

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

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7.....	31,600	22.....	32,520
8.....	31,600	23.....	32,520
9.....	31,600	24.....	32,520
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CHAS. C. ROSEWATER,

General Manager.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of March, 1907.

(Seal) M. D. HINGWORTH,

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.

Now for the legislative home stretch.

It looks like a dog-fall between Mayor "Jim" and Dr. Miller.

The public is less concerned about ex-presidents than it is about next presidents.

The bill to stop the county jail feeding graft in Douglas county must not be lost in the shuffle.

Senator Foraker will not admit that he is out for the presidency, nor can he deny that he is out for the president.

Gossiping on the makeup of the next Omaha police board is harmless pastime. But Governor Sheldon gets the last guess.

William Allen White declares that "a majority of the women of Emporia are asleep most of the time." Now, how does he know?

About everything has been suggested in the way of regulating railroad rates except the abandonment of the Wall street differential.

The London Lancet is demanding to know "what is a sausage?" If the Lancet editor relishes them, he had better smother his curiosity.

Steam shovel engineers at Panama want their wages increased to \$300 a month. Next thing they will be asking for salaries instead of wages.

The announcement that New York women are seeking positions as street sweepers is an indication that long skirts are to be fashionable again.

A New York boy has run away from home because he could not get enough pie. He will likely turn up later as a machine politician in Philadelphia.

Those Boston scientists are respectfully informed the people are more troubled about the destination of their souls than about the weight of them.

The Standard Oil company and the European Petroleum union have reached an agreement that is "mutually satisfactory" to all concerned—except the consumer.

Texas proposes to pass a law making it a felony for a man to lay a wager on any game of chance. Texas seems determined to keep John W. Gates out of the state.

One republican paper down at Lincoln predicts the re-election of the democratic candidate for mayor. That does not look very good for a republican stronghold.

Former Senator Burton says he is going to divide his time between talking and writing on public questions. His division of time leaves him no chance to do any thinking.

The railroads preparing to test the constitutionality of the employers' liability act might make it a dead letter by devising plans of saving their employees from accidents.

Although only two days were specially appointed for cleaning up, there is nothing to prevent any good citizen from cleaning up at any time and as often as his premises need it.

Investigation shows that the contractors who decorated the Pennsylvania capitol building made a profit of 4,305 per cent. Yet some people insist that there is no prosperity in the country.

THE PRIMARY ELECTION LAW.

The primary election law just enacted by the Nebraska legislature, while by no means perfect in all its details, will furnish the means for a practical trial of the state-wide primary that should prove to what extent this reform will accomplish the object aimed at, namely, to bring the nomination of candidates for office as close to the people as possible.

The new law provides for a uniform primary for all political parties at the same time and places, conducted by regular election officers. It provides for straight plurality nominations. It provides for an official ballot made up of names filed either by petition or by declaration of the candidates themselves with an extremely moderate filing fee. It provides for an alphabetical ballot, except possibly in Douglas county, and seems to leave uncertain the form of the ballot here. It provides for a declaration of party affiliation as distinguished from the so-called wide-open primary. The law permits fusion by the nomination of the same candidates on more than one party ticket. Its weakest provisions are those relating to party organization, which seems to have been made entirely appointive, thus depriving the voter of any direct voice in the party management. The penalty clauses are comprehensive and should go far to prevent fraud and trickery in the voting and in the count.

The most notable change made in the law in legislative transit was its transformation from a closed primary to a wide open primary and the subsequent restoration of the closed primary feature. The minority members apparently wanted the open primary without disclosure of party affiliation for the purpose of protecting them in the process of fusion and preventing a display of weakness on the part of democrats in populist districts and populists in democratic districts. The closed primary, however, has the endorsement of Colonel Bryan, who is the democratic fountain head, and no democrat, therefore, can find serious fault with it. The closed primary is absolutely necessary to insure the integrity of party nominations, so that republican tickets shall be made up by republicans, democratic tickets by democrats and populist tickets by populists.

It is not to be expected that the new primary law will not disclose objectionable features, but the thing to do is to put it in force in good faith and strengthen its weak spots later.

A SPOILT EXPERIMENT.

It is greatly to be regretted that an adjustment has been made of the difficulties besetting the good people of Nebraska City because of the failure of all the different candidates for municipal offices to file their names in time to get on the official ballot.

When it was discovered that there were no legal filings the town clerk determined to put out a blank official ballot on which every voter would be required to vote in the name of every candidate for whom he wished to be recorded for each office to be filled. This would have given a city election without any of the mechanical devices to facilitate the selection of any particular set of candidates. It would have provided an experiment in what has often been pictured as the ideal election—an election in which every participant would have to know for whom he wished to vote and be able to write the name legibly to indicate his choice. Under such circumstances, it is supposed that the votes would be cast for the men rather than for the party which named them and complete nonpartisanship inaugurated.

The authorities of Nebraska City, however, seem to have gotten together by consent and tolerance to overlook the technical defect which ruled out the candidates' filings and will supply a ballot as of old, unless some one objects seriously enough to ask for court interference. This being the case, we will have to wait while longer for a practical demonstration of an election without a printed ballot.

FOR INDUSTRIAL PEACE.

President Roosevelt's plan for the establishment of a commission for the promotion of industrial peace is taking tangible form. It had its inception in the award to the president of the Nobel peace prize of \$40,000 for his services in ending the Russo-Jap war. At his request, congress passed a law authorizing the establishment of the permanent industrial peace commission and the president turned over to that body the \$40,000 to be used as the nucleus of a fund for furthering the work. The first meeting of the trustees has been held and tentative plans for future work discussed. Chief Justice Fuller of the supreme court of the United States has been elected president, former Mayor Seth Low of New York, vice president, and John Mitchell of the Miners' union secretary. Those selected to be members of the "industrial peace committee" of nine, required by the congressional act, are:

On the part of the public: Archbishop Ireland, Marcus N. Marks of New York and Ralph M. Easley of New York.

On the part of employers: E. H. Gary, chairman finance committee, United States Steel corporation; Lucius Tuttle, president Boston & Maine railroad, and J. Gunby Jordan of Columbus, Ga.

On the part of employees: Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor; Daniel Keefe, president of the Longshoremen's association, and Warren S. Stone, president International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

While it is not the purpose of the commission to act as arbitrators in disputes between laborers and their employers, all possible aid will be extended in encouraging this method of settling differences. The commission proposes that there is no prosperity in the country.

ton, to which labor and capital will be invited to send delegates, for the discussion and publication of the matters at issue between employers and the employed and to take steps to secure proper representation of the facts in controversy in every disagreement between these parties. The amount now in hand is but \$40,000, although it is expected that the fund will be swelled by contributions from different sources until the income derived from it will enable the commission to carry out the work on the very elaborate scale which the president has outlined. Practically unlimited good can be accomplished by the judicious work of the committee and the president deserves the warm commendation for providing the means and the method for making nearer possible an universal industrial peace so much desired by employers and employed.

CONSULAR SERVICE REFORM.

The administration at Washington has delivered another body blow at the political spoils system by adopting a plan of selecting American consuls by competitive examinations. The result of the first examination furnished abundant proof of the need of radical reform in this branch of the service. With twenty vacancies in the service, 100 applicants presented themselves for examination. Preliminary investigation reduced the list of availables to twenty, and only ten of these passed the required examination. Another examination will be held in July.

The questions presented to the applicants were all practical, dealing with the commerce, industries and resources of the United States, modern history, international and commercial law, geography and arithmetic. Knowledge of such subjects, in the opinion of the administration, is essential to successful consular work. The positions pay \$2,000 per annum and promotion promises to be rapid, as there is a constant and increasing demand for better men in the American consular service.

This step of putting the American consular and diplomatic service on a sound basis has been too long delayed. The custom has been to use the consular positions as patronage for members of congress, for the reward of the politically faithful, and the result has been disastrous, so far as our competition with foreign trained men in the consular field has been concerned. The American consul is simply the commercial agent, the drummer, of American industries, and this work has been left in the hands of politicians who have had no sense of the importance of their positions, but have looked upon the consular service as a means of buying, retaining or rewarding supporters. Germany and Great Britain make the greatest commercial use of their consuls. The men consider commercial experience as an essential part of their training and they have had little difficulty in achieving success in securing foreign trade in competition with the political consuls selected by the United States.

Plans for reform in the service have been considered by congress for years without tangible results, the senators and representatives refusing to endorse over any system that meant loss of patronage to them. The adoption of the reform system is due to the demands of American manufacturers and exporters that the consular service be equipped as an aid to the American plan for achieving the commercial and industrial supremacy of the world. Under the new system, young men have the assurance of permanency as an incentive for proper training for the service, so long as consular positions are not to be used as payments for political debts. The new system doubtless will be appreciated and approved by the manufacturers and business interests of the country, but it is going to be rough on the politicians.

THE ROMANIAN RIOTS.

Americans must be interested in the principles involved in the riots that are threatening the life of the Rumanian government, however indifferent they may be to the details of the slaughter incident to these disturbances. The disorder had its origin in the refusal of the government to keep its pledges of religious liberty to its subjects and in the ownership of nearly all of the lands of the country by great syndicates of absentee landlords. Both of these abuses are repugnant to American ideals and forms of government, and to that extent American sympathy is ill withheld from the peasants who, armed with axes and cudgels, are defying the military forces of the country.

The Rumanian government has violated its obligations to the treaty of Berlin, in 1878, in which it solemnly agreed to grant religious freedom to all its subjects. Laws have been passed and enforced by use of the military which were in effect anti-Semitic declarations. Jews have been prohibited by law from carrying on any trade except by special authorization of the Parliament. They are not allowed to be peddlers, pharmacists, dealers in tobacco, railway employees, customs agents or physicians in public service. The result has been the practical impoverishment of the 250,000 Jews of the country, who are compelled to pay taxes for the support of schools and other institutions from which their children are barred. In addition to this unjust government, the control of the lands is in the hands of the alleged nobility and absentee landlords who draw support from the soil without leaving any reward for the farmers, who constitute more than 80 per cent of the population.

The authorities at Washington have been asked to take some step looking to the amelioration of the condition of the Rumanian peasants. In 1902, Mr. Hay, then secretary of state, addressed a

circular note to the powers asking that Rumania be required to comply with its treaty obligations relating to religious freedom for its subjects, but nothing came of it. Possibly this government may renew Mr. Hay's request, as the reports show that the government of Rumania must accord its subjects adequate rights and proper protection, if it is to retain the respect of the civilized world.

The local democratic organ tries to make out that the new direct primary election law is in line with the principles of democracy. That may be true in the abstract, but in the concrete it is decidedly at variance with democratic practice and precedent in Nebraska. The democrats in this city and state never undertook to bring party nominations within reach of the rank and file until forced to do so by republican legislation. The republicans, on the other hand, took up with the direct primary long before required by law to do so.

The Panama Canal commission has filed a claim at Kingston for \$10,000 for the use of tents and supplies furnished to the earthquake sufferers. It is necessary, of course, to make a proper accounting of the government material and funds in the hands of the Panama commission, but there should be some way of cutting the red tape and presenting the bill to congress, charging it to credit and loss or doing something to it besides sending it to the sufferers for whose relief the supplies were forwarded.

The World-Herald is mistaken when it assumes that the state senate has turned down all the demands of the state university for money for permanent improvements. All the senate has done has been to confine the university drafts to the proceeds of the special 1-mill levy instead of giving an additional half mill out of the general fund. There is no danger that the university will be crippled, its growth obstructed, or its prestige impaired, by keeping the proportions within the limits of reason.

With the resumption of building operations we again have the nuisance produced by the sieve-bottomed dirt wagon scattering its contents over the pavements. We doubt if another city of Omaha's size and metropolitan pretensions tolerates this execrable abuse, which can be so easily prevented by requiring the use of tight-bottomed wagons or carts. It is time for a new deal with the dirt handlers.

After figuring it up, the railroad tax bureaucrats have come to the conclusion that all the cities, towns and villages along their lines will gain by terminal taxation as well as Omaha and that the railroads will have to pay the bill. This certainly puts the railroad cappers, who sought terminal taxation under pretense that it would hurt their home towns, in a very awkward hole.

Colonel Bryan's correspondence with Henry M. Whitney is plainly a continuation of the little debate in which these two democrats of opposing schools engaged in recently in Omaha. There is no danger, however, of either being able to convert the other to his way of thinking.

Some day Omaha will be permitted to frame and adopt its own city charter. When that day comes, charter amendments will not stand or fall according as one or another set of public works contractors has the longest pole to reach with in Lincoln.

The railroads centering at New Orleans are to spend \$2,000,000 on a union depot and \$3,000,000 in improving terminal facilities. The Wall street tip that the country is heading for the demolition bow-wow must not have reached New Orleans.

Our amiable democratic contemporary is still objecting to the party declaration required for a closed primary. Why should that be so objectionable? Are the democrats ashamed to proclaim their democracy?

Conductor Paup of the Pittsburgh orchestra has had his salary increased to \$12,000 a year. At that rate, a first class musician will soon be drawing as much money as a high grade baseball pitcher.

An Ohio mayor has refused his pay, saying he did nothing to earn it. That's what he missed by neglecting his early education in larriat throwing.

Johnny-on-the-Spot, Kansas City Times.

But could even Foraker, with all his territory, have supposed that he could swagger around the neighborhood of the White House with a chip on his shoulder and not have it knocked off?

The Point of View, St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The sharks are blaming President Roosevelt for the unsettled condition in Wall street, but when everything is coming their way they invariably attribute it to their own foresight and wisdom.

Hot Pace Sunders Ties, Baltimore News.

According to figures compiled by the Census bureau, a divorce suit is filed every two minutes and a divorce granted every three minutes during working hours of court officials in the United States. Doubtless the record will be further improved as the country progresses along present lines.

Another Bluff Called Off, Kansas City Times.

The railroads of Indiana and Ohio have "giggled" back on another bluff which they attempted to work on the legislatures of these two states when the 3-cent fare laws were under consideration. They threatened to withdraw all excursion rates in either state if the laws were passed. Notwithstanding their threats, however, the laws were carried into effect, but the railroads, instead of withdrawing the excursion rates have voted to continue them, and at a lower figure than heretofore.

Madison Chronicle: The republicans down in the state legislature must "stick one by each" if they want to maintain the integrity of the party. Redneck every platform pledge and come home with a clear conscience.

Tobias Express: Last Saturday morning's Bee announced that Cullis of Saline was among the republicans that voted against terminal taxation. Wonder if he calls that "doing all in his power to help regulate the railroad," as he expressed himself in the convention last July. Or does he suppose the men who nominated him and the men who voted for him have forgotten his words?

Lexington Pioneer: The railroad cappers in Dawson county who worked so hard last fall and accomplished the defeat of the republican nominee for the legislature, Mr. Gregory, who appears to have gained much by their labor, Mr. Worthing appears to be lined up squarely against the railroads and so far has cast his vote in the interest of measures that are for the benefit of the people.

Springfield Monitor: It is to be regretted that Representative Whitney of Sarpy was unable, through sickness, to be present to record his name against the railroads in the vote on the terminal taxation bill. His heart was with the measure, though, and had his vote been necessary to carry the bill "Old Whit" would have been there even if he had to be carried on a stretcher.

Grand Island Independent: No little credit should be given to those of the fusionists who, seeing meritorious legislation undertaken by the republicans of the legislature, have been broad enough to drop party advantage and join the republicans for the benefit of the people of the state and have voted with the republicans. Among these are Quickenbush of Nemaha, Mr. Fries of Howard and several others.

Grand Island Independent: It is to be doubted if there are two other members of the legislature who stood up under as fierce a fire during the last two weeks, and who yet refused to yield an inch, as did Representatives A. L. Bender and G. O. White of Hall county. When their fellow citizens placed them in nomination they did so in the belief that these two men would carry out the platform of the party. The Messrs. Scudder and White, upon their nomination, promised they would. They have done so.

Loup City Northwestern: The legislature is making good this week by passing the terminal tax measure, the state-wide primary and the anti-pass law, three of the principal things asked for by the republican state convention. While Brother Brown slipped from the path of rectitude on the terminal, he partially redeemed himself on the other two measures by giving them his vote, and we are prepared to forgive him for his slip, especially as the terminal question went out in spite of all.

Bloomfield Monitor: The Monitor is not a little surprised at the vote of State Representative George W. Saunders on the railroad terminal taxation bill recently passed by the legislature. It is even more surprised that in voting the way he did, he chose to repudiate the republican state platform, on the strength of which he was so easily elected to the position of honor he occupies. While Mr. Saunders never denied the platform, he personally sustained the state convention platform, he was nevertheless in honor bound to assist in the redemption of its each and every pledge. His vote on this bill is taken to mean not alone a clean cut repudiation of those pledges, but a positive betrayal of the confidence placed in him by the republicans of his district.

Crete Vidette Herald: Last week we gave our full representation credit for having faithfully stood by the several planks of the republican platform and by the pledged pledges made to the people last fall. But before the ink was dry word reached us that Representative Cullis had repudiated the platform. He was not alone, the Killen-Hamer-Wilson crowd, voted against the terminal taxation bill, and received the applause of the railroad lobby. The sound that will greet their ears from their constituents will be of a different variety. Sixteen republicans flocked with twenty-two fusionists to make the sum total of forty, but fifty-one stalwart republicans and five fusionists voted for the bill. The twenty-four fusionists are partly excusable, were not pledged by their platform, and had the bill been defeated they would have charged its defeat to the wicked republicans, who violated their party pledges.

Columbus Telegram: At last Omaha has won its stout fight for terminal taxation of railroad property for city purposes, and the railroads will now be compelled to pay a share of taxes for the support of the city government. It is still contended by some politicians that this new terminal tax will rob the country districts of the state in order to help Omaha. The Telegram regards the principle of terminal taxation as just right, and it will work right, not only in Omaha, but in Columbus and every other town where the railroads own property other than rails and ties and the taxes on which the trucks are paid. Many owners of homes in Omaha have been compelled to pay as much city tax on the home as the great railroad companies have paid on their \$1,000,000 depots. Many home owners in Columbus are now paying as much tax on the home as the Union Pacific is paying on all its buildings in this city. The terminal tax law means that the railroads must pay city taxes on all such property. The principle of the new law must be right. It cannot be wrong to say by law that a great corporation must pay taxes in proportion as the small home owner pays such taxes.

Friend Telegraph: When the present Nebraska legislature adjourns they will have pretty thoroughly redeemed the promises made the people prior to their election. About the only one there will be to regret their action during the present session will be the ward boss, the corporate and distributor and the corner road politicians whose only occupation has been to run caucuses and conventions. The people have no inclination to injure the corporations doing business in this state by adverse legislation. The people want to pay their proportion of the taxation by the great corporations doing business in this state has been the straw which has broken the camel's back and opened the eyes of the people to the situation as it has for many years existed in this state, to the great detriment of the people who are looking over every train passing over the road saw that about one-half of all the passengers rode on passes have concluded to eliminate the pass from politics, a thing which would allow regular fares to be lowered at least one-third. The fact that railroad earnings have mounted up to so great an amount as to compel the watering of stocks in order to keep the net earnings below what the people would consider an adequate return for the investment will be in the future another reason for attacking the already too high freight rates, which we predict must be lowered by the corporations themselves or the people will do it for them through future legislatures. The people will for a time at least have an eye upon the operations of these corporations, whom they greatly desire should in the future carefully attend to their business as common carriers as servants of the people and not assume the roll of masters in politics or assuming the roll of political bosses over almost every county in this state.

FOOTBALL FEARS, Chicago Record-Herald.
Legitimate industry and commerce are not in the least danger from anything the president has done or has suggested for the future. Legitimate business will be safeguarded and promoted by everything so suggested, and under a condition of publicity and enforced conservatism and reasonable business will be secured against the evils of gambling and consequent misuse of funds that should remain in the channels of trade.

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FOOTBALL FEARS, Chicago Record-Herald.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS.

The Dignity and Sacredness of Motherhood.

Think of the greatest man who has ever lived upon this earth, and then think of him as he lay, an infant, in his mother's arms. Does it seem possible that he should have grown, become great in the world's estimate and perhaps had monuments erected to perpetuate his memory, and yet