

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, 1903.

George B. Trevelyan, Treasurer. The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of November, 1903, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Copies, Total. Rows include various circulation figures for different days and totals.

Net total, 130,130. Daily average, 43,377. GROSS CIRCULATION, 130,130.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 21st day of December, 1903. M. P. WALKER, Notary Public.

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

Venezuela is arranging to celebrate a Castrolina Christmas.

Venezuelan ships appear to be schnapps for the Dutch.

Since it is too late to avoid the rush, it is just as well to get into the rush early.

Postmaster General Meyer says someone is hoarding \$500,000,000. Not guilty.

A West Virginia town announces an elstived for Christmas. Still, most folks will prefer turkey.

A good press agent is all that it takes for a man to figure in the next cabinet for at least a day.

Cipriano Castro is said to be planning to change his name. Skipriano Castro would be appropriate.

A spice company has been fined \$500 for adulterating its goods. Still we look for variety in spice.

It will probably be developed later that some asphalt company is the real backer of the Venezuelan revolution.

Pennsylvania must elect a senator to succeed Mr. Knox but has little hope of getting "something equally as good."

"The devil is loose in Scotland," says Carrie Nation. That's about what the Scotch said as soon as Carrie landed.

Fourteen members of congress have gone to Panama to investigate canal conditions. The junket is as popular as ever.

A little more steam on the street cleaning force right now before the snow and ice arrive would not be out of place.

The next thing on the bill for Omaha is a poultry show. It is customary for the barnyard fowls to follow the corn.

Admiral Cervera has retired from active service. His fleet retired from active service down at Santiago about ten years ago.

The Audubon society proposes to take a bird census of the country. It will have most difficulty in counting the hot ones.

The constitution which was designed as a menace to the sultan of Turkey has been seized by him as a life preserver.

It's nuts for the Water board lawyers. The more litigation, the more money for them. And the taxpayers foot the bills.

The commission appointed by Governor Hughes to investigate speculation in Wall street should be provided with diving suits.

The president has been called a "faunal naturalist." That's mild compared with what some congressmen are calling him.

Mr. Shonta is trying to settle the estate of his titled son-in-law. That makes him a member of the committee on foreign relations.

Castro is picking out fancy neckwear in the shops of Berlin. Some of his former constituents in Venezuela would like to fit him with their latest designs in neckwear.

MR. BRYAN'S LEADERSHIP.

"A Battle Over—the War Begun," is the title of Mr. Bryan's latest address on political affairs. Its coming-out party seems to have occurred down in the heart of Pennsylvania.

It will be observed that Mr. Bryan's sense of humor remains keen. Political history since 1896 shows how persistently the party has forced leadership upon him "without effort on his own part."

Mr. Bryan's assertion that Mr. Taft had been elected by a combination of financial, commercial and industrial interests and that he (Mr. Bryan) would rather remain a private citizen than be president and be subservient to these interests, "as Mr. Taft must be under the conditions that elected him," is almost as humorous as his pretense that he has done nothing to secure or retain his party's leadership.

Every democrat mentioned now or hereafter as a presidential possibility may consider himself included in the list of "those who might be personally interested" by Mr. Bryan's retirement from the democratic leadership and to all such he makes it plain that he has no intention to get out of the way.

A NATIONAL GAME LAW.

A bill has been introduced in congress by Congressman Weeks of Massachusetts which goes farther than anything yet attempted in extending the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce commission and centralizing of power of the federal government over the states. Mr. Weeks' bill asserts the right of congress to legislate, under its interstate commerce powers, for the protection of migratory birds.

CARNEGIE ON THE TARIFF.

The ways and means committee at Washington derived much entertainment from the testimony offered by Andrew Carnegie as to the tariff on steel products, but the net result will hardly add to the committee's sum total of knowledge on the subject. The somewhat detailed press report of the hearing indicates that Mr. Carnegie was in rare good humor and took great delight in framing happy epigrams on law, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

At previous hearings, Mr. Gary, as head of the steel trust, and Charles M. Schwab, one of the great steel manufacturers, had testified in detail about the cost of making steel in this country, prices at home and abroad, the wages of workmen and all of the factors involved in the conduct of a great industry.

One significant feature of the steel king's testimony is his refusal to recognize the existence of any independent steel manufacturing companies. He declared, in so many words, that the United States Steel corporation had business so organized and so well in hand that no independent company, with less capital and less able management, could hope to compete successfully, and that no tariff schedules could prevent such companies from final commercial disaster.

declaration of pronounced opposition to any proposition looking to an income tax law. Mr. Carnegie has an income somewhat above the average and it is not affected by tariff changes. The result of the hearing leaves the ways and means committee faced with the duty of making its own conclusions with reference to the steel tariff changes. If complete removal of the tariff would help the Steel trust to the hurt of independent concerns, the committee will have to exercise great care to reach an adjustment fair to all concerned.

THAT FRAUD ORDER ON SANTA CLAUS.

Much adverse criticism is being directed at Postmaster General Meyer because of his order that all posted letters addressed to Santa Claus go to the Dead Letter office instead of being delivered as formerly to local charitable organizations. The critics of the postmaster general declare that his order is calculated to destroy the simple faith of children and blast their innocent expectation and that it would be better for the great government to go far enough in paternalistic lines even to make the purchases needed to satisfy the wishes of the trusting correspondents of St. Nicholas.

The heartless officials of the Post-office department have another version of the situation, and are all agreed that a serious mistake was made in sending these letters to private societies and generous individuals. The number of letters addressed to the children's saint was previously something like 1,000 a year, but is now estimated at about 50,000 a year, and officers of charitable societies who have been making investigations declare that the increase is simply another illustration of the facility and promptness with which professional beggars and the undeserving take advantage of every chance to impose upon tender hearted persons. The post-office officials are convinced that the use of the mails for Santa Claus purposes is a false charity, and sensible folks who think it over will agree with them.

AK-SAR-BEN FINANCES.

The report rendered at the recent annual meeting of Ak-Sar-Ben, setting out the receipts and expenditures for the preceding year, is certainly gratifying in the balance to the good which it leaves in hand. The financial exhibit must impress one and all with the magnitude to which the Ak-Sar-Ben institution has attained. While the initiating ceremonies continue weekly for a period of four or five months, the carnival proper is condensed into ten days, and for these activities the grand total of expenditures for the last year foots up \$58,000. When the aggregate expenditures approached the \$40,000 mark we all thought Ak-Sar-Ben was full-grown, but it has since then expanded 50 per cent and still finds income exceeding outgo.

Analysis of the treasurer's report shows that most of the revenue from membership fees is spent on the initiation entertainment; that the ball has become almost entirely a source of expense bringing practically no separate income; that the children's ball inaugurated this year paid all expenses and more, too; that the parades cost nearly 50 per cent more than was raised by special parade fund subscriptions, and, finally, that the street fair, although costing over \$16,000, brought in \$29,000, producing a profit of \$13,000. As now financed, therefore, the street fair produces almost half the total revenue.

On closer inspection, however, it will be seen that the importance of the street fair is likely to be exaggerated. Ak-Sar-Ben is not intended to be a money-making institution, and while the street fair produced a profit of \$13,000, this \$8,000 was used to sink an indebtedness or be carried to the surplus account, so that in reality the deficit, had there been no street fair, would have been but \$5,000. The street fair, moreover, is more or less of a hazardous undertaking, depending largely upon weather conditions, to say nothing of other objectionable features. The question whether the street fair could be abolished or give way to some other form of entertainment without jeopardizing the financial stability of Ak-Sar-Ben resolves itself into a question whether an assured income of \$5,000 could be secured from sources entirely outside of those now contributing.

The Omaha Ministerial association comes grandly to the front with unequivocal endorsement of the report of the recent grand jury and the further recommendation that public officials derelict in their duty "be proceeded against for unfaithfulness in office." That's just what the grand jury was supposed to do, but either could not identify the officials derelict in duty or could not find sufficient legal evidence to justify bringing in bills of indictment. Talking about derelict public officials and proceeding against them in specific cases are two different things.

The only democratic congressman from Nebraska is vociferous in his newspaper for a bank deposit guaranty law. When the democratic bank deposit guaranty scheme was presented in congress last spring as an amendment to the Aldrich-Vreeland bill, he refused to vote for it.

Mayor "Jim" has not yet announced whether or not he will this year perform on his broncho along Pennsylvania avenue while the inaugural procession is forming.

The state auditor of Kansas announces that in the future he will refuse to give his approval to expense

account items for meals eaten by state officials if the amount spent for each repast exceeds 75 cents. Those who have eaten in Kansas hotels will side with the auditor.

It is to be noted that several of the supreme court commissioners who insisted they were entitled to promotion to supreme court judgeships carrying \$4,500 a year are manifesting no objection to continuing to serve in their present capacity at \$2,500 a year.

For some reason or other the democratic members-elect to the legislature do not seem to be jumping with any avidity at the World-Herald's scheme to "defeat the lobby" by shearing the speaker of his power to appoint committees.

Omaha retailers have been doing a big Christmas business because they have been offering a bigger selection and better goods at more attractive prices than ever before. Our local merchants have learned the secret of brisk trade.

Standard Oil officials admit that they made a loan of \$20,000,000, but cannot remember the name or address of the man who got the money. Wouldn't you like to borrow money under such conditions?

The succession of Horace G. Burt to the managing receivership of the Chicago Great Western in place of A. B. Stickney keeps a friend familiar with Omaha conditions and interests at the helm of that road.

Newspapers are being petitioned to quit printing details of such cases as the Hains trial and the Thaw scandal. The papers will quit printing such news whenever their patrons quit reading it.

If Mr. Taft will consult the telegraph editors and headline writers he will find an overwhelming sentiment in favor of cabinet members with short names.

A customs official has been assigned to make a rigid inspection of tea arriving at the port of Boston. History tells what Boston does with poor tea.

The proposition to double the salary of the president appears reasonable when it is remembered that he has to work double time and then some.

A New York judge has ruled that a man need not support his wife when his wage is only \$6 a week. In other words, the law does not demand miracles.

One Trouble at a Time.

Chicago Record-Herald. President Roosevelt has made no promise concerning his intentions with regard to a second term. He has probably considered it unnecessary.

Platforms Mean Something.

Washington Post. Taft thinks that platforms should not be forgotten when the campaign is over. Seasoned and practical statesmen cannot but view the situation with amazement and alarm.

A Season of Peace.

Washington Herald. Mr. Roosevelt will not reply to congress' polite invitation to speak up again until after the holiday recess. This announcement was made, no doubt, in order to give congress a chance to enjoy itself in the interim.

Punishment Unequal to Crime.

Baltimore American. The convicted capital offender in Pennsylvania get off lightly with a sentence of two years in prison and a light fine for the looting in connection with the building of the capitol at Harrisburg, which they turned into a scandal and a disgrace to the name of the state. The spirit of retribution is as good as dead.

The Pennsylvania Convictions.

New York Sun. The four men convicted of conspiracy to defraud the state of Pennsylvania in the furnishing of the new capitol at Harrisburg have been sentenced to imprisonment and fine. They are a former auditor-general of the state, a former state treasurer, a former superintendent of public grounds and buildings and the contractor for the furnishings.

The list is an impressive one. So cynical had the public become that it was regarded as impossible that any one would be punished for the gross corruption that was known to have marked the completion of the building. Even when the men just sentenced were found guilty it was popularly believed that they would escape with fines more or less absurdly inadequate. Yet they have been condemned to two years in jail and to pay a fine of \$500.

PERSONAL NOTES.

It is pertinently asked if Santa Claus has shaped his presents for this year to fit the sheath modes that prevail in fashionable garments.

Only two more days in which to do the shopping that ought to have been done earlier. Don't push, don't scratch. Keep control of your temper and try to look as if you enjoyed it.

The late Stephen M. White, United States senator from California, who died in 1901, has been honored by the erection of a statue at Los Angeles, which was paid for by public subscription.

Clarence B. Cradle, a policeman of Louisville, Ky., at a recent sale of rifles discarded by the government, purchased one which proved to be the identical gun he had carried through the Spanish war.

George Eastman has been a generous benefactor of Rochester, N. Y., where his great business is located. He has just given to the city for park purposes a 50,000 tract of land contiguous to the new Cobb's Hill residence.

The oldest officeholder in Alton, Ill., Francis Brandewell, has reached the age of 81. He chews tobacco, drinks beer and Hattens to all of the good stories he can hear. These three sources of enjoyment once pulled him through a dangerous illness. He thinks, if he can hold onto his office, he will easily live to be 100. It is mighty dangerous to take an office away from a man at 81.

CHRISTMAS GIVING.

"The Not What We Give, but How We Give It." Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

The question is rightly, we suppose, not what we give, but how we give it, and what goes with it of ourselves. For "the gift without the giver is bare." This is the very commonplace of sentiment, but it holds still the truth. Not only the easy luxury of young Sir Launfal, tossing the piece of gold to the laager by the roadside, but the alms done today that costs no thought and is inconsiderate of worth is without credit in the higher judgment.

But so is the extravagant overture that characterizes our small domestic and friendship tokens. The year around we must give, for as George Calvert says, "Who gives not is not living." It is not for a particular day or season that our bestowals of favor are made to brighten earth; we should be careful to carry on a sweetness of heart and openness of hand, all the time, so that the special Christmas giving shall not be peculiar, but a natural outgrowth of life—such a habit of character as makes our relations with those near to us absolutely spontaneous, and this anniversary only the occasion for a fresher experience of love. Something more than the usual mixture with our giving; sentiment which prompts all good things, should be choice, and given even as with a real aureole of beauty.

This asks for something deep within the soul; not the fillip of a fashion or the fulcrum of an obligation. Vital, touching the exalted fountain of love, and drawing from its holy depths, flaming up its crystal spray from the sacred earth, to sparkle on the stream's bright surface like the smile of God, with that abounding grace of fruitful continuance which is the warrant of a deathless tenderness. All true gifts must be expressions, in their measure, of aspiration—of something that does not dwell in the material form of the present token.

Thus was the great gift made of the life of Jesus. He set the enduring example of giving himself to his fellow men. All that he had his gave, and the ages have not exhausted his gift, nor are likely to exhaust it. It was self-forgetting, others reverencing; it was eternal, because devoted. It cannot be thought that a less high motive should be appealed to on the eve of the holy day when we remember the coming into the world of the most beautiful, generous and inspiring of lives.

FITTED FOR THE PLACE.

Senator Knox Well Equipped for New Position.

New York Evening Post. Senator Knox' acceptance of the State department assures a steady, unemotional and thoroughly competent conduct of foreign relations under the new administration. In seeking a secretary of this type Mr. Taft shows, what was otherwise abundantly evident, that he wants quiet, but able, men about him. It is impossible to imagine Mr. Knox doing anything explosive. The fact that he has been a corporation lawyer, and that by his exposure of the unconstitutionality of Mr. Roosevelt's original railway rates bill, he got on the list of undesirable, has not deterred Mr. Taft in looking for special skill and the judicial temperament wherever they were to be found. He is quoted as saying that Senator Knox was not merely a man in public life who was a highly qualified secretary, but the "only one." This is a little hard on the others.

TAFT'S ADMINISTRATION.

Preceding Models Possess Good Qualities and Some Defects. Cleveland Plain Dealer. Judge Taft's eloquent eulogy of the late President McKinley causes many to attempt a readjustment of their estimate of the character of the next president. They had been led to believe that Mr. Taft would be a second Roosevelt; a little less strenuous and less inclined to fly in the face of proprieties, perhaps, but still a continuation of the man who made him his successor. The president-elect spoke of Mr. McKinley in a way, however, to indicate that he would try to model his per-

sonality and his administration after the last Ohioan instead of the last New Yorker, to occupy the presidential chair. It is manifestly unfair to judge Taft to be that he will be either another McKinley or another Roosevelt. The nation will like him better if he adopts whatever was best in the administration of each of his two predecessors, add to them whatever original good qualities he may possess and give the people what they have by their votes deemed should be given them—a Taft administration. Let Mr. Taft be not another McKinley nor another Roosevelt, but Just Taft.

Touching on the value of eulogy, however, as an indication of future conduct, it might be worth while to recall what Mr. Roosevelt said at the bier of McKinley and how thoroughly he has in the latter years of his official life shattered every hope rated by that softly-spoken promise.

BREEZY TRIFLES.

Soubrette—We are undone! Villain—How? Soubrette—The comedian is giving Willie a drum. Villain—Bah! Beneath his plate on Christmas morning I will place a receipt for six months' piano lessons for his daughter.—Judge.

"Some times," said the official, "I really yearn for a private life." "The great objection to a private life, however, that it cannot be pursued at public expense."—Washington Star.

"You say the officers tore him limb from limb when they arrested him?" "That's what they did." "Almost; you see he had both legs wrapped about the branch of a tree."—Houston Post.

"They can't drive my wife into any of these new fangled, slim-jane styles of dressing." "Independent, eh?" "Independent, so much that she's thirty-eight inches round the waist."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Senator," asked his constituent, "how does it happen that you have never been mixed up in any of these squabbles or scandals?" "O, that's because I'm a good mixer." said Senator Lotsum.—Chicago Tribune.

The Doctor's Wife—Well, Jane, so your poor husband's gone at last. Didn't you give him his medicine properly? Jane—Ah, poor dear! how could I? Doctor said as how it was to be took in a recumbent position, and as I hadn't one I asked Mrs. Green to lend me one. She said she had one, but it was broke! So it wasn't any good.—Harper's Weekly.

DREAM OF SANTA CLAUS.

Baltimore Sun. I used to dream of Santa Claus, I like you, my little boy; And still the twilight round me draws The vision of old joy. I used to count the weeks and days, As you do, little lad, And all my life was one sweet maze, And all my hours were glad!

I used to wonder what he'd bring, As you do, little girl; There were the hours of gossamer wing, Of filament and pearl; I used to wish and change my wish, As you do still, my sweet, There were the wondrous windows gleam In heart of Christmas street!

I used to think a reindeer sled, A humming top, a ball, In those sweet days my memory tread, Were all and more than all; I, too, have blown the flutes of time, And played the little drums, And shouted from my boyish porch: "He comes, the hero comes!"

I, too, have kept my little sweets, The best unto the last; Watched in the holiday of streets The sweets as they passed; Heard with wild wonder from the books Of ruffy told to me, Decide this in quiet nursery nooks: "I packed 'em on Nancy's seal!"

I used to dream of Santa Claus, As you do, little one, Waiting to hear his reindeers pause Where the red gable runs; Used to? Ah, laugh not at the boast! In my gray sleep tonight, On the old hillside I shall coast Into the Christmas light.

Green be the child-heart in this breast; This "used to" ring with flava, While through the dreams that mark my rest, Still wanders Santa Claus! Yes, though the rose may fade, and time Bustle the old fancies dear, Youth is the music of love's chime That still, thank God, I hear!

Columbia Graphophone advertisement featuring a large image of a gramophone and text: "Today's The Day! No gift you can make will give so much pleasure, to so many people, for so long a time, at so little cost, as a Columbia Graphophone." Includes details about the "New Leader" complete outfit for \$27.20 and other models.

HOSPE'S CHRISTMAS PIANO SALE advertisement. Features large text: "HOSPE'S CHRISTMAS PIANO SALE" and "A. HOSPE CO. 1513 Douglas Street". Lists various piano models and prices, including \$139, \$159, and \$187. Also mentions other musical instruments like violins, mandolins, and guitars.