation masters. The members should beware of them.

Alnsworth Star Journal: The victory is never won until the fruits are gathered in. There was a great battle within the republican party last year—in fact, it has been going on for many years in this state. The progressive element won out in the primaries and in the convention. Then came the great battle before the people, and there another signal victory was chronicled. But there is still another battle to fight

WE WISH to thank our friends and patrons for their generous patronage, and we wish you one and all a Merry Christmas. Browning, King & Co. R. S. WILCOX, Mgr. Closed All Day Christmas