

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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STAMPED BY 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:

Table with 3 columns: Number, Copies, Total. Rows 1-16 showing circulation figures for various days and totals.

Net total, 973,148; Daily average, 31,391.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 27th day of December, 1906.

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

The king of Spain has a new ministry whose names are familiar to all smokers of imported cigars.

Everything in Kingston, even Governor Swettenham's conceit, seems to have been shaken by the earthquake.

It is about a tie between Secretary Root and Secretary Shaw as to which is the most traveled member of the cabinet.

The Kansas legislature has passed a bill restricting circus and theatrical performances. Those Kansans must be jealous of competition.

Secretary Shaw says he sees no reason to call on the banks for money. The secretary apparently persists in being different from other men.

Benjamin Ryan Tillman is not the only United States senator from South Carolina, even if you cannot recall the name of the other one, off-hand.

California produced 86,547 short tons of coal last year and the chances are that the retail dealer there delivered the same kind of tons to his patrons.

A fight to the death is being made against a continuance of the charter of the parent company of the Great Northern, the purpose being to leave Mr. Hill's merger an orphan.

Metal merchants are appealing to Secretary Bonaparte to prevent the formation of a new copper trust. Tom Lawson will naturally feel hurt that the appeal is not made to him.

A Massachusetts man claims to have discovered that pea soup is the elixir of life. Kansans will probably continue to pin their faith to the beer that is sold in their state in plug form, like tobacco.

It is not exactly clear whether John F. Stevens' decision to remain at the head of the Panama canal enterprise is due to his loyalty or to the failure of some New York corporation to offer him more money.

Senator Tillman has been unanimously re-elected. This must be a real disappointment to Senator Jeff Davis of Arkansas, who has given hints of an ambition to be the leading trouble maker of the senate after March 4.

The wife of Senator T. C. Platt has filed suits against two Washington newspapers to recover damages aggregating \$500,000 for alleged libelous defamation of character. Here is a chance for Omaha to get a little more free advertising through another eruption of Mae C. Wood.

Our old friend, Mary Elizabeth Lease, is trying to resurrect her former popularity by blossoming out as a champion of woman's suffrage. Mrs. Lease is not sure which she wants worse—William Jennings Bryan in the presidential chair or a ticket of admission for herself to a voting booth.

It is rumored Governor Swettenham of Jamaica would like to be let down easy by being transferred to some other position. It would hardly be safe for him, however, to submit the selection of his next position to popular vote either in Jamaica or in the United States, or in his own native land of Great Britain.

THE MINNESOTA OUSTER CASE

The issues raised by the suit in Minnesota to void the charter under which the Great Northern and its sub-corporations are operating concern the tap-root questions of railroad control. The ostensible occasion is taxation in Minnesota, where, as in other states, the roads have fought tooth and nail and successfully to avoid paying their fair share of the public burden.

The case is a typical one, for the original corporation, chartered with the usual powers for conducting transportation, has long since ceased to do so directly, and become an agency merely for holding stocks of other railroad companies or a convenience for manipulating them.

Even had there been no stock watering and every dollar of the new issues had verily been honestly invested in beneficial ways, the paramount fact still remains that the law prescribed how the stock should be legally authorized. That law was for the needed protection of the public to prevent extension of rates on a fictitious and fraudulent basis of capitalization.

The Minnesota case is more noteworthy at this time because it marks a practical approach to settlement of the crucial question of valuation of transportation property as one of the great factors in determining rates. The achievements accomplished by the movement for public control are indeed to be considered in a broad view as only leading up to that question.

But every advance in state or national jurisdiction towards subjecting the corporations to obedience to law is thus a gain and a preparation for the settlement of the conclusive issue, which is already in sight, of the true valuation of the carrier properties as a basis of transportation charges as well as of taxation.

ALCOHOL ON THE FARM

It was well understood that the measure passed at the last session of congress exempting denatured alcohol from the internal revenue tax only broke the ice and that further legislation would be required. The law was a notable step in advance, but the proposal already agreed upon by the house ways and means committee promises another step almost as important by providing for distillation on the farm or at the small local plant.

Under the present law the denatured alcohol must be produced under the same conditions as distilled beverage spirits, so that manufacture is practically confined to the large distilleries and subject to the expense of the required distillery warehouse and bonded denaturing warehouse. As a further serious difficulty, a vast amount of farm material, rich in alcohol, cannot be utilized at all when manufacture is thus restricted.

The whole matter was studied by the Treasury department commission, which had to prepare regulations under the new law, and its report last fall acknowledged the necessity of extending the system by the same methods which in Germany have enabled thousands of farmers and small distillers to manufacture alcohol at minimum cost for their own use or for sale in the neighborhood.

But the brief experience under the new law, imperfect as it is admitted to be, demonstrates the almost limitless possibilities of alcohol when cheapened for practical use, although the oversanguine hopes of immediate results have not been realized. Two facts among many that might be cited bring out this point very forcibly.

The amendment proposes still

further to popularize and cheapen manufacture by bringing it directly home to farmers who in the aggregate should not only be the largest consumers of the finished product, but have at their disposal an unlimited supply of the raw materials.

CHILD LABOR AND LEGISLATION

At this time, when the movement to restrict the employment of children in industrial undertakings is well under way, the federal census bureau has published a report full of valuable data upon this subject.

The census bureau statistics show that in 1906 there were 1,750,178 children in the United States between the ages of 10 and 15 years employed in breadwinning pursuits. Of these 72 per cent were boys and 28 per cent girls. While this total seems large, even in a population of approximately 80,000,000, the apparent danger is materially lessened by the exhibit that 1,054,446 of these juvenile breadwinners are employed on the farms of the nation, doing the milking, gardening and other chores that naturally fall to the lot of the farmers' children.

The conditions under which children are employed in the cotton mills and factories of New England and the south and in some of the coal mines of Pennsylvania are undoubtedly deplorable, and it is on this account that the agitation for child labor legislation throughout the country is generally supported.

In dealing with the child labor question the distinction must be drawn between "gainful" and "harmful" occupations. No one will contend that the farmer's children are injured by their share of the daily work of the home or that the town or city boy who finds morning, evening and vacation day employment of honorable character and thus early learns the duties and pleasures of being a breadwinner is necessarily hurt in character or usefulness.

SHALL MEN WEAR BLOOMERS?

Compliance with the edicts of the Custom Tailors' association, now in annual convention in Chicago, will make the chic masculine who follows the 1907 fashions as much a thing of beauty, so far as apparel is concerned, as the members of the senior class of a female seminary at the June commencement time.

According to official advices, the movement is nothing short of revolutionary. The "peg top" trousers must go and in their place the up-to-date man will wear a garment that will give him the appearance of a dirigible balloon all inflated for the trial trip.

It is unfortunately too early to predict the extent to which the ukase of the tailors will be accepted and followed by male devotees of freak fashions, but the chances are that the New York and Newport contingents will promptly salama to the decree of the scissor experts.

According to an interview of Mr. Shonts, Panama is now a healthy place, where he would feel just as

compelling a rigid enforcement of the law against gun toting.

THE SLOCUMB LAW

The biennial frenzy to modify the Slocumb law regulating the sale of liquor in Nebraska seems to be setting a new high water mark at Lincoln. Those who make these periodic assaults upon this statute, to make either its provisions more stringent or less onerous on the liquor dealers, overlook the fact that the Slocumb law was enacted more than twenty-five years ago and has remained practically unchanged ever since.

What is more to the point, the Slocumb law establishes complete local option in Nebraska. It makes it impossible to thrust the liquor traffic upon any community in this state whose people by a majority vote have declared against it.

The Slocumb law, moreover, furnishes ample safeguards against illicit liquor traffic and severe penalties for liquor dealers who fail to live up to its requirements. It has not only stood the test of time and of experience in Nebraska, but it has formed the groundwork of similar legislation in several other states.

THE SHIPPERS' VIEW OF COMPETITION

The testimony which shippers are piling up before the Interstate Commerce commission since the resumption of inquiry into the Harriman merger bluntly contradicts the specious theory advanced by the big merger men that consolidation of competing roads does not impair competition between them.

No doubt the ambition, the activity and the ability of agents and employees of a merged system vary, but this is not competition in the genuine sense. The very ground is cut from under that defense by the mere fact that single ownership has been substituted for diversely interested ownership.

WOULD MORE PAY STOP DESERTIONS?

In urging the passage of a bill, now pending in congress, for increased pay for the officers and enlisted men of the army, advocates of the measure are using the argument that such legislation would lessen the number of desertions, which last year reached a total of 7 per cent of the enlisted men.

They Need a Surgical Operation

Some of the officials in Washington seem to belong to that class of people who take pride in the fact that they do not believe anything they see in the newspapers. Consequently, they always come limping in at the tail end of the procession, and, like Signor Benedict, while they keep on talking nobody heeds them.

Is It Worth the Money?

In the separation agreed upon between the Marlboroughs it is stipulated that in consideration of the payment of a yearly stipend of \$50,000 the duchess retains a kind of quit rent right to the title and permission to wear the ducal jewels.

A Day of Triumph

January 11 will shine in the annals of Button day. Every person of good will fastened to his coat or her shirt-waist a button with the strange device, "Des Moines Does Things."

According to an interview of Mr. Shonts, Panama is now a healthy place, where he would feel just as

safe from disease as in Texas. It is to be noted, however, that Mr. Shonts prefers to live in New York, and that even during his official connection with the canal commission he never made but three or four visits of a few days at a time to the canal zone.

New York has passed a law making local application of the national pure food law, so far as it relates to drugs, the purpose being to prevent manufacturers from unloading upon New York patrons the drugs that could not be sent into other states under the inspection provisions affecting interstate commerce.

The resolution introduced into congress making pertinent inquiry why so many naval officers should be actively engaged in promoting legislation at the national capital instead of attending to business at their posts of duty suggests similar inquiries by some of our state legislatures with respect to officers of state institutions constantly besieging them for larger appropriations.

The schedule of property of the estate of the late Marshall Field, made public last week, discloses generous holdings in high sounding mining stocks listed at nominal values. If as shrewd a business man as Marshall Field will load up with mining stock chronos, less experienced victims have at least a shadow of excuse.

The reference made by Ellen Terry to the "civilized parts of the United States" would strike nearer the bull's eye if she were not booked to spend so much time in New York City, where the populace divides its time in the search for amusement between Caruso and Harry Thaw.

Democratic senators at Washington are said to be far from pleased at the return of Bailey from Texas to their midst. Men who insist on membership in the United States senate should reconcile themselves to the fact that they are not always able to pick their company.

Governor Sheldon has been in office now for more than three weeks, but has made only three appointments. He will have to move faster than that or all the sod in the front yard of the executive mansion will be worn out by the trampling.

Representative Hearst is being censured because he has appeared in his seat in congress but once in many months. Yet, if he is approximately as bad as he is painted, he may be doing his constituents the best service by keeping away.

"The house is now the greatest conservative legislative body of the country," says Speaker Cannon, and those who may question the assertion will be asked to read the reports of the senate proceedings for proof.

A Fair Exchange

If congressmen and senators will sign a bond not to lecture and write for the magazines, the country will consider the raise in salary a fine investment.

Pipe Dream Partnership

Mr. Carnegie's phrase, "the people, my partners," sounds well, but the idea prevails somewhat extensively that the partnership in which the little fishes in the financial pool have a very small chance at the loaves.

A Trade War Too Costly

Germany's exports to the United States increased nearly \$2,000,000 in value in the calendar year 1906. That fact alone should make a "trade war" with this country an absurdity from the German as well as the American point of view.

Everything Works for the Promoter

Further evidence that we are fast harnessing forces of nature comes with the report that the Hawaiians are making their active volcano work for forcing flowing lava to build a breakwater. After taming the earthquake we may invent a real usefulness for that busy element.

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DIAMONDS WIN HEARTS. A DIAMOND FOR A VALENTINE. The most pleasing valentine you can give is a DIAMOND. Take advantage of my liberal credit system. \$50.00, \$25.00, \$75.00, \$2.00 a Week, \$1.00 a Week, \$2.50 a Week. A. MANDELBERG, 1522 Farnam Street. OMAHA'S GIFT SHOP.

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT

Washington Post: A St. Louis preacher says the curse of the drummers is profanity, and that most of them go swearing from one end of the country to the other. Perhaps if he had a dog or two kicked on him every day, he would contract the habit, too.

Philadelphia Record: The clergy and the teachers of ethics have an almost hopeless task. Just as they seem to have elevated the moral standards of the community something comes along and undoes all they have accomplished. The Thaw trial has just opened in New York.

Baltimore American: A minister in Massachusetts has started a reform of the most realistic kind. Rather than have church fairs held to raise funds for the increase of his salary, he has gone to work on week days in a foundry. He probably is the first man with bravery enough to take an active stand against the time-honored establishment of church fairs, and many of his sex will secretly hail it as a badge of the heroic type.

Boston Transcript: In a series of revival services in a western church one of the star performers is that of a whistling chorus of sixty boys from the Sunday school who can whistle gospel tunes "to beat the band," and some people are shocked at this lack of regard for things and themes religious.

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PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE

The real test of the pure food law will come when the inspectors start to label railroad station sandwiches.

Perhaps that British governor can understand a joke, but to most people his talent in that respect will have to be shown.

Biographies of newly-elected senators convey the impression that the first step on the road to success is to be born barefooted.

The social season in New York will not be as brilliant as anticipated, owing to the limited number of ticket holders to the Thaw trial.

When the merry monarch of Jamaica bumps against the official boot his impressions of the contact will contribute to the galaxy of nations.

By the time the insurance ballot counters get through with their \$5 a day job, it is doubtful if the policyholders will know which ticket they voted.

With a total of 8,862 indictments on hand, Mr. Rockefeller can afford to decorate his den with the most unique assortment of legal souvenirs on record.

It cost the state \$40,000 and the defense \$200 to reach a hung jury in the Shea case in Chicago. Mr. Shea's supporters rejoiced much over the outcome until the bill was presented. Then mirk took wings and a hasty adjournment was had.

The mutual aggregation of Carnegie and his officials in Washington seem to belong to that class of people who take pride in the fact that they do not believe anything they see in the newspapers.

You Can't Buy a Better Piano Than the Kimball

You Can't Buy a Better Piano Than the Kimball at \$35.50. The Kimball Piano represents wonderful skill, experience and care in piano making. Many good judges believe it to be as good as any piano made. Of course, any one might say the same thing about any piano. It's so easy to make high claims and descriptions read so much alike that the best (?) piano is often found on paper only. But we want you to judge the Kimball Piano, not by what we say, but by the piano itself—the 1906-07 Kimball, put them to any test or to any examination you please. Let the most experienced expert critics examine them for you. Compare them in appearance, in tone, in action, with any piano you know of; that's the only way to know the merits of the Kimball. And that's the way we want the Kimball judged. We know what a fine piano the Kimball is, and there are 160,000 bona fide satisfied buyers of the Kimball, and they will attest to what we say. We sell a new Kimball at \$355. You certainly want to see the new Kimball before spending money for a piano. It will be to your interest to do so. The Kimball is sold on terms as low as \$10 cash and \$10 monthly. Come in and talk it over. A. HOSPE CO., 1513 Douglas St.