

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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ONE PLACE FOR REFORM.

While the question of appropriations for expenses of state government is under discussion, The Bee ventures to renew a suggestion previously made which, if adopted, will save the taxpayers of Nebraska a large sum of money annually.

The larger part of our state appropriations go to the support of the various state institutions. Such of these institutions as are devoted to the care and cure of defectives could and should be made less burdensome to the taxpayers.

Nebraska maintains three asylums for the insane, a school for the feeble-minded, a school for the deaf, a school for the blind and several lesser institutions. As now conducted the expenses of maintaining these asylums and schools are defrayed entirely out of the state treasury.

It is a notorious fact that many of the unfortunate inmates of these state institutions are possessed of property and income of their own, or, if not committed, would be taken care of by relatives amply able to do so.

With a surplus in sight, treasury officials and congress have been disposed for years to defer tackling the problem of treasury finance. If the revenues were insufficient, the secretary drew on the surplus, confident that increased income from customs and internal revenue would soon restore its abnormal proportions.

Other progressive states, notably, most recently, Illinois, have reorganized their state institutions along some similar plan to this, and if Nebraska should follow suit it would be going forward and not backward.

THE FARMERS' CONTRIBUTION.

The government crop report, issued November 9, shows that the preliminary estimates by the federal officials earlier in the year were extremely conservative and that the farmers' contribution to the wealth of the nation is larger this year than for any year in recent history.

The estimates place the corn crop at 2,642,687,000 bushels, or 50,000,000 greater than for 1907, although this year's crop is of much better quality. The total wheat yield is placed at 659,030,000 bushels, an increase of 25,000,000 bushels over 1907.

The oats crop was 789,151,000, an increase of 35,000,000 bushels over the 1907 crop. The barley crop, 167,242,000 bushels, was 14,000,000 greater than the same crop for last year, while the 1908 rye crop was 30,921,000, or 1,000,000 bushels less than for last year.

These crop figures furnish one of the chief fundamental elements that go to make for a complete resumption of prosperity. Wheat is going out of the country in large quantities at about \$1.10 a bushel. Corn is selling around 70 cents and cotton, of which the year's yield is placed at 13,000,000 bales, is selling at 3 cents a pound.

The sales of American farm products in foreign markets are running into hundreds of millions of dollars a month, and the balance of trade in American favor is larger than ever before. The farmers have done more than their share for the restoration of prosperous conditions and great commercial and industrial activity.

CONCEALING RAILROAD PROFITS.

The recent "melon cutting" by the Northern Pacific, by which the stockholders received a little matter of \$17,000,000 that they did not know was coming to them, has directed the attention of the Interstate Commerce commission to this form of concealing railroad profits and will probably result in an investigation to determine whether such methods may not be abused to cover operations barred by recent federal enactments.

The \$17,000,000 pickup for the Northern Pacific appears to have represented the surplus profits of the Northwestern Improvement company, a concern that has no direct connection with the Northern Pacific Railway company, except that it was organized as a side issue, by railway officials, for the purpose of handling lands, coal mines and timber claims that came to the railway company chiefly in the form of government grants.

To sell these lands and mines no such agency was necessary and their resources could have been as well developed by an independent ownership, but the benefit would have been more for others and the profit less for the railroad. That explains the formation of the improvement company and the concealment of the source of profit.

profits," except when they want to surprise their stockholders. Some times a source of profit of this kind is wholly concealed from the public and the stockholders and known only to an inside ring, with earnings accumulating for years to be disbursed as extra dividends, causing a boom in the stocks from which those on the inside, with advance information, reap all the reward.

The issue is involved in the suit against the coal carrying roads, now pending in the supreme court, turning on the validity of the Hepburn law. The government takes the ground that railroads should be confined to the business of transportation and should not engage in business unrelated to the duty of a common carrier.

Some of our democratic friends are suggesting that all our various municipal boards be made bi-partisan on the pattern of the Water board. No one has noticed that the bi-partisan pattern has made the Water board superior to the boards composed exclusively of one party membership.

The defeated democratic candidate for congress in the Fifth Nebraska district is said to be contemplating the institution of a contest because the returns show that he was beaten by only twenty votes. Unless the desire is simply to help some lawyer to a \$500 fee there will be no contest.

They now have it figured out in New York that Bryan was responsible for the defeat of Chanler and the re-election of Hughes. This will cheer those who contend that Bryan has been a factor for good in American politics.

The Minneapolis Journal speaks of "President N. M. Butler of Columbia university." The Journal is evidently referring to "President Nicholas Murray Butler," who does not leave his initials without a chaperone.

"If I had to choose between spending fifteen years in France and fifteen years in an American jail, I would choose the jail," says Banker Morse. Indications are that he will have his choice.

The republican membership of the state senate in the coming Nebraska legislature will be thirteen. Either the republicans or the democrats in that body may look for bad luck.

"The country needs an increase of charity," says the Detroit News. The country also needs an increase of industry and enterprise that make charity unnecessary.

"Western people are noted for their big cars," says a New York paper, the editor of which must have been reading advance notices about the Omaha Corn show.

Governor-elect Shallenberger has announced some half dozen appointments, but the pressure at the pie counter has not been appreciably relieved.

Belated returns from Texas show that both Mr. Onion and Mr. Limburger were defeated for election to congress, although they made a strong fight.

Purified Optimism. Houston Post. A Louisville preacher says hope is purified and strengthened by great sorrow. It's true. The fourth successive national defeat has made our optimism wholly pure and perfect.

How It Happened. Mr. Champ Clark says the result in Missouri may safely be attributed to an "unusual concatenation of unfortunate circumstances, which, on the doctrine of probability, will not be duplicated in forty years." We think so, too, whatever that means.

A Miscarriage of Justice. Bridgeport News-Blade. Another miscarriage of justice is reported—this time from Omaha. A poor huckster was fined \$5 in the police court of that city for stealing a copy of the World-Herald. He should have been sent to the insane asylum.

Will the Emperor Come Down? Baltimore American. The Reichstag criticism of the German emperor is not the greatest of his troubles. The autonomous states which form the empire are rising indignantly to ask if they are vassals of peeps, and the question is as rude as it is inconvenient.

more than Shallenberger for governor and over 600 more than Hitchcock for congressman. It is to be noted, also, that the high man on the republican ticket was Ed Leeder, running for state representative.

Describing the staff of the newly elected democratic coroner, the local democratic organ says: His secretary is a niece of Colonel Guffey, the well known Pennsylvania oil magnate and politician.

It is this same Colonel Guffey who was by Mr. Bryan's orders so unceremoniously thrown over the transom at the Denver convention? If so, is this a peace offering, or is it treason to Mr. Bryan?

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ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. The progress of greater New York toward bankruptcy is strikingly shown in a report compiled by Major McClellan's advisory commission on taxes and finance. The report says, in part: "New York City, as at present constituted, has ever since its creation ten years ago been steadily increasing its expenses faster than it has grown; the rate of such excessive increase has been startlingly large; the period during which these conditions have continued has already been long enough to plunge the city into serious financial embarrassment, that, unless this tendency is checked and sharply checked, New York will inevitably become a bankrupt municipality."

"On January 1, 1908, when greater New York became an accomplished fact, its population, according to the official estimate of the health department, was 3,272,418. Ten years later, according to the same authority, the population was 4,222,085—an increase of 1,550,257, or 50 per cent. The budget for 1908, just completed, calls for \$138,545,118.14, an increase of nearly \$13,000,000 over 1907, or 9 per cent. If the budget is to be increased in the same ratio each year for the next ten years—and present indications all point in that direction—we shall see one at the end of that period aggregating \$270,000,000."

"Allowing generously for future increase of the revenues of the general fund for the reduction of taxation, this would mean an actual tax levy of \$224,000,000. As it is unlikely that the population of the city at that time will exceed 6,000,000, this would represent a per capita tax of \$37.33, as against \$26.25 this year."

There are five times as many traction accidents in New York as there are in either London or Berlin. The same comparison can be made with Paris, except that cars enter more largely into these.

Last year 262 persons were killed by accidents in the streets of Manhattan. They were divided as follows: By surface cars, 147; by automobiles, 77; by other vehicles, 124; on elevated railroads, 19; in the subway, 14, and on steam railroads, 21. Including all of the boroughs, there have been persons killed in traction accidents in the last twelve months. In the same period 2,131 persons were injured. The number of collisions in the greater city between cars and vehicles and cars and persons in the last twelve months was 2,963. An average of 172 a month.

Robert Thompson, the captured firing of Staten Island, made incendiarism a business, and levied tribute on merchants of Graniteville in order to stay the activities of his torch. In his confession Thompson stated that on Saturday night last he poured kerosene on the boards of the Winant kitchen, piled dry grass along the side of the house, which he saturated with oil, and then went home and had a sleep. Later he returned and applied a match to the grass and again returned home and slept until his mother called him and told him of the burning of the house.

In the Winant house at the time of the fire were nine persons, including several children. One of them was nearly suffocated. The confession told of plunging the fire alarm box before setting the fire. Over fifty residents of Graniteville were in jail, and the magistrate sent Thompson to the county jail for \$1000 bail. One resident told Judge Handy he had been unable to sleep nights prior to Thompson's arrest, fearing his home would be the next to be set on fire, and that he had enjoyed his first good night's sleep since the man's arrest.

There is an old apple woman, with a kindly face, on one of the Broadway corners downtown. The other day a truckman left his horse standing at the curb and went into a nearby building. The horse grew white with fright, attracted by the piles of succulent rosy-cheeked apples, craned his neck in a most palatable request for a taste. The woman gazed for a moment, and then shook her head. "G'wan, y' old barney," she exclaimed. "But the horse did not 'g'wan.' Instead he advanced one hoof upon the sidewalk. "Would ye see that, now," the woman said. "Well, 'tis such a human way y' have."

She gave him an apple and turned away, muttering, " 'Tis expensive to be charitable."

By way of furnishing an object lesson in the municipal waste, a card is exhibited in the window of a Broadway store showing a look purchasable anywhere and by anybody for 6 cents, cost the city 60 cents. It took two workmen a month to put up 165 of the books, for which service they received \$124 each, the total cost of material and labor being \$361.50.

The Controller of New York has found that he can get along with several hundred fewer employees in his department, having the work done even better and saving hundreds of thousands of dollars which the city needs for something besides keeping an unnecessary payroll. The successful experiment prompted a considerable popular demand for similar reductions in other departments, and New York is in such a tight place that just as likely as not it will have to do so.

In the Wall street district, in front of a large financial institution, a tall gray-bearded man has a stand, where he sells only small flags—emblems of all nations, from the stars and stripes in all qualities, to the flag of the remotest country. He says that a good day in this market makes business in tiny flags good, and that of the foreign flags the English sells the best, with the German a close second.

CUT OUT THE BOOM.

Prosperity Without Inflated Prices the Thing Desired. Cincinnati Enquirer. If we are indeed to have a considerable revival of business and general prosperity, now that the great election is over and the states counties and cities can come back to a normal condition of thought and hope, we shall all feel well rewarded for the strenuous weeks and months of a campaign which certainly did considerably interfere with healthful business conditions. Immediately following the announcement of the result of the general election there have been bold statements from several sections of the country that already there are indications of great business increases. Some of these have been perhaps too pronounced in statement of fact and prediction, now that the assurance of a great "boom." It seems true that the reports of largely increased time and numbers in the work of mills and employes are in many instances justified by facts; that there is already on some lines of railroads a considerable growth of freight business; that the drummers are going out again in force; that orders are on the increase. This is well and good. There is fair reason to believe that manufacture and trade will now continue to increase. But we must not look for a boom that shall send things up suddenly to the fine position of the first half of 1907. We may reasonably hope for a gradual increase of beneficial activities to be continued as the months go by. So let us all have confidence in a future of great prosperity even if it is not to come to us with a sudden big jump.

ROYAL Absolutely PURE ROYAL BAKING POWDER The only baking powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar, the officially approved ingredient for a wholesome, high-class powder. There is greater deception in the sale of baking powders than ever before. Closely observe the label and be certain of getting Royal.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Rocky Ford, Colo., has sent a banker to prison, but the cantolope still constitutes the town's chief claim to fame. Guglielmo Ferrero, the noted Italian historian, who recently completed a history, "The Greatness and Decline of Rome," has arrived in New York. American inventive genius scores again. The squeals of slaughterhouse pigs have been canned