

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: Charles C. Rosewater, general manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being sworn, says that the number of full and complete copies of the Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of February, 1907, was as follows:

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

Wall street reports a very poor outlook for the spring lamb crop.

"How can I get a man's salary?" asks a woman teacher. Marry him.

The czar of Russia says he is satisfied with the new Douma, but the Douma is far from being satisfied with the czar.

Champ Clark predicts that Roosevelt will run again and be defeated. Champ also predicted the election of Alton B. Parker.

The Steel trust profits for the year aggregated \$115,000,000. The Steel trust is getting a little large for the infant industry class.

"Judge Carnes left for home this evening, guarded by the militia," says a Virginia dispatch. The "unwritten law" is supreme in Virginia.

Senator Spooner denies the report that he has been gobbled up by Mr. Harriman. The senator must feel as lonesome as some railroads.

"Combination really benefits the public," says Mr. Harriman. The public is convinced, since it has been combining against railroad extortion.

Former Senator Blackburn of Kentucky has been appointed a Panama canal commissioner. It is hoped that he is a better ditch digger than he is a fence builder.

The charge of culpable negligence made against Senator Depew by a New York court is based on his railroad connection and not for his refusal to resign from the senate.

If a United States marshal swore to padded expense accounts like those sworn to by Sheriff McDonald, his official head would come off before he could say "Jack Robinson."

That plan to quarantine Speaker Cannon at Colon is foredoomed to failure. The speaker may simply refuse to recognize the quarantine or may order it laid on the table.

If Senator La Follette's statement that the democratic party is on trial for its life is true, a mistake is being made. The men who killed the democratic party ought to be on trial.

It looks as if first prof of Mr. Harriman's desire to co-operate with the government and secure favor with the public would take the form of defiance to the Nebraska 2-cent fare law.

The hot fight for places on the South Omaha school board would indicate either a patriotic desire to serve the public or an idea that a job without salary may still be turned to personal profit.

Washington advises show that the president has made no plans for the summer except to arrange for opening a correspondence school for the instruction of railway presidents in transportation laws.

The terminal tax bill is a special order for consideration in the lower house of the Nebraska legislature this week. There will be a great convocation of railroad lobbyists and sympathizers at Lincoln for the occasion.

The South Dakota legislature has passed a bill extending the required period of residence in divorce proceedings to one year. The honesty of the residence is more important than the length of it, in Dakota or elsewhere.

THE TERMINAL TAX PLEDGE.

The republican state platform of 1906, upon which the present state officers and all the republican members of the legislature were elected, contains, among others, the following plank:

While we believe that the present method of assessing railroad property in cities and villages, and distributing taxes therefrom through the various counties, is just and fair insofar as it relates to county, state and school taxes, we demand that the revenue law be so amended that the railroad property within cities and villages shall also be assessed and taxed the same as other property for city and village purposes.

This platform pledge is not only specific, but was subscribed to in writing by nearly all the legislative candidates and thus became one of the inducements to their election. More than this, through the stupidity of the democratic state chairman endeavoring to enlist railroad support for the fusion candidates, this particular pledge was made an issue and was in fact emphasized more than any other one plank in the platform.

If the terminal tax pledge means anything, it means that without changing the existing law as to the assessment and taxation of railroad property for state, county and school district purposes, a law is to be passed to enable cities and villages to levy and collect municipal taxes upon railroad property within their corporate limits on the same basis of value as levied and collected upon other property within their jurisdiction.

The justice of this proposition is not gained even by the most ardent of the paid railroad lobbyists. They admit that the railroads are shirking their city taxes. Besides attempting to stir up prejudice as between Omaha and the rest of the state, their only plea in defense is that to authorize terminal taxation would tend to disturb the distribution plan of assessment for state, county and school district purposes.

The whole case in a nutshell is simply this: The railroads have up to this time escaped practically all city taxes and naturally want to perpetuate such a valuable privilege of tax evasion. If they can do this, what they save will have to be paid by the other taxpayers in the respective cities and villages. The railroad lobbyists are hired to protect the railroad pocketbook. If they can defeat terminal taxation they will be entitled to ask for increased salaries, while the law-makers who play into their hands will be left to look out for themselves.

The terminal tax pledge, more than any other pledge in the platform, involves the question of railroad domination. When the railroads are compelled to pay taxes like other people, to exact only reasonable charges from patrons without discrimination, and to provide proper facilities for transporting passengers and freight, they may be less active in politics, but so long as they have special privileges and tax exemptions to protect, they will try to nominate candidates and manipulate politics to hold their advantage.

PERKINS RESTITUTION. The whole question of the right of corporations to make contributions to political campaign funds seems to have been reopened by the action of George W. Perkins, a partner of J. P. Morgan and a former official of the New York Life Insurance company, in returning to that company the money which he subscribed to the campaign fund of the republican party in 1904.

STANDARD OIL IN COURT. Since the government entered upon its campaign of trust busting several years ago, the Standard Oil company, generally recognized as the king bee of the trusts, has been remarkably successful in evading a contest in the courts in which the issues were clearly drawn between the government and the companies.

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON. Current Events Gleaned from the Army and Navy Register. The War department will adopt a general policy of furnishing troops when practicable to celebrations of a purely patriotic nature or to commemorative important historical events.

HEARST DESERTS DEMOCRACY. New York democrats have had their calculations completely upset by the latest political attitude of William Randolph Hearst, who has announced that he will no longer affiliate with the democratic party, but will lead the independence league in a fight for supremacy in the Empire state against both the old parties.

They have received, in effect, notice that the pending suits will be decided against them and that the campaign of restitution may be commenced as soon as they are ready. Nothing but good may be expected as a result of the decision. In addition to returning to the insurance companies the monies that have been wrongfully diverted, the officials of these organizations have been taught a new lesson in trusteeship and their duties made clear.

A stricter observance of the duties of trusteeship may be expected, with the resultant gain to the policyholders and those whose investments swell the big trust funds that have heretofore offered such temptations for manipulation by trustees.

Over in Iowa the legislature has perfected a statewide direct primary bill which will probably become a law. It is not a wide-open primary, however, but each voter on requesting a ballot must state what party he belongs to and, having once stated it, must continue to vote with that political party until he files formal announcement of a change of faith.

It has remained for Chief of Police Donahue on his own initiative to give notice that the prize fights disguised as boxing contests, which have been pulled off weekly in Omaha for several months, must stop.

The amir of Afghanistan has been visiting in India and says he made more friends than he could have done by staying at home for twenty years. Unofficial reports state that he left home with the Afghanisthan bank roll and returned broke, having spent his days and dollars in learning bridge whist at Calcutta.

Sheriff McDonald is said to be holding out some \$1,700 of excess fees which he has collected and which ought to have been turned into the county treasury last January. The other county officers are turning their fees in promptly.

When the republicans appeal again to the voters of Nebraska they will have to do so either upon a record of promises performed or upon a record of broken pledges. It is pretty hard to get a second vote of confidence after betraying confidence already reposed.

Would Be Worth the Price. Washington Post. Mr. Harriman says he is willing to sit by the president and advise him all day long. We would like to have an oil painting of Theodore Roosevelt taking some of Mr. Harriman's advice.

Agreeable Chink Must. Cincinnati Enquirer. The supreme court of the United States has held that the railroads will have to pay the state of Nebraska \$300,000 in back taxes. This is one of the cases in which money talks to some purpose.

State and Federal Rights. Brooklyn Eagle. There are rights reserved to the state and by the states reserved from the federal government. The omission of the states to set upon the rights reserved to them signifies that those rights may be come moribund, not that the federal government shall usurp or evade them.

Publicity as a Purifier. Minneapolis Journal. The high-handed methods of the railroad dictators have resulted in a legislative anti-railroad campaign that has extended to most of the states of the union.

Great Change of Heart. Chicago News. Harriman talks about President Roosevelt's "change of heart." But the president has held to a consistent policy.

Reading Signs of the Times. Pittsburg Dispatch. While skepticism is inevitably caused by these new professions, so hopefully at variance with Harriman practices of a decade past, the fact is clear that if Mr. Harriman is not sincere he ought to be, if only as a matter of self-interest.

Come Out of It. Philadelphia Press. If there wasn't anything the matter with the railroads but the 2-cent fare legislation they would be all right.

MONASTERY BELLS. Alfred Austin, Poet Laureate of England, in New York Independent. Sometimes, when weary, the soul rebels against the stir and discord all around. One seems to catch the faint and far-off sound of melody that stinks and swells.

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 Unededa Biscuit.

As We Grow Better We Meet Better People And Use Sheridan Coal. BEST OF ALL WYOMING COALS. CLEAN, HOT, LASTING. VICTOR WHITE COAL CO., 1605 Farnam—Tel. Doug. 127

Through The Storm. the lighthouse shines. During the year 1906, while subjected to criticism just and unjust, the Mutual Life paid for death claims and endowments over 26 million dollars.

The Mutual Life Insurance Company has never had its solvency questioned. On the other hand, its great solidity and strength have caused wonder in the financial world.

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW. For the new forms of policy consult our nearest agent, or write direct to The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, N. Y.

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