

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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Table with 3 columns: Copy number, Circulation, Total. Rows 1-18 showing circulation figures for various copies.

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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.

Boston reports a very early winter, with a foot of snow and zero weather. The Foraker presidential boom seems to be suffering from locomotor ataxia.

Secretary Taft is urging the Cuban factions to get together. He must want to see a good fight. The approach of Arbor day fore-shadows a chance for Mayor "Jim" to throw another proclamation.

Political weather reports from various states indicate that the favorite son crop has been tipped by frost. Antonio Whatawad has applied for naturalization papers in Philadelphia. The politicians will welcome him.

Farbin, Manclurina, reports a \$2,000,000 fire. The old town must have been burned up several times. The supreme court has decided that Cuba owns the Isle of Pines. The next question to be decided is who owns Cuba.

Mr. Harriman is still asking "Where do I stand?" Latest advices indicate that he stands out where he used to stand in. Michigan has joined the 2-cent fare brigade. Nebraska may have been among the first, but it will not be the last.

It is given out semi-officially from headquarters that the railroads will pay their taxes more promptly in Nebraska this year. It is a safe guess that one of those unlicensed government stamp taxes is on exhibition neatly framed over the bar of the Dahman democracy.

No explanation is offered of Blinger Hermann's moderation in placing but six of his relatives in office while he was commissioner of the general land office. These reports from Ohio that Senator Foraker is being urged to eliminate politics from his public addresses indicate that the senator has hired a press agent.

If Omaha will put into brick, stone and mortar one half of the new buildings that are being erected on paper it will still keep up with the building record. An Illinois politician is claiming to be the original Bryan man. He is mistaken. The original Bryan man lives at Fairview, Lancaster county, Nebraska.

For some unaccountable reason no one hereabouts in John M. Thurston's old stamping ground seems to be a bit surprised at his championship of Senator Foraker. It may be some consolation to Abe Ruef of San Francisco to think that he has been indicted oftener than any American with the one exception of John D. Rockefeller.

There seems to be necessity for a city military engineer. "World-Herald." What for? Haven't we Mayor "Jim" king of the roosters, at the head of our municipal government?

SOUTHERN CANDIDATES

The element of caution that has characterized Mr. Bryan's utterances on political topics since the 1904 campaign is emphasized in his remarks in the Commonwealth of the agitation recently renewed by the New York Sun in favor of a southern candidate for the democratic presidential nomination in 1908.

Mr. Bryan meets the Sun's argument by approving everything offered in support of the right of a southern man to aspire to the high office of president of the United States, and he then displays a mixture of caution and shrewd politics by taking up prominent southern men, seriatim, and showing how they do fall to come up to the Sun's requirements.

Hoke Smith of Georgia, Governor Cromer of Alabama, Governor Campbell of Texas, and other southern statesmen, it is pointed out by Mr. Bryan, won their promotion to office and their hold on public esteem by urging railroad legislation in their states and going further than Mr. Roosevelt has in advocating trust prosecution and an income tax.

After disqualifying all the prominent democrats of the south, Mr. Bryan proceeds to argue that the most available candidate for the next campaign should be selected, no matter where he comes from—north, east, south or west. He cites figures of election returns in the country to support his claim that "the selection of a democratic candidate is a matter of interest to the whole country, and in the selection it is not fair that one section should be slighted or that another section only should be considered."

Mr. Bryan's extraordinary caution is unnecessary. Nothing in existing conditions justifies the prediction that any southern democrat stands the ghost of a chance of receiving the democratic nomination for the presidency in 1908, for numerous and obvious reasons.

Party organizations in the south are based on social rather than political conditions. The sole issue that keeps the south solid for the democracy is the race problem. The southern democrats are pledged to enforce negro disfranchisement, while the republicans contend for observance of the constitutional amendment guaranteeing universal suffrage.

By state laws, the democrats have nullified the amendment in nearly all the southern states, and so long as that condition exists the south will remain democratic. On no other issue is the south democratic. Alabama democrats support the Dingley law, as it protects the iron manufacturing industry. North and South Carolina are both in favor of the law placing a duty on imported cotton goods.

Virginia demands protection for its tobacco industry. Texas demands a protective tariff on hides, wool and live stock. Louisiana and Mississippi clamor for protective duties on sugar and sugar products. Remove the negro problem and a majority of the southern states would roll up republican majorities.

Mr. Bryan need lose no sleep over threatened southern competition for the presidential nomination in 1908. THE PESSIMISM BELT. The country is reasonably familiar with the boundaries of "the wheat belt," "the corn belt," the "rain belt," the "pie belt" and other geographically defined belts, within whose circles are produced the commodities necessary for national prosperity, but it is only recently that events have conspired to mark the limits of the pessimism belt, which heretofore has been regarded as a sort of no-man's land, with boundaries changing with each ebb and flow of the industrial tides.

Now it appears that the Jersey river and the Atlantic ocean form the boundaries of this belt of pessimism, with Wall street as the bratnator center and capital of the principality. For some weeks, dating from the launching of the manufactured stock panic, designed to frighten President Roosevelt, every blue goggled expression relating to the future industrial, agricultural and commercial condition of the country has emanated from Wall street.

Mr. Morgan, Mr. Harriman, Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Younkum and other captains of high finance have taken turns in warning the country that the crest of the prosperity wave had been reached and that a backset was scheduled that would prove disastrous unless steps were taken to haul in sails at once and prepare for the storm.

August Belmont has offered the latest contribution to this symposium of alarm, at the "industrial peace evening" at the home of Mr. Carnegie the other night, by telling the representatives of capital and labor there assembled that hard times were in sight and that both interests should prepare to share hardships as they had shared prosperity.

The discouraging feature of this propaganda is that every utterance of its apostle is met with some incontrovertible argument from the other side. Mr. Belmont's croak of warning, for example, has been followed by a public statement by E. H. Gary, head of the United States Steel corporation. The steel and iron trades are recognized as the surest barometers of industrial conditions and Mr. Gary, in most emphatic terms, declares that he sees no indications of "hard times" or even any prospect of a check to the business demands now taxing every industrial plant to fullest capacity.

Mr. Gary calls attention to the fact that the necessities of the country are increasing more rapidly than the facilities for meeting them; that the consumers, instead of asking for terms, have the cash to pay for their orders and are holding out bonuses for prompt delivery; that the crop prospects could not be better, and that the only pessimism felt among the people west of Jersey City arises from inability to get what they want and what they are willing to pay for, even at premium rates.

THE THAW DISAGREEMENT. The disagreement of the jury in the Thaw murder trial is by no means unexpected. Features were brought into the case calculated to produce such varying expressions of sympathy and censure that unanimity on the evidence among any twelve persons would be exceptional. Presumably, the disagreement will be followed by another trial, but so far as the country at large is concerned, the people have been so nauseated with the detailed exhibits of depravity that they would wish the curtain had been closed on its last chapter.

In the eyes of people free from morbid streaks, nothing but the overpowering wealth of the defendant has raised this murder above the ordinary run of every-day fatal brawls, and by commanding able lawyers and high priced experts fixed public attention for so many weeks. Should a second trial be required, it is to be hoped that the calcium lights will be turned down and it will proceed the same as any other criminal prosecution, solely in vindication of the law.

Governor Sheldon's Veto.

Governor Sheldon has completed his work of passing on bills enacted by the two houses of the legislature recently adjourned with the result that he has vetoed some half dozen general measures and stricken out of the appropriation sheets items aggregating nearly \$250,000. In each case the governor's disapproval has been accompanied by a written memorandum explaining his reasons, reasons which carry with them convincing weight. It is quite probable that the governor has signed bills and approved some items of appropriation which could, and perhaps should, have been vetoed on equally good grounds.

The significance of the governor's vetoes, however, consists not so much in the contents of the bills disapproved as in the evidence of minute care devoted to the consideration of each. Governor Sheldon plainly goes on the principle that he as the chief executive is a co-ordinate part of the law-making machinery, with equal responsibility resting upon him, and that he should examine into every measure that comes up to him at least as carefully as he would if he were voting on it as a member of the house or senate.

In other words, his signature is not affixed as a matter of course, nor have any bills with jokers visible on inspection been allowed to slip by him unawares. This exercise of the veto power is unquestionably such an exercise as was contemplated by the framers of the constitution, who made the approval or disapproval of bills part of the governor's duty and vested him with the privilege of striking out separate appropriation items. But it also stands out in contrast with what has been the practice of most of our governors of the past.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

An echo of the miened "Congo atrocities" comes through a source hitherto favorable to American intervention. Attempts have been made within the last year to shape American public opinion against the Congo government and induce congress to take action looking to intervention "in the interest of humanity." Fortunately, the congress did not take the step the agitators desired.

The London correspondent of the New York Times prints a letter received from a friend residing in the Congo country. It is a reply to a request for accurate information regarding the treatment of natives by representatives of the Belgian government, and substantially confirms the statements of Prof. Starr of the Chicago university, published by the Chicago Tribune during the winter.

The writer says there have been instances of ill-treatment, but not to the extent reported in the European press. The natives are fairly well treated and fed, and Congo laws are more favorable to them than in other parts of Africa. The chief de poste alone has authority to punish natives and he can order no more than twenty-five strokes, or "such floggings," the writer says, "is a pleasure compared with the birchings administered in English schools."

Concerning the "atrocities" the writer relates this typical case: "Recently a man came into my camp with both hands cut off at the wrists. My servants said that the Belgians had mutilated the man for not bringing in rubber and ivory, but when I talked to the man he said his chief did it, but what for I could not find out. He was going to the Belgian post to ask the white man to punish his chief. I don't doubt that if the missionary had heard the first yarn he would have sent it to the papers and it would have gone all over the world."

The Belgian system, he says, "distinctly militates against atrocities, for every Belgian seems to be spying against every other Belgian, so that anyone guilty of breaking the law is almost certainly brought to task." The zeal of the missionaries in circulating stories of atrocities is thus explained: "The missionaries have greatly exaggerated the reasons that have taken place in the Congo in spite of the law. This is due to two reasons—first, they resent the restrictions placed on their movements in the Congo; second, they seem to regard the native man as a brother, which he is not."

M. Joseph Kristoffy, formerly minister of the interior in the Fejervary cabinet and originator of the movement for universal suffrage in Hungary, recently delivered an address in Vienna on the prospects of the movement. He declared emphatically that the introduction of universal suffrage in Hungary could no longer be prevented, for the idea had bitten deep into the minds of the people, who were determined to conquer the extension of political right with or without the help of the government.

The only question was whether the government and the governing classes would recognize in time the futility of all attempts to defeat the movement, or whether they would yield only after severe, and for Hungary particularly onerous, social conflicts. M. Kristoffy added that the work of electoral reform were scamped by a measure qualifying the reform, the struggle would be continued in the new Chamber until full electoral liberty was attained. Until universal suffrage was fairly and honestly introduced, he concluded, there could be no social progress in Hungary.

A Hungarian Parliament really representative of the nation and of the interests of the classes now disfranchised would make an end of the eternal strife with Austria and would, in union with the rejuvenated Austrian Parliament, secure a better future for the peoples of the monarchy.

According to the Review of Reviews, Europe spent in round numbers \$1,000,000,000 on its army and \$400,000,000 on its navy in 1906, as against \$700,000,000 and \$300,000,000 respectively in 1905. That is to say, Europe spends today \$1,400,000,000 on its army and navy as against \$700,000,000 in 1905, a total increase of \$700,000,000, or say 30 per cent. Three hundred and seventy million a year is equivalent to 4 per cent interest upon a capital sum of \$9,250,000,000. That is the fine in which the governments have incited their peoples by their refusal to act upon the standing proposition of the peace conference to adopt the peace-making methods recommended by The Hague convention.

There seems to be no doubt that the attitude of the Vatican towards the French government has reduced many of the poorer French priests to a condition of extreme apostolic simplicity. The bishop of Digne, in a letter acknowledging the receipts of some subscriptions for the benefit of his distressed clergy, writes: "I occupy on the second floor a modest lodging belonging to an official. I have no valet, only an old maid-servant who does all my work. I travel second class and I live on my savings. My priests are astonishing in their poverty and admirable self-denial. You should see their presbyteries. Ten francs (\$2) rent is paid by many of them, and not by special favor. Numbers of them are obliged to remove to the roof level in or let in the rain. The fee for masses is at the lowest figure and is not always paid. Some of my priests earn their living by sending watches or manufacturing beehives. Others till the soil, knit jerseys, or follow agricultural pursuits. All that is not very noble or worthy of the sacerdotal calling, but how can it be prohibited? Necessity knows no law, and poverty is a plea."

Among the demands of the nationalist party in Egypt, as formulated lately in the native press, are the creation of an Egyptian Parliament, the reservation for Egyptians of all important administrative appointments, the refusal of further concessions to foreign capitalists, the abolition of all restrictions on the pilgrimage to Mecca and of the monopoly of pilgrim traffic, as far as Egyptian pilgrims are concerned, granted to the Khedivial Mail

CHERRY CHAFF.

"Do the experts in trials ever agree on anything?" "Certainly, on the size of their bills."—Baltimore American.

"Mrs. Crossway—Your last girl didn't stay long." "Mrs. Kowler—No, she was one of those particular girls. She said she couldn't stand our language—we used the imperative mood too much."—Chicago Tribune.

"When Greek meets Greek" said the man who quotes "What happens then?" "I don't remember, exactly. I suppose it's time to get an interpreter."—Washington Herald.

"Passenger—You say there was a big washout on the road last week?" "Conductor—Yes. Some of the water must have leaked out of the stock—Chicago News.

"Towne—You've been patronizing my barber, I hear." "Brown—Yes. He's a very nice fellow. Towne—By the way, did you know he had once been a minister?" "Brown—I don't believe it. When a man ceases to be a minister he's silenced."—Washington Herald.

Jack the Giant Killer had successfully got to bed by means of his inevitable coat. "That's all very well," remarked his wife coldly the next morning, "but why did you leave your seven league boots on the stairs?" "Thus we learn that even magic will avail poor man on lodge nights."—New York Sun.

"I am glad to see, senator, that you take a firm stand in favor of opening all legislative bodies with prayer laws. It gives us a chance to shift the responsibility."—Chicago Tribune.

"Do you expect to make the people believe all you say?" "No," answered Senator Scroggum, "it will be a pretty good job if I convince them that I believe all of it myself."—Washington Star.

"It's in the world of politics," said the talkative man, "that the truth of the old saying, 'money talks' is most frequently proven." "Yes," replied the wise citizen, "but if hush money would only talk what sensations that would have."—Philadelphia Press.

THAT REMINDER. Chicago News. It is starting me right in the face. Quite reproachfully all of the time. And it says putting off a disgrace. Not so very much short of a crime. I would like to consider and wait. But a pause it will never allow. It is just a little card, six by eight.

DO IT NOW. There's a bill that perhaps I might pass. But I haven't much money on hand. There's a man I must call down some day. When I've mastered the requisite sand. There's a talk with the landlord I dread. For I know it means raising a row. Then I look at that card overhead.

DO IT NOW. It's a great irritation to me. It may help out my conscience a lot. But I never consider 'em free of me. While that card's hanging there, and I have wrinkles all over my brow. Take it down, tear it up? Yes, I will DO IT NOW.

Advertisement for Royal Baking Powder. "You can make better food with Royal Baking Powder. ABSOLUTELY PURE. Lighter, sweeter, more palatable and wholesome." Includes logo and address: ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW-YORK.

Advertisement for THE NEW HATS. "Browning, King & Co. R. S. WILCOX Manager. Why Do Some Musicians Prefer and Use the Grand Piano?" Includes an illustration of a man in a hat and a piano.

Advertisement for A. HOSPE CO. "1513 Douglas Street. ONE PRICE. NO COMMISSION." Includes an illustration of a man in a suit.