

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR. Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

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

Subscription in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of December, 1906. (Seal.) 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.

Since Mexico has reached the stage of frequent strikes, its material progress can no longer be denied.

Chairman Hull's prediction of greatly increased cost of maintaining the army should make peace conferences still more popular in the United States.

The charge that the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific were competing lines before the merger finds its chief support in the fact that they have been merged.

Great Britain's desire for assurances of international peace must mean that British taxpayers are beginning to consider the expense as well as the glory of Dreadnaughts.

There is danger that the alleged plot to murder army officers at Fort Reno may cause Senator Forsaker to wish he had dropped his resolution before he took it up.

It will be difficult to convince the old-time cowboy that Wyoming is not becoming effete since a man has been actually convicted of murder for killing a sheep herder.

Russian bureaucrats are still paying the extreme penalty for holding office, but so long as moths seek the flame men will find the favors of royalty compensation for the aftermath.

Mayor Dahman declares that for sixteen years he has never missed a chance to celebrate in honor of St. Jackson. He might have added that he never missed a chance to celebrate, no matter in whose honor.

Testimony at Washington that engineers have not always known where to expect block signals gives ground for the belief that the alleged "system" has been of more value as an advertising scheme than as an operating device.

The discovery by an expert that 2,694 errors were made in the records of the Wabash railroad in two months raises the suspicion that the expert got the books intended for public inspection in place of those on which dividends are based.

Senator Overman's defense of the system of employing children in factories can be easily understood when factory conditions in North Carolina are learned; but North Carolina has never been prominent in the movement or a "new south."

Douglas county has fared fairly well in the allotment of committee seats in Lincoln. If the legislature will do the right thing now by the bills in which this city and county are specially interested, the people here will have no right to complain.

Senator Burkett has made his debut as an author by putting forth a volume on the history of "The Congressional Cemetery." Senator Burkett should be careful about touching live wires unless he wants his next literary effort to revolve about "The Political Cemetery."

Governor Deneen of Illinois asks for an amendment to the banking laws of the state that will provide more adequate protection against fraud on depositors and creditors. If the laws are not changed he might see how a change in state bank examiners would affect the situation.

PAY FIRST—SUE AFTERWARDS.

The proposition fathered in the Nebraska legislature by Representative Lee to engrave in the law relating to revenue and taxation the doctrine of "Pay first—sue afterward," proceeds on the right track. Two of the big railroad corporations with large mileage extending through nearly every county in the state have for three successive years refused to pay their taxes and gone into court to enjoin their collection. The railroad tax shirkers want the privilege of cutting down the taxes levied on their property 20 to 30 per cent, while other people are compelled to pay what the authorities ask of them promptly and without discount, subject to all the penalties of delinquency.

It is true the railroads have gone into the federal courts as nonresident corporations with reference to all counties in which the amounts in dispute are over the \$2,000 necessary to give federal jurisdiction and that they have not had the nerve to go into the state courts in the counties in which the amounts in dispute are less than \$2,000. It is not conclusive, either, that any rule the state may lay down would be binding upon the federal courts now or in the future, but the practice of the federal judiciary has almost invariably been to follow the precedents set by state laws and state tests in such cases. If the railroads, and all other taxpayers for that matter, were barred from enjoining collection of their taxes and required to pay them in full before maintaining suit to test their validity, they would have trouble in getting any federal court to come to their relief on pretense that they were being deprived of their property without due process of law, while refusing to take advantage of the privilege offered them to recover back any money illegally exacted.

The "Pay first—sue afterward" rule has been proposed in Wisconsin and in California, both of which states have had more or less trouble collecting railroad taxes resisted by the roads on the same specious pretexs put forward in Nebraska. If our legislature will take action along this line it will probably set the pace for other states whenever similarly afflicted.

NO CHANCE FOR SUBSIDY.

It now seems certain that a subsidy for American steamships, which a few months ago promised to be one large measure of positive legislation to go on the statute book at this session, stands no chance of enactment. Two newly developed facts have so strengthened its opponents in congress as to all probability place the bill at their mercy in the short remaining time before adjournment. The more recently discerned fact is monopoly control by the Harriman combine over great steamship lines—both in the Atlantic and in the Pacific which would come in for a big share of the government aid on a tonnage subsidy basis, which was the basis originally proposed. Such disclosures of the investigation now in progress, it is entirely credible, tend to alienate many who might have supported a broad subsidy policy.

Furthermore, it had just previously been established that the number of steamships between ports of the United States and South America is more nearly adequate than had generally been supposed and that the number is likely to increase as the freight increases. But the proposition to substitute for a tonnage subsidy the plan of a bonus for mail carrying service, with a view to more intimate communication with the southern countries, at once offended the strongest positive force in favor of subsidies, the same being the ship building and allied interests, which would prefer no measure at all.

At best, it would have required united support, reinforced by the strongest administration pressure, to secure enactment of a moderate ship subsidy measure at this session, but the progress of events has been such as to discourage rather than promote success, in all probability postponing the whole subject to the indefinite future.

FREE PASS AND PASSENGER FARE.

It is noteworthy with what alacrity the two closely related measures for abolition of free passes and reduction of passenger fare are introduced and pressed as fast as the various state legislatures convene, precedence being given to them in almost every instance. It is true that bills of this character have been introduced at many sessions heretofore, but usually in a perfunctory way and with no serious expectation of enactment.

The state legislatures, now sitting, almost without exception, face a public of an entirely different frame of mind as to these and kindred subjects, to whom also their members for the most part are under the obligations of explicit covenant. Congress has led the way by summary inhibition of free pass discriminations so far as interstate travel is concerned, and several states have already struck down the abuse within their jurisdictions. But aside from the political corruption and demoralization, which alone call loudly for universal abolition of free transportation, the public is obviously entitled also to the resultant economy in the shape of lower passenger fares.

There can be no doubt that as to the greater portion of the country the 2-cent-per-mile maximum, with no free passes, is a highly compensatory passenger rate. Indeed, that approximate standard is already in force through competition in an extensive region in the east. No reason has yet been shown why the roads, if relieved

of the immense burden of deadhead-ism, may not carry passengers under a 2-cent limit at an even greater net profit than heretofore in the two tiers of states west of the Mississippi river as well as in those east of it.

BURKETT'S GRAZING LAND BILL.

Senator Burkett is proposing a bill (apparently with the acquiescence of the president) to relieve the strained conditions in the grazing land country, which will doubtless command the early attention of congress. As outlined in the dispatches, the Burkett bill provides for classification into grazing districts of such parts of the public domain as are not suitable for cultivation or for irrigation, or for forest reserves or other special purposes, and the use of this land for the grazing of cattle on such terms as the secretary of agriculture shall prescribe. The intention of the bill evidently is to open up the public lands to pasturage of animals upon payment of a fixed price per head and without discrimination between the big cattle barons and the little cattlemen.

Presumably nothing is to be done to prevent bona fide settlers taking up land under the homestead law, even though included within the grazing districts. If not, this should be stipulated in the bill, because while ready to promote the live stock industry in every reasonable way, the people of the west do not want anything done to shut out desirable immigration.

One weak spot in the bill on which a difference of opinion may be expected is its retention of the land titles indefinitely in the government. No improvements, except of the most temporary character, will ever be made upon the public domain, and so long as no patent is taken out no taxes will ever be paid on it to the state government.

Richest Nation on Earth.

Ten years ago our yearly production of coal was 170,000,000 tons, and we thought it a heap. Last year we mined 400,000,000 tons. In 1896 we produced 8,600,000 tons of pig iron. Last year we produced 25,000,000 tons. Our copper output of ten years ago was 240,000,000 pounds. It is now 800,000,000 pounds. In 1896 we dragged from the bowels of the earth minerals and mineral substances worth about \$25,000,000. The value of our mineral product in 1906 approximates \$2,000,000,000.

DEMAND FOR WORKERS.

Never before in time of peace has there been so much of a demand for men as now. Men are wanted in the steel mills, in the factories, on the railroads, in the army and the navy, in the Postoffice department and almost everywhere else where work has to be done. Last year there were 230 resignations out of two classes of clerks numbering 20,000 in the Postoffice department. A loss of 12.5 per cent a year shows how rapidly the skilled and seasoned members of the force are being replaced by raw recruits. It is no wonder that we are the richest nation on earth. Yet in spite of it and there is something left to hope for and there may be something left to fear.

RIGHT SPIRIT TOWARDS JAPANESE.

Governor Pardee's temperate and dignified discussion of the school question in his message to the California legislature is in striking contrast with too many expressions emanating from the Pacific coast concerning the Japanese and Chinese. While he believes in the policy of the California segregation statute he advocates it in a spirit that affords basis for rational settlement of relations both with Japan and China. It is, indeed, not so much school segregation alone that has aroused popular feeling in Japan as it is the insults and injuries inflicted on Japanese as such, particularly in many cases in San Francisco. That these outrages have been committed by the vicious and irresponsible the governor admits, and he does not spare denunciation of them. His firm stand in this respect ought to help materially to establish a more wholesome Pacific coast sentiment.

Insofar as Japanese are lawfully in the country with rights guaranteed by treaty, it goes without saying that state and local government must see not only that those rights are realized, but also that the orientals are otherwise treated with humane decency, without regard to technical halfrapidity concerning the national and state jurisdictions. And if this be done, there will be no insuperable obstacle in the way of any reasonable school or other regulation which local conditions may require.

The new organization of the county board promises a continuance of the business-like administration inaugurated when the management of county affairs was restored to republican control two years ago. All the members of the board are henceforth to be members of every committee, a move quite feasible where the number is so small and conducive to keeping the whole board in touch with every part of the work. The effect of the new deal ought to be seen in a material reduction of the county tax rate for the next year.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Hipples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. One of the New York insurance companies which gave a painful exhibition of financial legerdemain and extravagance before the insurance investigation committee a little over a year ago, now proposes to rear the loftiest skyscraper on earth and go so high into the air that future inquirers must climb to reach it. The company occupies a marble block fronting Madison square, between Madison and Fourth avenues and Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth streets, which a tower of fifty stories will be added. This tower will be the greatest structure of the kind in the world, and it is to rise five stories higher than the Empire State building, now in process of construction downtown.

In the report that F. T. Cummings, commissioner of labor of New York state, makes in winding up the year he says that kneading dough with the feet is still in vogue in some of the Italian bakeries in New York City, and that the sweatshops are "veritable hotbeds of disease."

"Our inspectors have assayed to stop the kneading of dough with the feet, but have not been sustained; there is nothing positively illegal or necessarily unsanitary in the practice." The subject of bakeries is a sore point in this department. The worst bakeries in the old cellar shops in New York City. Yet a clause in our bakery law, as in force last year, apparently excepted cellar bakeries in existence when it was enacted (1865) from all sanitary provisions.

One of the guests prominently in evidence at the Jacksonian feast was M. F. Harrington, president of the recently organized Public Ownership of Railroads league. Either the invitation to Harry Brome as vice president of the league miscarried or he neglected to send the usual letter of regrets.

Rare Self-Sacrifice.

Mr. Rockefeller's recent gift to Chicago University represents abstention from at least 75,000,000 oysters.

A Real Mystery.

It is simply astonishing how a man like Mr. Hartman can find time for an operation. This is perhaps another of his secrets.

Omaha's Domestic Adjustments.

The record of domestic adjustments and readjustments for eleven months of last year at Omaha was 154 marriages, 46 divorces and 484 divorce applications. This is a world of changes.

Scraping Experts Get Busy.

Tribes in the Indian Territory are to be formed into companies to control the coal and asphalt lands in the territory. If there is any scraping done in the subsequent business transactions of the companies it will be of the good, old-fashioned sort.

Supply Unequal to the Demand in Many Lines.

Men are wanted in the steel mills, in the factories, on the railroads, in the army and the navy, in the Postoffice department and almost everywhere else where work has to be done. Last year there were 230 resignations out of two classes of clerks numbering 20,000 in the Postoffice department. A loss of 12.5 per cent a year shows how rapidly the skilled and seasoned members of the force are being replaced by raw recruits.

PERSONAL NOTES.

One of the beauties of thrift has been illustrated in the case of a New York manufacturer, who, by living on 35 cents a day, managed to leave loving relatives \$300,000 over to fight. Commander Peary is a good deal of a hustler and knows something of the strenuous life in ice fields, but his experiences in the north are nothing to what he is having now, since he is under contract to get the story of his trip in shape for publication on March 1.

Arthur Chamberlain, the oldest brother of the great politician, is very unlike his brother in many ways. If asked how he is opposed to him in politics; also that he does not wear an eyeglass. Seeing, however, that a Chamberlain would not be of a Chamberlain without some mannerism, he invariably wears the pinkiest of pink neck-ties.

President Roosevelt has offered the position of commissioner of the general land office to Philip B. Stewart, who was the president's companion on his last hunt in the Colorado mountains. He is a prominent republican of Colorado and last year was nominated for governor by his party, but declined to run. He is a capitalist and a son of former Representative Stewart of Vermont.

Until a few weeks ago if anyone congratulated Secretary Taft on his presidential prospects the big Ohio man would listen with a laugh and then say: "I must put you in my way. D. P. E.?" If asked what the suballusive letters meant, Mr. Taft would reply that they stood for "dear fool friends," with such an accent on the "dear" as to convey the idea that a more forcible word might be substituted.

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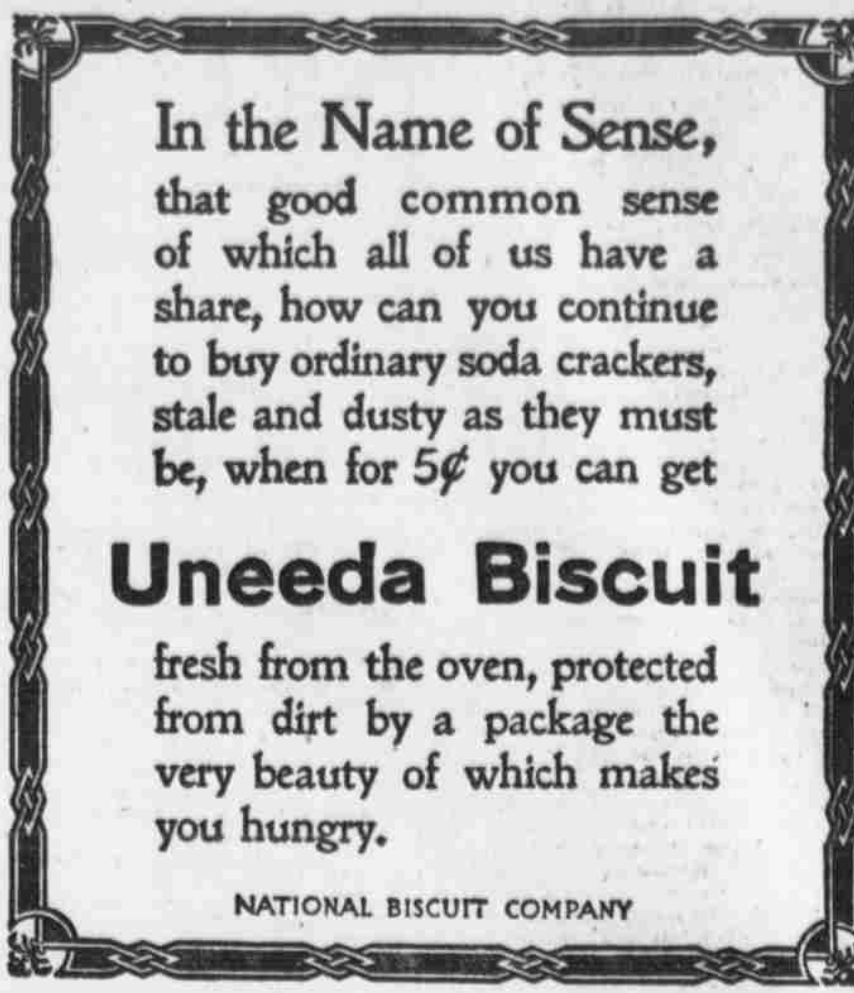
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In the Name of Sense, that good common sense of which all of us have a share, how can you continue to buy ordinary soda crackers, stale and dusty as they must be, when for 5¢ you can get Uneda Biscuit fresh from the oven, protected from dirt by a package the very beauty of which makes you hungry. NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

PARDON OF MRS. LILLIE.

ASHLAND GAZETTE: The last official act of Governor Mickey was the issuance of a full and unconditional pardon to Mrs. Lillie. We are sure that a large majority of the people of Nebraska will approve this decision. Columbus Telegram: The pardon of Mrs. Lillie will be approved by nine out of ten people in the state, and yet there has never been offered a shadow of argument or of fact to break the perfect and convincing chain of circumstantial evidence which compelled that jury to find the woman guilty.

Fremont Herald: As to the justice of the pardon granted Lena Margaret Lillie, tried and found guilty for the murder of her husband, Harvey Lillie, there will always be a difference of opinion throughout the state. Mrs. Lillie's sex, of course, saved her. Rather, the fact that she was a woman kept public sympathy to the point that the retiring governor knew he would be more or less sustained. Had a man who committed the same deed been convicted he would have died in the pen, in all probability.

Hastings Tribune: The unconditional pardon which Governor Mickey granted to Mrs. Lena Lillie, who has served two years of a life sentence in the Nebraska penitentiary for the alleged murder of her husband, Harvey Lillie, carries with it the freedom for which the defendant has prayed, but it does not carry with it the power of proving her innocence. There is no doubt that the Lillie pardon would have carried more weight and would have been better received by the public had not Governor Mickey abused the pardoning power.

Lincoln News: The general indignation felt over the pardon of Mrs. Lillie by the retiring governor is justified. It is plain even from Mr. Mickey's own statement that he was moved by maudlin sentimentality rather than by any belief in her innocence. He says: "I am clearly led to the conclusion that there is very grave and serious doubt of her guilt." If he had grave and serious doubts of her guilt he also had every serious doubt of her innocence.

Grand Independent: The last official act of Governor J. H. Mickey was the granting of an unconditional pardon to Mrs. Lena Margaret Lillie. The history of the case is too well known to require review. Her conviction on the charge of the murder of her husband was purely upon circumstantial evidence. The mother of the murdered man has always been firmly convinced of the woman's innocence. No sufficiently strong motive has ever been proven. The woman has, since her incarceration in the penitentiary, kept the picture of her dead husband before her and almost constantly wept. Murders do not want pictures of their victims before them as a usual thing. Certainly, if Mrs. Lillie shot and killed her husband, she is a psychological enigma. Under all of the circumstances the exercise of the pardon in this case is one of the strongest points in its favor.

David City Banner: At 12 o'clock today, January 3, John H. Mickey retired from office. His last official act, at the same hour of his retirement, was to give an unconditional pardon to Mrs. Lena Margaret Lillie, who was convicted on March 3, 1904, for the murder of her husband on the morning of October 22, 1902. Whether or not we believe that Mrs. Lillie was guilty of the cold-blooded crime for which she was convicted, it must be admitted that she was given a fair and impartial trial, that the court and the jury which convicted and sentenced her had the best opportunity afforded of finding out all the facts and circumstances connected with the murder, and that she was the most competent to judge in the case. In face of all these facts, and the further fact that Governor Mickey has, on various occasions, expressed himself in unmistakable terms, and less than two days before expressed himself to the editor of

ALMOST SAFE.

Pittsburg Gazette: How down, ye people, and submit (into the law's sacred tow) that none shall die in prison unjust. For mortals to consume. No more can ye endure The sale of edibles impure. Hence those that thus offend for auro Will meet an awful doom. The enterprising candy man, Whose wares are underneath a ban, Must dump 'em in the garbage can. Without an hour's delay, Those sweeties and candy children gleam, Resplendent in their glowing coat, Of paint, have not a chance remote Of further holding sway.

The little folks will vainly weep For sugar plums at prices cheap. They'll have to stand a tariff steep Because the law denies. The right to asp and underline The public health with those malign Adulterations saccharine. Of that infant's most do prize, Like wise the wicked druggist who Is known for gain to mix or brew Debased concoctions must eschew Such arts and money's end appeal On every package what's within, The use of subterfuge thin Will constitute a deadly sin Which he must expiate.

Wherefore, rejoice, good people all, Since food that's pure has now the call. No thought of poison need appal. Soils mild and discreet. Without a tremor ye may haunt The food shop and the candy plant, Henceforth "what more could mortals want" 'Tis almost safe to eat.

BABIES need Scott's Emulsion if they are not thriving. It is food for bone, peevish babies plump, contented and rosy-faced. Pale, nervous girls need Scott's Emulsion. It brings back the color to their cheeks and strength to their nerves. Nursing mothers must provide nourishment for two. The concentrated nourishment of Scott's Emulsion gives strength to both mother and infant. Invaluable for coughs and colds. ALL DRUGGISTS, 50c. AND \$1.00.