

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George B. Paschuck, treasurer of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of this Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of November, 1908, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Number of copies, Total. Rows include 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of December, 1908. (Seal) M. P. WALKER, Notary Public.

WHEN OUT OF TOWN. Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as office is requested.

The Haytien outlook is still dark. Prepare your New Year's resolutions early.

No one objects to Santa Claus doing a night-riding stunt. Anyway, Senator Foraker has not been mentioned for a cabinet position.

Mrs. Carrie Catt has got her back up, and called the president a tree toad. Venezuela without Castro would be another case of the omelet with the egg eliminated.

Jay Gould, Jr., is taking a course in aerobatics. Most of the Goulds have had experience in taking fliers. Conditions in the far east may be different when China gets strong enough to open or close its own door.

There are 116 vacancies in the cadetships at West Point. The army service does not appeal in times of peace. If Castro really has \$60,000,000 and is looking for a home he would be welcomed by congenial spirits in Wall street.

If Mr. Cannon has his way there will be standing pat room only in the house when the tariff revision bill comes up. It may be noted that all of the opposition to Mr. Bryan being a candidate again in 1912 is being shown by democrats.

Champ Clark is certain to make a record as the minority leader in the house at Washington. Champ is a natural insurgent. The congress that devises a plan for turning a deficit into a surplus is going to have a first lien on the support of the people.

"Navy men are never fluent speakers," says Admiral Evans. That's equivalent to declaring that Hobson is not a navy man. Mr. Roosevelt's assailants in the Panama canal case will observe that he did not use up all his finger in the presidential campaign.

"Kissing will remove freckles," says a physician. Possibly, but the fact holds no encouragement to those of us who are not freckled. "Why do hens quit laying when eggs are 35 cents a dozen?" asks a Brooklyn paper. Probably because eggs are 35 cents a dozen when hens quit laying.

A London paper refers to the kaiser as "a dashing young man." Since his experience with the Reichstag the kaiser doubtless feels more like a dashed young man. A Georgia man says he has invented a nonintoxicating beverage that tastes exactly like beer. Still, you never think of a Georgia colonel as having an appetite for beer.

Secretary Straus of the Department of Commerce and Labor calls attention to the fact that our foreign-born population is not increasing as rapidly as the native population. The American stork is not on a strike.

WESTERN NEBRASKA.

The letter from western Nebraska published in The Bee is not only pertinent, but one that deserves careful consideration. The writer of the letter, who signs himself "A Citizen of the Unorganized Territory West of Logan County," is a man not only of prominence and influence in that section, but also well known throughout the state, whose name is permanently fixed to the history of the state as the author of some of its best laws and to whose utterances heed should be paid.

It is much to be regretted that such feeling as is expressed in the letter should exist in any part of Nebraska, and yet the ground for resentment felt by the people who have built up the empire west of the hundredth meridian is natural. Many times in the past The Bee has called public attention to the injustice of continuing certain conditions that were established in Nebraska at a time when practically the whole state west of North Platte was "unorganized territory."

In the matter of legislative apportionment alone this injustice is most glaring. Representation in the legislature of Nebraska at present is based on a census taken in 1885. The population of Nebraska has not only increased many fold since that date, but its center has shifted and there is no fairness in the continuation of the result of that census. The constitution of the state provides that the legislative apportionment can only be made after a census has been taken, and that a census can only be taken by the state on the half decade year. Four opportunities to make this apportionment have been neglected by the legislature, and it is impossible that a remedy can be applied by the coming session.

So the people of western Nebraska will be compelled for at least two more sessions of the general assembly to patiently bear the wrong of which they complain. But they must not think that this condition voices the attitude of the people of the eastern part of the state. The general interests of Nebraska are the same from the Missouri river to the Wyoming line and from South Dakota to Kansas, and there should be no division of opinion along geographical lines. The traditional North and South Platte separation has been the occasion of a tremendous amount of political mischief in Nebraska in the past and it should be wiped out. A man should be selected for office, not because he comes from a particular section of the state, but because he is qualified for the position to which he aspires or is appointed. The interests of the people of the "unorganized territory west of Logan county" in Nebraska are identical with those of the people of Omaha or any other community along the river. Taxes are levied against property through the same means and are expended by officers in whose choosing all of the people have had a voice. The government of the state exists for all alike.

The danger of the segregation of the "panhandle" of Nebraska, or the secession of its inhabitants is remote. It is absurd that a senator of Nebraska should not know of the wonderful progress that has been made in those counties that were considered impossible twenty-five years ago. The vigorous and energetic citizenship of whom the writer of the letter referred to is a splendid representative, has wrought wonders in that region and deserves the utmost credit. The Bee congratulates these people on their achievement and believes that at the proper time justice will be done to them. It must be remembered always that Douglas county suffers equally with the "unorganized territory west of Logan county" because of the present unfair apportionment for legislative purposes.

FOR REAL TARIFF REVISION. Mr. Taft's public statement that, after a conference with Mr. Cannon and other republican leaders in congress, he is convinced that the special session of congress, to be called in next March, will pass a bill which shall provide for a thorough revision of the tariff on the basis of the platform of the republican party, will be cheering news to the whole people. The statement is an assurance that no matter what inducements may attempt to interfere with the action of the next congress, Mr. Taft is going to do his utmost to fill the pledges made by the republican party and endorsed and intensified by him. Mr. Taft's policy on the question of tariff revision was enunciated long before he was a candidate for the presidency and he is clearly determined to make good on his promises to the people. Mr. Taft will have a distinct advantage when the tariff revision program is called for consideration in congress. He is in position to demand that the party's pledges be made good, and failure to respond to that demand will rest upon the congressmen who will have to report to their people in the middle of Mr. Taft's administration. The present mood of the country is emphatically in favor of a real revision of the tariff and even the most ardent standpatters in the senate and house must appreciate this fact. Speaker Cannon and some of his immediate followers in the house understand the public sentiment on the question and are already showing a disposition to co-operate with the president in carrying out the pledges of the party platform. Few congressmen will care to go home and face an election with the brand of treachery to party promise burned into their records. The "reactionaries," so-called, know this and are showing that they know it.

The hearings now being held by the ways and means committee of the house will only serve as a recommendation to the house in the next congress. That committee may decide upon a hearing of its own. In any event, the bill prepared as a result of the present hearings will be subject to amendment when it is reported to the house and may be changed entirely. The promise is, however, for legislation that will scale down the duties that are too high, reduce the protection no longer needed to prosperous industries and fulfill the obligations of the party to the people, as promised in the Chicago platform.

THE CONVICTION OF RUEF.

The conviction of Abraham Ruef, a political boss of San Francisco, on a charge of bribery, marks the first step toward success in the ending of the corrupt ring which has held San Francisco in its grasp for many years. The fight against Ruef and his associates has been the most sensational in many years in the history of attempts at municipal reform. The defendants have had resources which apparently extended to every class of citizens in San Francisco. This influence was shown in many ways, in jurors who admitted that they had been bribed, in officials who pleaded the constitutional privilege as excuse for failing to answer questions in the courts, in personal attacks on the men prosecuting the cases and in decisions setting the accused men at liberty after they had entered pleas of guilty.

How much truth there may be in the report that many of the men who have been most active in the prosecution of Ruef and his associates have themselves been connected with corporation cliques for the looting of the city does not enter into the case at present. The conviction of Ruef is only incidental to the existence of a red-hot public sentiment against grafting and corruption in high places which has been created in San Francisco and which promises to ultimately result in a much-needed, although long-delayed, municipal house cleaning.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The liberal ministry of Great Britain at the present moment is in a pitiable plight. Coming into power with an overwhelming majority, the party has striven manfully to redeem its pledges to the people. Many measures of practical benefit have passed the Commons, but comparatively few have received the sanction of the House of Lords. Only two measures of general importance received the sanction of the peers—the old age pension bill and the Irish National university bill. The liquor license reform measure, on which the ministry staked much, was recently rejected by the peers with peculiarly defiant emphasis. The second education bill, designed to secularize national schools throughout the kingdom, failed to secure sufficient support to justify pressing it to passage, and it was withdrawn. These measures constituted the ministerial legislative program for the present session, and their defeat leaves only routine measures for consideration. From a party standpoint, the situation is demoralizing. Failure to redeem pledges shakes public confidence to an extent that most observers think an appeal to the commonsense of the people would result in defeat. The liberals have gained so heavily at the general election that it could force much of its advance without endangering its normal strength. Scores of bye-elections, supposed to reflect public sentiment in spots, went against the liberals. Each local victory stiffened the backbone of the peers, so much so that the dominant Tory majority grew scant consideration to liberal party measures and boldly challenges the ministry to a test of public sentiment by a general election. There is no indication that the Asquith ministry will accept the challenge. Meanwhile, failing to produce expected results, the various factions of the party are drifting apart, and accentuating the embarrassments of the ministry.

THE PANAMA CANAL SCANDAL.

William Nelson Cromwell has completed the work of President Roosevelt in cutting short, tying up and putting away on the shelf a most unpleasant and disgraceful rumor to the effect that certain officials of the American government were parties to or cognizant of a deal by which several millions of dollars of the amount paid to the French company by this government in securing the transfer of rights, franchises and holdings in the Panama canal property from the French government and French companies were distributed among the members of a syndicate formed for the purpose of handling the deal. Mr. Cromwell denies explicitly any such syndicate ever had an existence, and he denounces as wholly false all of the charges made by the newspapers concerning corruption in connection with the deal.

It should be remembered that the entire Panama canal question was investigated by a senate committee, in 1906, under the direction of Senator Morgan of Alabama, a bitter opponent of the Panama route. It was developed in that inquiry that the United States made the offer of \$40,000,000 for the property and franchises of the French company. Of this amount \$25,000,000 was paid to the old Panama Canal company, \$12,000,000 to the new French company and \$3,000,000 held awaiting final disposition, the method of which was in litigation in the courts of France. The testimony before the hearing also showed that Mr. Cromwell had received a fee of something near \$1,000,000 and that J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., acting as fiscal agents of the French government and the French Panama company, received commissions amounting to about \$35,000. There is no record or even tangible hint that any other person or firm in this country received any money or emolument whatever for the transaction.

AMERICA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION.

The annual report of the geological survey for the fiscal year ending with June, 1908, contains some surprising information concerning the production of precious metals for that period. Compared with 1907 there was a decrease of \$4,000,000 in gold, \$1,000,000 in silver and \$4,000,000 in copper. While there was a falling off in the production of the money metals, an increase was shown in every other line of mineral production. The increase in pig iron was \$24,000,000. The coal production was \$103,000,000 above that of 1907 and the oil output was \$28,000,000 greater. The total value of metallic and non-metallic products in 1907 was in excess of \$2,000,000,000, which added to the \$8,000,000,000 produced on the farms furnishes a healthy showing of \$10,000,000,000 added to the nation's wealth during the year.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Richard C. Kerens of Missouri spent \$59,570 in his campaign for the United States senate at the November primaries. He got left behind. Even in the excitement of congress and other untoward events, it is worth while to notice that the government has convicted a land thief. President Roosevelt has accepted honorary membership in the Chicago Historical society and a portrait of the president, painted by A. Benginger, has been presented to the society. In a recent speech Mayor Hibbard of Boston declared that the city is giving away annually to public service corporations, without anything tangible in return, \$1,000,000 worth of privileges. H. P. Ingalls, said to be the last of the group of old-time showmen that included Barnum, Forepaugh and John Robinson, the elder, died at his home in Huntsville, O. He was 82 years old. Infirmities of age caused his death. One of the most interesting characters at the American Mining congress was Mrs. Nellie Upham of Colorado, who through a special dispensation, represented the District of Columbia, where she formerly lived, and where her husband, Dr. M. S. Upham, still lives. The only woman who ever ran for office in Florida, Mrs. S. F. J. Linn, the socialist candidate for state superintendent of schools, received nearly 4,000 votes. She had 1.25 votes more to her credit than the candidate for governor on that ticket, according to the Florida Times-Union.

THE DIVINE RIGHT OF THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

The divine right of the German emperor promises to become a magnificent lift. Five proposals are pending in the Reichstag, each aiming to secure such constitutional changes as will result in ministerial responsibility to Parliament. The vital feature of the proposed amendments would divest the emperor of supreme power and vest it in the ministry created by and representing the Reichstag. The present constitution was made by Bismarck in 1870, and with the exception of three amendments in 1873 and one in 1888 it remains today precisely as he made it. So far as it relates to ministers it creates no imperial cabinet. The only federal or imperial minister is the chancellor. He is not responsible to anybody but the sovereign. As for amendments to the constitution, they may be proposed by the Reichstag, but must be actually made by the Bundesrath. In the latter body the negative vote of the seven Prussian representatives constitutes an absolute veto upon any change in the constitution, and those seventeen members are appointed by the emperor, or by the king of Prussia, and their votes are all cast for them by the chancellor precisely as he pleases. In brief, any change in the constitution or in the imperial laws relating to the army, the navy or taxation is utterly impossible without the assent of the emperor. "It is, of course, possible," says the New York Tribune, "that if the Reichstag should by a substantial majority present a request for a constitutional amendment establishing a responsible ministry—it has never yet thus made any request for a constitutional amendment of any kind—the Bundesrath would grant it. It is obvious that such a grant would be in fact a personal grant from the emperor, just as much as the grant of a constitution by the czar, the sultan or the shah."

THE BOSTON MAN WHO SUED THE MINISTER.

A Boston man has sued the minister who performed the marriage ceremony for him for a return of the portion of the fee, alleging that "the service was not worth the price." Wonder what his wife thinks about it? Adlai Stevenson is going to make a contest of the gubernatorial election in Illinois. He is probably anxious to keep his name before the public as a preliminary to making a fight for the nomination for vice president in 1912. The implement men of South Dakota have resolved that the newspapers are the best of advertising mediums. It only remains now for the implement men to put into practice the precept endorsed. Douglas county pioneers move along in an unobtrusive way, but their modesty will not prevent them from coming under public notice. The early settlers of this country deserve all they are likely to get. Mr. Bryan says he has never cared much for foot ball. Still, it might have helped him, as the game teaches its participants how to run. It is too late to be an early Christmas shopper, but it is still possible for you to get into the near-early class. You Won't Be Lonesome. Baltimore Sun. Says Taft to the south: "Come on in; the water's fine." Choose an Idle Moment. Cleveland Plain Dealer. That counterfeiter who surrendered to the United States authorities by telephone no doubt would have been greatly annoyed if told the line was busy. The Big Corn Show. St. Louis Globe Democrat. The National Corn exposition at Omaha will be open until December 19. More than half the states are represented and the others will be sorry for themselves when they discover the extent and interesting nature of the big show. Potent Guarantee of Peace. New York Tribune. A little while ago relations between America and Japan were said to be the chief menace to the world's peace. Now they are declared to be its most potent guarantee. We are inclined to think that the latter estimate is far more accurate than the former. Ananias Candidate Balks. Indianapolis News. From it all we conclude that one is not compelled to accept an election to the Ananias club, and that unless there is an acceptance, express or implied, the election does not become effective. It is well that it should be within the power of the citizen to decline so distinguished an honor. Economy Must Be Practiced. New York Tribune. That the national administration appreciates the temper in which the budget making should be approached is indicated by the instructions to various departments against salary raising. Congress should exhibit a similar spirit. The results of the last national election were much more favorable to the republican party in general than to the party in congress. The public is likely to be unusually critical of its work in producing this year's budget, for the need of economy is vividly before the minds of the people by reason of the cutting down of expenses that business has had to resort to, and of the attention that has been attracted in the wastefulness of municipal government.

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