

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

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THE RAILROADS AND BUSINESS.

Railway managers throughout the country, while regretting the fact that railway earnings for the first two months of the present year have been far below last year's record...

It should be remembered that the statements made by railway companies are always from a comparative standpoint with the preceding year. The big totals in net earnings in 1907 were compared with the net earnings of 1906, the biggest year in the history of American transportation companies.

Obviously a continuation of such losses in earnings would work disastrous results to the railway interests of the country, but all indications are that better conditions may be expected.

CLEARING POLITICAL SKIES.

Politicians everywhere, and citizens generally who have a more or less keen interest in national affairs, will be disposed to thank William Randolph Hearst for making public his plans for the future of the republic.

According to one of Mr. Hearst's spokesmen in New York, Mr. Hearst is to have the majority contest in New York City decided in his favor and throw Mayor McClellan out of the office about July 1.

Secretary Taft is entitled to a rousing reception in Omaha not only as the coming president, but as the present secretary of war.

The silver service to be presented to the battleship Montana is to be made out of silver ore taken from Montana mines.

It is the easiest thing in the world to set up a straw man and then knock him down. A striking example of this sort of tactics is afforded by the spasm of indignation worked up among the patriotic Bohemian-Americans of Omaha by the publication in the local democratic organ two weeks ago of a pretended translation of an alleged interview with Secretary of State Root.

South Omaha taxpayers know what an expensive luxury they have been maintaining in their present city administration and that any change must be a change for the better.

Mayor "Jim" has deftly notified the Commercial club committee on municipal affairs that if its members want to know "who's who" in Omaha he stands ready to inform them.

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Sixteen statesmen in the Rockland, Me., congressional district are willing to make any "financial sacrifice" necessary to secure the seat in congress passed up by Mr. Littlefield.

The man who invented the stock ticker has just died, leaving a large fortune. The men who have patronized the invention have different stories to tell about its money-making capabilities.

"I do not know what the convention at Denver will do," remarks Mr. Bryan in most of his speeches. In the meantime, he has decided to receive the formal notice of his nomination at Fairview.

Members of our State Railway commission have a suspicion that the express companies have made a mistake in the figures returned showing that they have been doing business in Nebraska without a profit. It is to be noted that the mistake, if there be a mistake, is in favor of the express companies.

Root could not reasonably have been expected to make his answer before the famous indignation meeting was held and the well-meaning Bohemian-Americans of Omaha, misled into premature denunciation of Mr. Root, are left in a very awkward place, due, however, entirely to their innocent swallowing of a rank democratic fake.

The lesson has its moral, which, if learned, will render it not entirely fruitless.

International Courtroom. Cleveland Leader. Though Germany willingly concedes that Britain has the mastery of the sea, for war purposes, it will continue to grab large and important areas out of England's commercial business without bothering about dispatching letters of thanks to London.

Reactionary Nerve. Kansas City Star. The reactionaries claim all the unstructured delegates to the republican national convention. Well, they must claim something outside the favorite son states, you know, for they have only 256 delegates in the states they represent, whereas it takes 621 to nominate.

Talking Instead of Striving. Buffalo Express. The difficulties pointed out by certain Pennsylvania railroad men in connection with the federal sixteen-hour law are difficulties by difference only. It should be quite as simple a matter to arrange runs with regard to the law as to let the runs remain as they are and haggle for exceptions to the law.

A Debt to Ourselves. Wall Street Journal. Whatever one may owe to others, there are some things which we are in duty bound to pay to ourselves, even to the uttermost farthing. One of these is to keep our minds free from the poison of class hatred.

In this country there is no class of people of any considerable proportion that may be called poor. There is a small proportion that may be called rich. The overwhelming majority of people stand between those two extremes.

Reversal of Party Ties. Boston Herald. The debate in the federal senate on Senator Knox's amendment, which made the plan to investigate the loss of life in mines applicable to the states as well as to territories and districts, was instructive because it revealed how fast sectional and party lines break down now when the issue of federal against state right is involved.

Legalized Grabs. Amazing Sums Allowed Receivers in New York. Depositors of the Knickerbocker Trust company having danced for five months as cheerfully as the tenderfoot at the point of a cowboy's pistol, the time has now come to pay the piper.

After wrangling over the question for two weeks the executive committee of the National Democratic club of New York City has decided, by a vote of 8 to 7, to invite Mr. Bryan to be present and speak at the club's Jefferson day banquet on April 13.

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less bulletins of his approach on the wide ocean and waiting on the wharf with their accounts made up, to welcome him as a representative of American progress.

Failed in a Crucial Test. Baltimore American. Congress was unable, when put to the test, to tell how much it costs a year to keep behind and out of the body is expected to safeguard the vast interests of this great nation!

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BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Mirror Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot. Observers of political events in and around Washington note a great change in Speaker Cannon since "his boys" whooped up his boom a few weeks ago.

Recently the speaker was leaving the White House when Senator Smith of Michigan, with a young man and a young woman in tow, stopped him. It chanced that the young man was the speaker of the Michigan house of representatives, and the young woman was his bride.

"I want to introduce Michigan's speaker to the speaker of the whole United States," he said, in making the presentation.

"Uncle Joe" expressed gratification at noticing that there were bright young men growing up to the speaker business, and then the senator proceeded to introduce the wife of the young statesman from Michigan. The veteran leader of the house raised his hat, bowed handsomely and said: "I have always maintained that they produce the homeliest men in Michigan that come from anywhere in the United States—and the handsomest women."

Rear Admiral C. S. Sperry, who is named to succeed to the command of the battle fleet on his homeward trip is known among his intimates as "Vinegar Bill." He suffers from dyspepsia, which may have something to do with this sobriquet, but he is also a chap always on the job, intolerant of tinsel and formal functions.

He is a native of New York and was appointed from Connecticut. During the Spanish war he had the trial of many officers whose services were needed at home and on shore to help the men afloat with their fight. Sperry had charge of getting out equipment and supplies at the New York navy yard, where he worked twenty hours a day and never got a line of public credit. Now he will have an opportunity to reap the reward for his years of faithful service.

The duty of taking over the fleet from Admiral Thomas and piloting it to the Orient will be one of the officers of the white squadron. This was composed, it will be remembered, of the first ships built for the "new navy" and it went to Europe and toured South American waters from 1881 to 1883. The whole white squadron would be no match for the oldest and smallest of the big battleship fleet which will follow Sperry's flag to the Antipodes.

After Senator Whyte's death, Senator Allison had the distinction of being the oldest senator in service, but the distinction was short-lived. Governor Proctor of Vermont has named ex-Governor J. W. Stewart as the successor to his father, the late Senator Proctor. The new appointee is in his eighty-third year, and when sworn in as senator will be the Nestor in point of age in the United States senate.

An old and prominent senator from one of the southern states met a young member of the house in the bar of one of the well-known apartment hotels. Their mutual object was to obtain the morning "eye-opener" of whiskey. They drank together. Then the senator turned on the young man and said most seriously: "Bob, I'm sorry to see you at this. It will ruin you as it has ruined me."

"But, senator," ran the response, "how do you figure yourself ruined? You have been senator twelve years; before that governor and before that member of congress."

"Yes," replied the senator. "I have been a member of congress, governor for two terms and senator. But, my boy, if it had not been for whiskey I would have been colonel of the Louisiana Tigers."

Rivalry exists among the members of the house in the matter of watches, and daily comparisons are made with the chronometer in the lobby of the weather bureau station. While in congress the late Speaker Reed had a watch of Swiss make that was the lespair and envy of his colleagues. It held up in the chronometer within five or six seconds a month.

Senator La Follette was discussing with great approbation the president's suggestions toward the abolition of stock gambling.

"Such marginal transactions are not business," said Senator La Follette. "Look at them. After all, what is a successful stock gambler?"

He paused and smiled. Then he answered his own question neatly.

"In a successful gambler," he said, "you pay for something that you don't get, with money that you haven't got, then you sell what you never had for more than it ever cost."

Loot Embarrassed Financial Houses. Philadelphia Record. A young man who was recently getting \$5 a week in his father's law office was appointed counsel to the receiver of a New York concern to succeed his father, who had been elected a judge. For his valuable services to the receiver for 210 days he asks \$20,000, or about \$100 a day. The cost of his services have been a notorious scandal for years, and in a recent message Governor Hughes directed special attention to it. The father of this young man collected a good deal more than \$100,000 for his services, and has still pending claims for a considerable sum in addition, and testimony is now being taken on the relation between the father's legal services and the small fortune he has charged for them. It is such scandals as this that give bitterness to the epigram that "the receiver is as bad as the thief."

Overflow of Conversation. Washington Star. The fact that those of the people most interested in the reported Abruzzi engagement has anything to say does not seem to be the slightest bar to conversation.

ROYAL Baking Powder. The only Baking Powder made with Royal Grape Cream of Tartar—made from grapes—Insures healthful and delicious food for every home—every day. Safeguards your food against alum and phosphate of lime.

SUNNY GRMS. "That stage beauty can't act a little bit." "No; that is the reason her managers are taking a cue from nature." "In featuring her face."—Baltimore American. The street car conductor was about to sit down to breakfast, when a messenger boy brought him a telegram announcing that a rich relative had died and that he was the sole heir. "Easy street!" shouted the conductor, reaching up for an imaginary bell rope.—Chicago Tribune. Mrs. Fogarty (in fashionable restaurant)—Now, for goodness sake, Mike, don't order Irish stew. Mr. Fogarty—All right, I won't order. Waiter, fetch me rather some Hibernian Buey, or Celtic Goulash!—Fook. Tess—Hess doesn't seem so quick to deny her age as she used to be. Jess—No, she's gotten very stout lately. Tess—What has that to do with it? Jess—It takes all her time now to deny her weight.—Philadelphia Press. "I wish," said the revivalist, "Brother Grimshaw wasn't quite so strong on doctrinal points. As fast as I bring people into the church he tries to put them out of it for heresy."—Chicago Tribune. "It is queer that the ladies' tailor we just met, who makes a specialty of giving young girls, is such a favorite with the society debutantes." "Why is it queer?" "Because he gives all his 'bud' customers a miss-til."—Baltimore American. "I tell you, Binks, what that boy of yours needs is a thoroughly sound thrashing." "What? Do you mean to say you never whip that boy, Binks?" "No-o," replied Binks, after some hesitation. "That is, never except in self-defense."—Harper's Weekly. "Your debts don't seem to worry you much." "That's where you wrong me," answered the genial but impetuous person. "I have a highly sympathetic nature, and I can't begin to tell you how it disturbs me to see my creditors so worried. Sometimes I almost wish they'd keep away!"—Washington Star. Mrs. Benham—A trump stole one of my pins today. Benham—I wonder what he will do with it?—Harper's Weekly. DEBUTANTE PLAYS BRIDGE. Let's see, what's trumps?—Oh, Grace, your hat's a dear. And so becoming, too. Girls, did you hear that Clara Grotos is engaged at last? And to a count with a dreadful past! And not a penny to his titled name? (I dote on bridge; it's such a clever game. Let's see—what's trumps?) There's Catherine over. And entre nous, I hear she dyes her hair. And paints; but I might, too, with such a face! (Oh, partner! I did! I really trump your ace?) Who is that freak three tables to the right? I saw her at the Willbur-Hrownes last night! Some parvenu, no doubt, and goodness knows I think blacksmith must design her clothes. (Are hearts or diamonds trumps? Oh, that's a fact. It's clubs.) Some girls are so devoid of tact; That Carlton creature in the last year's hat! Just makes me mad as mad—she's such a miss-til.—Baltimore American. And nearly snags your head off if you don't keep absolutely dumb; of course, I won't. Oh, girls, Jack's so devoted it's a joke. He's quite my shadow—What! did I speak three tricks from me for just that small mistake. Bridge bore me frightfully, I'm bound to say. Though Jack says it's astounding how I play. Who will some hostesses invite such trumps? Oh, dear!—my lead again!—Let's see; what's trumps?

ECONOMY SEEKERS' PIANO SALE AT HOSPE'S. New and slightly smoked Pianos going at prices lower than ever before offered. And they are good Pianos, the kind you'd be proud to own. Seekers of economy note: This great smoke sale offers you an opportunity to obtain thoroughly good Pianos at prices far below those asked for instruments of equal quality elsewhere. The best guaranty on a used Piano is the name of the seller. We give you our word that these Pianos are remarkable for their exceptionally fine condition. It is a matter of important self interest for intending piano purchasers to visit Hospe's now. UPRIGHT PIANOS 7 1/2 OCTAVES as low as \$74.00 ON \$3.00 PAYMENTS. BRAND NEW UPRIGHT PIANOS \$139.00. The world's best Pianos selling for \$170, \$192, \$215, \$232, \$265 and better. On easy payments if you desire. HALE, \$74.00. A used upright. An attractive ebony finished case of simple but impressive design. Pay only \$5.00 monthly. It's very special. MARSHALL, \$88.00. A used upright. A rosewood finished case, overhauled almost like new; good tone and action. Pay \$5.00 monthly. Come and buy it. COLUMBUS, \$96.00. A new upright piano. A beautiful quarter-sawn oak case, one of the latest and most popular styles. Pay only \$5.00 monthly. A magnificent bargain. IMPERIAL, \$163.00. Newest style upright. In richest mahogany case, in a special sample of musical character and quality. Pay only \$6.00 monthly. Ask to see this piano. CABLE-NELSON, \$192.00. A used upright grand. Here is a genuine Cable-Nelson of the finest type, in richest San Domingo mahogany. \$6.00 per month will pay for it. DECKER, \$232.00. Newest upright grand. We have them in walnut and mahogany. One of the most popular of this well known make. They're beauties. They're \$400 values. \$10—SEND A PIANO HOME, DON'T FORGET IT—\$10. If you would show the extent and variety of the stock of pianos that must be disposed of without delay, you must call and make a personal investigation. We have mentioned but a few in this advertisement. If you are too busy to come yourself you may rest assured that you will be perfectly safe in sending one of the children, the HOSPE plan of selling protects everyone. A. HOSPE CO., 1613 DOUGLAS STREET. Branch houses—Council Bluffs, Iowa; Lincoln, Kearney, Neb.