

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROBEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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 number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of November, 1906, was as follows:

1. Total number of copies printed, 31,850

2. Total number of copies distributed, 21,850

3. Total number of copies not distributed, 10,000

4. Total number of copies of the Daily Bee, 21,850

5. Total number of copies of the Sunday Bee, 10,000

6. Total number of copies of the Evening Bee, 10,000

7. Total number of copies of the Morning Bee, 10,000

8. Total number of copies of the Saturday Bee, 10,000

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HOW CANDIDATES FOR SPEAKER STAND

Now that the speakership candidates have presumably all sided their castors into the ring the public as well as the members of the legislature are entitled to know just where each stands on the vital issues involved in the last election.

All of these candidates, with two exceptions, came out unequivocally for the platform pledges previous to the election and their signatures will be found attached to the platform synopsis printed in The Bee at the time. To the two who failed to respond to inquiries during the campaign, namely, Ed P. Brown of Lancaster and Adam McMullen of Gage, the editor of The Bee addressed the following letter:

During the recent campaign, with a view to strengthening public confidence in the republican party as the party of reform, I invited the various republican legislative candidates in the various districts through the state to plant themselves squarely on the pledges made in the state platform. You were among the few who failed to respond. Your candidacy for speaker now involves the same issues to an even greater degree than did your candidacy for the house. I wish to be perfectly fair with you, I inclose another copy of the statement previously sent and would be glad to hear from you as to your position on these very vital questions.

Replies to this request are now at hand from both of the candidates referred to. The one from E. P. Brown covers the ground thoroughly and is as follows:

LINCOLN, Dec. 26, 1906.—To the Editor of The Bee: Your letter has been received. In reply thereto I wish to say that prior to the recent election I have frequently declared my position with reference to the platform pledges of my party, not only in my own county, but elsewhere in the state. I have stood, and now stand, for such measures and such actions as will fully redeem all these pledges. I have publicly and over my signature in the press stated my belief that the instructions of the party platform are binding upon me as a representative and that I will vote to carry them out. This has been and is my position with reference to all the planks of the republican platform; not only those mentioned in your present letter, but also those to which your letter is allusive, namely, the election of the party's nominee for United States senator. I consider it of the first importance that these pledges should be redeemed—of more importance than the selection of any one man as speaker—and in whatever capacity I may act I shall endeavor to bring this about.

E. P. BROWN.

The answer from Adam McMullen is not as clear cut as it should be. To give him the benefit of his own language it is herewith reproduced:

WYOMING, Neb., Dec. 21, 1906.—To the Editor of The Bee: I am in receipt of your favor of the 18th inst., wherein you forward a synopsis of the republican state platform with an invitation to sign the same as a token of my belief in and support of the principle therein set forth. Once again I thank you for the copy which I received a similar communication. I did not sign as requested then, and do not care to sign now, for the reason that I refused to be pledged in connection with other matters presented to me and therefore could not ignore said refusals by signing in this instance and be fair to a party which, however, give a specific reason for not signing this synopsis. You may recall, because I conferred with you in relation thereto, that I introduced a direct primary measure that did not include the nomination of the state officers under that system. I did not believe such a sweeping law would bring the results desired. I do not believe so now. Yet the republican state platform provided for a primary law that covers "all state, county and district officers." Hence, if I had signed such synopsis I would be pledging my support to a policy I do not think will be the best. I may be mistaken in my position, but do not think so. In case I should be defeated for the speakership, I intend to introduce the same measure and contend for its enactment. Generally speaking, however, I stand squarely on the platform, and while I may hold a different opinion from others regarding the make-up of certain measures pledged to the people, yet I believe all of its pledges should be redeemed.

ADAM McMULLEN.

We believe the members of the legislature have a right to have this information about the candidates who are soliciting their support for speaker so that they may understand their attitude and the influences back of them.

NEW STOCK ISSUES IN MINNESOTA.

The action brought by the attorney general of Minnesota to enjoin the \$60,000,000 stock issue recently authorized by the Great Northern board of directors is an effort to enforce the state law requiring stock increases to be submitted to and approved by the State Railroad commission. The action does not necessarily imply that the purposes of this particular issue are wrongful or that it may not, indeed, be beneficial to the public, but the object of the law was to provide guarantees against the manifold abuses of watered stock.

Stock watering abuses under uncontrolled capital inflation go to the very root of an evil with which national and state authority must deal conclusively before long. Public attention has been for some time mainly concentrated upon the intolerable class of wrongs which grow out of unequal transportation charges, and it is justly believed that very marked advance has been made toward removing them. But the next great question, after unjust discrimination in rates, is as to their reasonableness, and this question is directly dependent on that of capitalization. It is notorious that jugglery and jobbing have inflated corporate capitalization enormously beyond real investment value, so that rates paying a customary percentage on outstanding stocks and bonds yield an extravagant and illegitimate percentage on the real investment. That this dangerous process which has been in operation since railroads began to be built should be arrested is being more and more generally realized.

The Minnesota law, though far from sufficiently drastic and specific, only requiring in a general way submission of the legitimacy of stock increases to the state railroad authorities for review, if observed by the carrier companies would provide at least some

check to gross abuse, but it has been recklessly defied up to this time. Like the proposed issues of many other companies, the present \$60,000,000 of Great Northern is to be offered to old stockholders at par pro rata, although the stock is selling in the market at more than double par. In Massachusetts and at least one or two other states any arrangement for issuing the stock for less than an approximation to market value in cash or its equivalent would be absolutely illegal. Yet the Great Northern plan, in addition to swelling the capitalization as a permanent basis for charges for service, is thus to be the means of distributing to subscribing stockholders virtually as an additional dividend the difference between the par and market values of the new stock.

The result in the Minnesota case, too, is to be regarded as a striking test of state authority. The Great Northern system penetrates a dozen great states, which would suffer equally in rates adjusted on a basis of excessive capitalization, but which are largely dependent for protection against such abuses upon the incorporating state alone, until the stronger and longer arm of national authority shall be effectively outstretched, as it is sure to be in the not distant future.

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POSTAGE AND TRANSPORTATION CHARGES.

The showing of excessive charges for transportation of the mails made by the representatives of the United Typothetae and American Weekly Publishers' association, while it may be regarded as a reply to Assistant Postmaster General Madden's recommendation of a 300 per cent increase of the postage rate on newspapers and periodicals, pertinently challenges public attention to a vital phase of postal reform to which Mr. Madden's report does not give the consideration it deserves. According to the estimates of Postmaster General Cortelyou, the total payments to the railroads during the present fiscal year will be \$46,825,993.89, and the rates are notoriously in excess of those required for like service from other patrons than the government. This situation, which has become chronic, should alone be enough to turn reform effort at the start in the direction of the compensation allowed by congress for carrying the mails by rail.

The publishers' organization alleges that on the basis of an elaborate statistical compilation the government is paying the railroads three times as much, on the average, for the transportation of mail matter as the express companies are paying for like services, so that the amount paid by the government this year will be over \$31,000,000 more than it should be, or several times the deficiency of the department revenue. Even if such allowances are made from the conclusion, the fact indisputably remains that the railroad overcharge for hauling mail is enormous. It is also demonstrable that the compensation is vastly greater than that which is made by the governments of other countries.

Equity and common sense require that before the postal revenue deficit problem is solved by abruptly raising postage on printed matter, which is so great a proportion of the mail transported by the railroads, the transportation charges shall be reduced to a reasonable basis.

Standard Oil Striving to Squeeze Through a Gnothole.

The inventor of the immunity bath, having been retained by the Standard Oil company to report on the government's prosecution of Chicago, has sprung another theory that makes the famous coup that discomfited General Moody seem almost trivial. This is no more or less than that the passage of the new rate bill amounted to a proclamation of amnesty for all offenses under the old Elkins act, which it repealed. It will be recalled that the new law was passed on June 25 and became effective at once, but that on the following day a joint resolution was passed postponing its operation until August 25. The new law repealed all conflicting laws, but provided that pending cases should not be prejudiced. Attorney Miller contends that the going into effect of the new law for the one day repealed the Elkins law and, while the suspension of the new law revived the Elkins act until August 25, it could not be retroactive in the Elkins act, which would be committed under the old law which was wiped out by the passage of the new. The Chicago indictments were returned under the revived Elkins law on August 7, the day before the new law became effective for the second time.

Should this contention be sustained it would affect most of the prosecutions now pending, embracing thousands of counts. The government's attorney, of course, takes issue with this amnesty theory, holding that the suspension of the new law revived the Elkins law in full force for the sixty days, and that when the new law again became effective the indictments were pending causes specifically continued. Further, he quoted the statute that unless congress specifically granted amnesty it could not be established.

The common sense view would declare the amnesty ridiculous, but with the prestige of inventing the immunity bath behind him Mr. Miller's novel theory may cause uneasiness. Until the court sustains him, however, there will be general belief that the new attempt will not repeat the success of his first, and that it will be a case of the pitcher going to the well once too often.

LATEST IMMUNITY BATH.

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HITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot.

Advance notice of a change in congressional temper on the matter of railroad pay for carrying United States mails are becoming notably frequent in Washington dispatches. Cynical scribes predict there will be something done after the first of the year. Officials, high and low, have resolved to refuse the customary free passes in favor, so that they can approach the question of the railroad long haul on the treasury with minds untouched by the silent influence of the postbag. Congressman Victor Murdock of Kansas is already investigating the subject for his own satisfaction. As a result of his inquiry, outlined by the Boston Transcript, the Kansas insists that the practices and methods now followed in fixing the present compensation of the railroads for carrying the mail should be changed. This he urges should occur before February 1 next, when under existing law the mails will be weighed in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri. The basis of most of the government's enormous outlay for carrying the mail, which amounts this year to \$45,000,000, is the average daily weight. Mr. Murdock not only finds fault with this system of pay, but he charges that the average daily weight, according to the present system, is a false average. "That the average is mathematically false I believe," he declared, "and an accountant would show that the government in the last ten years has paid something in the region of \$80,000,000 for the carriage of the mail more than it should have paid on a true average."

That North Dakota verdict finding that a "knocked out" prize fighter who never recovered consciousness died of pneumonia, is entitled to a place beside that North Carolina verdict finding that a negro who had been lynched, had committed suicide.

Value of a Jolly.

In connection with the pleasant things Japan's representative has to say about her meat-packing plants, one would infer that the Yankees in this respect have also become convinced that a jolly is worth all it costs you.

Peaceful Exclusionists.

Hicks, the miner who was entombed for fifteen days at Bakerfield, Cal., says there were some moments when he enjoyed his imprisonment. He was not bothered by book agents or insurance solicitors and it didn't cost him a cent for coal or groceries.

Messages Better Than Gossp.

Never mind, Mr. Roosevelt. Go on writing messages. The discussions caused by them are wholesome. The people of America ought to talk about their national affairs more than they do, and about murder, divorces and all sorts of dirt less than they do.

Imprints of Leadon Foot.

Millionaire land grabbers in the west have been convicted of conspiracy, a Pennsylvania receiver is asking permission to sue the Sugar Trust, the people of America are facing a sea of trouble, and trouble is looming darkly in the distance for coal. Truly, the leadon foot of justice is working overtime.

Doing the Canute Act.

Fanciful people will, of course, see a parallel between the case of King Canute ordering the tide to turn back and that of the president commanding the Colorado river to be kept within its banks. The comparison is inaccurate, however. Canute did not have an E. H. Harriman handy to carry out his orders. The modern instance is consequently not akin to the ancient tradition.

Cuba Must Pay the Piper.

The item of \$2,000,000 or thereabouts in the army budget on account of intervention in Cuba is to be commended to the consideration of Cuban patriots rather than to that of Americans. The country can easily afford to advance the money. But it will not be so easy for Cuba to repay it. Yet it is only just that it should do so. If it will dance it must expect to pay the piper.

Great Light for Tax Gatherers.

If the state of Minnesota carries out its reported purpose of assessing the Hill ore lands at the value claimed for them by Mr. Hill, the American capital is following the United States Steel corporation, the holders of the Great Northern ore certificates will have to modify their calculations of profit materially. Mr. Hill's minimum estimate of the value of the lands is \$60,000,000, while they have hitherto been assessed for taxation at only \$20,000,000. It is not only proposed by the Minnesota tax authorities to assess the lands at \$60,000,000 hereafter, but to sue for taxes on that valuation back, six years, which is the legal limitation. As the United States Steel corporation asserts no liability for taxation on excess of the \$20,000,000, the holders of the Great Northern ore certificates; and it will be no small loss, either.

PERFECTION Oil Heater (Equipped with Smokeless Device) Turn the wick as high or low as you can—there's no danger. Carry heater from room to room. All parts easily cleaned. Gives intense heat without smoke or smell because equipped with smokeless device. Made in two finishes—nickel and japan. Brass oil fountain beautifully embossed. Holds a quart of oil and burns 4 hours. Every heater warranted. If you cannot get heater or information from your dealer, write to nearest agency for descriptive circular.

THE Rayo Lamp cannot be equaled in its bright and steady light, simple construction and absolute safety. Equipped with latest improved burner. Made of brass throughout and nickel plated. An ornament to any room whether library, dining-room, parlor or bedroom. Every lamp warranted. Write to nearest agency if not at your dealer's. STANDARD OIL COMPANY

PERSONAL NOTES.

Under the new automobile language in Germany the emperor's chief chauffeur must motor through under the imposing title of "oberhofwagenfuhrer."

The business class of men to be found off the reservation just now are holders of railroad annuities. The task of wearing out the dainty morsels of cardboard before the new year ends their joy is wearisome, but they are bearing up bravely. After mid-night, December 31, they will be at home regularly.

Governor Harris of Ohio is the oldest chief executive of any state in the union, but is a very lively and potent integer in the politics of the Buckeye state. He is 71 years old and has the distinction of having twice been lieutenant governor before being elevated to his present position by the death of Governor Patterson.

Interesting comparisons are supplied by a clipping bureau regarding the deaths of prominent men. No other man in America had so much printed about his death in the newspapers as McKinley. Carl Schurz has received thus far 12,000 obituary notices, more than any other man since McKinley. John Hay and Joseph Jefferson had 10,000 each and Mark Hanna 8,000.

A "Carl Schurz memorial professorship" is to be established at the University of Wisconsin as a result of the movement recently started in Milwaukee by a number of prominent German-Americans. The plan is to raise an endowment of \$50,000, the income of which will be used for the establishment of an annual course of lectures to be given by prominent professors of German universities.

Hugh H