

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), one year, \$4.00.

STATION OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, as follows: George B. Tschuck, Treasurer.

WHEN OUT OF TOWN. Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them.

In the meantime, keep right on doing your shopping early.

China is just showing that the Balkans have no monopoly in war clouds.

"Shall we annex Canada?" asks the Charleston News and Courier. Not if Canada knows it.

The Christmas stocks are fresher now than they will be a few days before Christmas day.

The "Jimocrats" had a feast on goat, which varies the crowd diet to which they were accustomed.

It is but fair to Tom Johnson of Cleveland to call attention to the fact that he is a good loser.

Omaha folks will be mighty well posted on foreign lands by the time the travelogues get through with us.

Prosecutor Heney is said to be out of danger. This will be good news to everybody except the San Francisco crooks.

The country should have a reasonably happy holiday season. Chancellor Day and Carrie Nation have both gone to Europe.

The tariff revision is all on paper," says a democratic editor. There is also a heavy tariff on paper, as all publishers know.

Richard Croker says he has no use for Mr. Bryan. The people would think less of Mr. Bryan if Croker had any use for him.

"Where did Lindsay get the money?" demands the World-Herald. One thing is sure, it did not come from Tammany sources.

MISREPRESENTATION. Opposition of special interests to the proposed postal savings bank is taking the form of a campaign of misrepresentation.

At this point a letter to your congressman is in order. Write your senator also. In all letters place special emphasis on the fact that the business public will suffer by any scheme that turns money away from the local community and tends to congest it in the reserve centers.

The intention is to persuade people that there is some such dangerous scheme covered up in the postal savings bank measure, when nothing of the kind is contemplated.

The postal savings bank measure has been made the special order for consideration in the senate for Monday, December 14, which explains why people are being importuned to write to their congressman and senators at this time.

Such deposits shall be made in the national banks in the states and territories in which the funds are received and when possible in the counties in which such funds are received and, as far as practicable, in the immediate vicinity of the place in which the funds are received.

It goes without saying, therefore, that every letter written to Washington on the theory that the postal savings bank is "a scheme that drains money away from the local community and tends to congest it in the reserve centers" is based on deliberate misrepresentation.

A PROSPERITY FACTOR. "The people who kept their heads" are given credit, in an Omaha letter to the New York Evening Post, for having contributed one important element to the certainty of a revival of commercial activity and prosperity throughout the country.

As a result of this wise policy, the counters of the country merchants are practically empty. Stocks are away below the normal basis and, with the farmers receiving returns from their crops, the demand has increased beyond the available supply.

The consumers have played their part, too, in this reduction of surplus stocks. The generous buying in 1906 and the early part of 1907 had supplied the consumers with more unworn clothing and other staples than the west had ever before possessed.

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savings bank system would furnish facilities and attractions to these money hoarders to place their savings in the government postoffice. General Meyer shows that there are 1,543 savings banks in the union, with deposits aggregating \$3,660,553,945, but over 98 per cent of this great amount is contained in the savings banks of fourteen states, leaving less than 2 per cent in the remaining states and territories.

The postmaster general accepts this as evidence that there are now no adequate facilities for saving, and he contends that if the \$1,000 postoffices in the United States are designated as postal savings banks, hundreds of millions of dollars now hidden away in trunks and in secret places will be brought to the savings banks and thus placed in circulation.

The postmaster general shows that in the last year money orders, payable to the purchasers themselves, were bought to the amount of \$8,104,447. The purchasers of these orders paid fees to the amount of \$25,000, simply to feel safe in their possession. Money orders to the value of \$100,000,000 were also bought during the year and sent to foreign countries, most of it representing the savings of foreign workmen who are familiar with the postal savings bank system in their own countries and who have confidence in no other security.

The adoption of the postal savings system would end all question among the timid of the safety of their deposits and would place millions in circulation that are now in hiding. The adoption of the plan is more important than any untested and untried guaranty deposit plan that has ever been proposed.

"SHOWING" A MISSOURIAN. Champ Clark of Missouri, congressman, lecturer, statesman and democrat, woke up the wrong passenger the other day when he began quizzing Mr. A. F. Call of California on the tariff question, at the hearings before the ways and means committee. Mr. Call had been explaining that the duty on fruits should be retained and that California fruits would be driven from the markets if they were brought into competition with the citrus fruits from countries where the scale of wages is very low. Then this conversation ensued:

Mr. Clark—How long have you been in the fruit business in California? Mr. Call—Twenty years. Mr. Clark—Has the cost of production increased or diminished? Mr. Call—The cost has increased.

Mr. Clark—What made it increase? Mr. Call—The increase in the price of labor. Mr. Clark—Have you ever made a study of the proposition that there ever would come a time when the California fruit industry would become self-sustaining without a protective tariff; and if so, when? Mr. Call—There will be one time when they will have to do it, and only one, and that is when the democratic party comes in and wipes out the tariff and the cost of labor is reduced to 25 cents a day. (Laughter.)

Mr. Clark—You think that is an answer? Mr. Call—I think that is a square answer. That is the only time it will come—when the cost of labor is reduced to 25 cents a day. Mr. Clark—I think it was an impertinent kind of stump speech.

Mr. Call—I do not think so. Mr. Clark—The theory of protection as propounded by Henry Clay was that it protected infant industries and the time would come when they would get to be self-sustaining. Do you think the time will ever come when the California fruit industry shall stand on its own legs without protection? Mr. Call—Never until the labor cost is reduced to the level of Europe.

Mr. Clark—You have got to keep up this thing always, then? Mr. Call—Yes; unless you want to pay labor 25 cents a day. Mr. Clark—Do you pay the Chinese and Japs as much as the American laborer? Mr. Call—No, sir; 15 cents less.

Mr. Clark—Everybody uses Japs who can? Mr. Call—No, sir; nobody uses them who can get along without them. Congressman Clark is faced with the proposition that always rises up to haunt free trade democrats when they seek to put their attractive theories into active practice. When such efforts are made it is usually found that the protective tariff system enables American growers and manufacturers to pay American wages and continue in business with a fair profit to themselves. It is also usually shown that the first effect of the reduction of a tariff on an article on which a protective tariff is needed is felt by the workingman. Even a free trade democrat like Mr. Clark will hardly be willing to see the developing citrus fruit trade of California wiped out by forcing it into competition with growers who have the financial advantage of the beggarly wages paid the Italian peasants and the West Indian peons.

The fact that Thanksgiving day found charity workers in Omaha searching for persons on whom to bestow their bounty proves the progress of the community in recent years. Many can remember Thanksgiving days when the movement was the other way round.

Reports brought in by traveling men who make Nebraska territory are to the effect that the dealers in the smaller communities of the state are already enjoying a holiday trade such as they never knew before. The prosperity of the Nebraska farmer is substantial.

The democratic city administration is beginning to boast of how cheaply it has run the affairs of the city. There certainly has been a remarkable economy in service since Mayor Jim and his cohorts took charge.

Mr. Bryan has called upon Tammany to explain the falling off of his vote in New York City. The answer is that Tammany had a candidate for the presidency that it did not like very well.

The south has lost one of its big, brainy, progressive citizens in the death of Joseph Bryan, editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch. His work as an editor and a man was a credit to his state and will form his enduring monument.

De Sagan says that Count Boni is "an improper person" and Boni retorts De Sagan is "a degenerate." He feels all along that those fellows would get to telling the truth about each other.

Omaha Eagles are getting busy on the biggest job they ever tackled. If they carry out their plans for entertaining the grand series next August they have not a moment to waste.

Senator Hale wants tapioca flour protected by the tariff. This country is in no humor to have its pudding industry brought into competition with the pauper pudding of Europe.

Someone should let the country know if Horace Vose of Rhode Island has any other business than raising turkeys for the Thanksgiving dinners at the White House.

The Yellow Streak. Baltimore American. Hobson demands of President Roosevelt that he shall leave the fleet between this country and Japan on the Pacific. Some people are getting in the blue funk over the yellow peril.

An Infant Industry. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. It is much easier to govern the empire of China than it is to pacify and tranquillize the baby heir to the throne. Diplomacy and statecraft are weak sisters in the presence of an incorrigible youngster.

Tackling a Solomon. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The finest piece of humor attempted in diplomatic circles in recent years comes from the president of Hayti, who cables to his Washington representative that he will stamp out his latest revolution without bloodshed.

Did He Stay Awake Nights? Minneapolis Journal. Mr. Rockefeller says he did not know what morning he would wake up and find the supply of crude oil exhausted. His anxiety on the subject caused him to try to get everybody else out of the business. "If the oil wells go dry," he said, "let the whole calamity fall on poor old John."

Lumber Barons' Bluff. Kansas City Times. Two lumbermen said to the ways and means committee in Washington that if it had been known that lumber duties were to be lowered Taft could not have carried the lumber states. But if the country had not believed that Taft's election would mean a general reduction in the tariff, how many states, lumber and otherwise, would he have carried?

Cursting the Speaker's Power. Indianapolis News. President-elect Taft draws a line between the duties and limitations of a president-elect and a president, as far as politics are concerned. That is a correct view of the case. A president-elect may do many things in the way of suggestion or action which the president of the whole country, and therefore nonpartisan, may not do. One of Mr. Taft's suggestions, it is understood, is that the house committee on rules be elected by the members of the house.

The National League of Democratic Clubs will hold a three days' session in Washington, beginning December 8, for post-mortem purposes. As a war alarmist Congressman Hobson outwinds his contentions in England and Germany, Mr. Hobson sees an invasion with every dawn.

The Charleston News and Courier, heroic defender of the democratic faith, is giving the party daily treatment for Bryanitis. A cure is not expected, but it is hoped the pain will ease off.

The democratic candidate for governor of Connecticut spent \$33,000 in the last campaign, while his republican opponent spent \$20,000 more. The Hartford Times says the total spent in the state was not less than \$150,000.

The question whether Oregon legislators will obey the mandate of the primaries or wash on the United States, senatorship is provoking discussion outside of the state. Republicans control the legislature. Primary preference was for a democrat. Which party will knock the pessimism?

Charles H. Grasty, the man who "discovered" John Johnson at the gridiron feat in Washington last spring, and proclaimed him the coming man in the Baltimore News, has settled down at St. Paul where he may touch elbows with the favorite son of Minnesota. Mr. Grasty has purchased an interest in the St. Paul Dispatch.

Michigan's revised constitution was accepted by the voters at the recent election, and thus comes into force as the fundamental law of the state. One of its principal features is a grant to municipalities of full home rule, as in the matter of public ownership of public service business.

Cities wishing to take over productive enterprises like street railways or lighting plants are authorized to make the purchase by means of certificates of indebtedness issued against the property taken over. Another feature is a prohibition upon the legislature against making any rules calculated to deprive the majority of the right to legislate.

Lowell, Mass., may soon have as her chief executive a man who is now a plain policeman. George H. Brown, patrolman, after a whirlwind canvass, has won the republican nomination for mayor and is said to stand a good chance of election.

Brown was on a beat two weeks ago and was considered a joke candidate when he announced his intention of running for the mayoralty. He asked for a two weeks' leave of absence, which was granted. Then he began a series of outdoor speeches at the mill gates and inadvertently he stated one day that "no honest man wins promotion in the police department except through political pull." Brown was summoned before the board and his leave of absence was revoked. In two hours the joke candidate was the most prominent aspirant in Lowell, for the public criticism of the board's action was so great that Brown's leave of absence was granted again. With time to devote to the fight, he won.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS. The strained condition of public sentiment in Germany and England afford opportunities for alarmists and advocates of militarism to secure attention. Whether the causes operating to produce the present tension were designed or accidental, it is clear they are working most effectively in promoting military and naval expansion and in diverting public attention while measures of increased taxation are being put through the legislative mills. Note how the tension helps the administration policies in both nations. Germany's announced policy of creating a large naval fleet, estimated to cost half a billion dollars, or \$300,000,000 each year, for the next five years, brought the British prime minister an enlarged definition of Great Britain's two-power naval standard. Mr. Asquith announced that the standard meant a navy equal to the two next highest naval powers, with 10 per cent more for good measure. The German Reichstag answered the challenge by voting to increase the coming year's naval budget from \$100,000,000 to \$115,000,000, an increase of 15 per cent against Britain's 10 per cent. In the midst of this naval rivalry, national pride electrified. General Lord Roberts, former commander-in-chief of the British army, chose an opportune moment to exploit his army defense scheme in the House of Lords. In his opinion the navy is not to be relied on as an effective defense against invasion. To be sure, it would help some, but complete safety can be had only with a hemo army of 1,000,000 men, trained and equipped to drive invaders back into the sea. Lord Roberts' plan, which the peers commended to the Commons, would mean the adoption of the continental system of universal military service, a policy which has not found favor in England. Thus, through the fog on both sides of the North sea, the alarm buttons have been pressed by the forefingers while the remaining fingers press buttons on the taxpayers.

The statement of Prince von Buelow, made in the Reichstag, recently, that France had become the world's banker, is confirmed by Edmund Thierry's work, "Economic Progress of France," just published in Paris. For nearly a quarter of a century, it appears, France has been receiving from abroad a good deal more gold than it has paid out. Even since 1900 it is estimated through a most careful calculation that the Bank of France's reserves fund has been increased by \$800,000,000. But some of Mr. Thierry's other disclosures are much more interesting. The tremendous national debt of more than \$5,000,000,000 is held almost entirely inside the country, paying 3 per cent to the holders, while in addition the investing public, which may be said to include the whole population, is a greater or less degree, has more than \$5,000,000,000 more placed in the national debts of other countries, such as Turkey, Greece, Spain, Italy, Brazil, Belgium and Russia. The total wealth of the country is estimated at 60,000,000,000 francs (\$60,000,000,000), divided with more equality among the inhabitants than is the case in any other country. Nearly 30,000 persons have \$15,000 each, nearly 2,000,000 persons \$2,000 each, while 4,000,000 have \$1,000 each.

The receipt message of King Edward, conveying royal greeting and assurance of remedying native grievances, is received by the people of India in a spirit corresponding to the political tendencies of the editors. Some of the native journals praise it loyally, others extend to it a rather chilly greeting, while some criticize it bitterly. The Katraka of Calcutta says the people undoubtedly enjoy the affection of the royal house, but, at the same time, the deplorable truth need not be concealed, the country is deteriorating fast under British rule. It adds: "The late emperor ought either to have assumed direct government or granted a constitution. At present the country is at the mercy of its servants." The Bengali says: "It would be affectionate to say that the jubilee has left the country happier or more cheerful. What is most disappointing is that the message holds out no hope of the reform proposals being really useful. Let us assure the king's advisers on behalf of our people that this is not the sort of reform which will satisfy any section of the community." The Sandhya says: "The king can cheat us, but he cannot cheat the fourth time, with words meant for children, as it were." The critic is the only Bengali paper that cordially welcomes the document.

John Burns, the first of British labor leaders to hold a cabinet position, is in London.

Belgium is pictured in World's Work as a country without poor. This fortunate condition is due to the habits of temperance, thrift and saving in which the people are imbued. Most effective of the means of inculcating these habits are the postal savings banks. Every postoffice is a savings bank and are also the agencies through which life annuities may be secured. Another factor promoting this happy condition is the distribution of the people on small holdings all over the country, with little or no overcrowding in cities. Not only are farms small and farming widely diffused, but industries also, two ideal conditions which make poverty a rarity.

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danger of losing his hold on his former associates. He talks too plainly to them. He tells them some disagreeable truths, and naked truths hurt. Himself an abstainer from both tobacco and liquor, he has no patience with the knucklers and kickers who in the days of prosperity make no provision for the adversity of tomorrow. Replying to the demands of the radical Kler Hartie for more extensive measures for relief of the unemployed, Mr. Burns detailed what the government was doing and intended to do, but emphasized the folly of workmen appealing for help from the government whenever industries slacken. One river in Great Britain, Mr. Burns said, turned out in 1907, more ships than did all Germany. When the American panic occurred, the shipbuilding industry came to a standstill for months, thousands of men on the Clyde ceased to receive wages, and clamored for a government stipend while out of employment. "But," said Mr. Burns, "the craftsmen on the Clyde, in the year 1907, spent \$300,000,000 for drink, a sum more than enough to have lifted them over the bad months of 1908. (Ware may certain that in the event of non-employment they would receive fifteen shillings a week from the government their improvidence would be encouraged. Self-help is what we need, not government aid." Mr. Burns' plain talk emphasizes the fact that the individual can do more for himself than the government can do for him. Disagreeable as it may seem, there is no truer friend than he who points out one's faults. But the duty is a thankless one.

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