

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

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

Pittsburg should be ashamed to look in the mirror.

It is not too early to begin practicing writing it 1909.

The coming year should please the base ball fans. It has two 9's of its own.

The ice man will have to get in his work with the weatherman a little later.

"The Future of Prohibition" is the title of a new book. It is probably dry reading.

Mr. Bryan says he has no regrets over the results of the recent campaign. That makes it unanimous.

People who failed to do their Christmas shopping, either early or late may yet repent and make good.

Andrew Carnegie got lost in Washington the other night, but he was never lost in the steel business.

With an income of \$15,000,000 a year, Mr. Carnegie naturally feels that he does not need any protection.

The Los Angeles Times says it is unlucky to get hit with an axe on Friday. It is unlucky to get hit with an axe any day.

Colonel A. Bogy of Georgia is looking for some federal job. As a golf expert, Mr. Taft will naturally try to beat Bogy.

"Does the Ananias club expire by limitation at midnight on December 31?" asks the Chicago Tribune. No. The date is noon, March 4.

A San Francisco heiress has married the head waiter in a big hotel. Probably she wanted a husband who was accustomed to wearing a dress suit.

The south is protesting against the destruction of its forests. Unless the ravage is stopped, there threatens to be a shortage of trees for lynching bees.

Take note that none of the democratic solons are proposing to repeal any of the reform measures put on the Nebraska state books by the last republican legislature.

The Grand Duke Alexis of Russia left \$500,000 to a Paris chorus girl, but not a cent to charity. The grand duke was famous for his liberality toward his harem.

It is reported that Carrie Nation will go on the stage in London. She should have a smashing time and her humor is just about slow enough to appeal to Londoners.

Mr. Carnegie says that Mr. Gary's steel figures were not correct and Mr. Gary simply retorts, "I told the truth." That's a pleasing substitute for the short and uglier word.

Mr. Reuter is now trying to tell who ran the navy during the Spanish-American war, but the country will refuse to have the Sampson-Schley controversy reopened at this time.

"Fing" Conners has returned from Europe with the statement that he likes Berlin better than any city he has visited. There will be no objection, if he decides to make his permanent home there.

PARTISANSHIP AND PATRIOTISM.

The democratic World-Herald assumes to tell the republican minority what they should do in the coming Nebraska legislature. If The Bee should undertake to tell the members of the democratic majority what they should do we have no doubt the World-Herald would intimate that it was an uncalled-for impertinence.

It is safe to say that the republican minority will follow no such advice, but that they will stand for republican principles and republican measures. On any proposition which promises real reform in government or makes for more economical administration of state institutions members of the republican minority will be found voting with members of the democratic majority, but on propositions on which the republicans took distinct issue with the democrats in the campaign the minority members will do well to uphold their party's position and let the democratic majority have full responsibility for questionable legislation.

That is what the republican minority is there for—to constitute a healthy opposition against hasty and ill-considered law-making. On subjects on which there is a decided division of public opinion the members of the republican minority may, we believe, be depended on to draw the line between partisanship and patriotism at the right place.

MR. HEARST EXPLAINS.

The founder, manager and press agent of the national independence party has offered a belated explanation of the light vote cast for his personally conducted party in the last presidential campaign. Mr. Hearst is convinced that the independence party is a little too far in advance of the time, and he is equally confident that the American voters will finally become aroused to the point of accepting his platform and marching to victory over the remains of the democratic party and the crippled hosts of republicanism.

The explanation is neither new nor original, being revamped from the poplists when the Omaha and Omaha platforms missed out. The same explanation has been urged by Mr. Bryan for the failure of a majority of the voters to accept Bryanism. It is the natural plea of the rejected man who believes that he is superior to those who have cast him off. In the Hearst case, his candidate for the presidency, a man capable and honest, received but 83,186 votes throughout the country, indicating that the party was either a long way ahead of the time or a long distance behind it.

The independence party was organized on the rather violent presumption that the republican and democratic parties were wrong and were going to pieces. The platform included an indictment of the intelligence of practically all the voters of the nation, and the figures show that a greater proportion than usual of the voters adhered to one or the other of the old parties, proving that they are in no mood to respond to a hurry call for the organization of a new political party.

The nation's history shows that new parties get support only when they espouse some great commanding national issue, like slavery, which gave the republican party its birth and early vigor. The Hearst party presented nothing new or appealing. Its declaration was only an exaggerated copy of the Bryan platform, with a few populist and socialist trimmings added. It appealed to no legitimate demand, offered no pressing issue and promised nothing tangible should victory be achieved. It catered to the ultra-radical at a time when the country was sufficed with radicalism, and its failure was logical and inevitable.

A TAX ON COFFEE.

There will be no popular approval of the proposition now being considered by the ways and means committee at Washington to impose a tax of 5 cents a pound on coffee, as one of the features of the new tariff bill. The argument in support of the proposition is that this tax would yield a revenue of about \$45,000,000 a year and would thus offset the loss that would result from lowering the duties on sugar, tobacco, hides, iron, steel and wood. So far as the consumer is concerned, this argument is of a piece with the street vendor's statement that what he made on peanuts he lost on bananas. This shifting of the tariff duties would simply cause the consumer to use the savings in one pocket to pay the losses in the other.

Advocates of the proposition have another argument in support of it that holds a promise of future benefits. They contend that a coffee duty would encourage the development of coffee growing in Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines to the point where the American demand could be supplied by our insular possessions. The further argument is offered that the duty would enable the United States to make more advantageous reciprocal trade relations with Brazil, which sells the United States about \$100,000,000 worth of goods, chiefly coffee, annually, and buys but \$19,000,000 of American products in return. With a duty on coffee, it is argued, Brazil would find it profitable to make trade concessions on American manufactured products and give America a share of the Brazilian trade which now goes to Europe.

Of course the ways and means committee, in planning a revision of the

TARIFF SCHEDULES.

tariff schedules, will have to keep the question of revenues constantly in mind, and the condition of the treasury will have to be taken into account in the estimates of expected losses and gains. The treasury deficit now aggregates \$62,000,000, and Secretary Cortelyou estimates the deficit at the close of the fiscal year June 30 next at \$114,000,000. Receipts from both customs and internal revenue have sharply declined during the last year, while expenses have continued to increase. The working balance of the treasury is at about its lowest safe amount and the funds on deposit in the national banks, about \$130,000,000, can not last more than another year, if disbursements are not curtailed or revenues increased. The revenue problem is the most serious that will confront the incoming administration, but to solve it by placing a duty on coffee will hardly be satisfactory to the people.

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION.

President Roosevelt has taken the initial step toward a conference of representatives of the governments of the United States, Canada and Mexico looking toward co-operative action for the conservation of the natural resources of the North American continent. This is the first official recognition of the fact that the movement for the conservation of natural resources must be international and world-wide to accomplish its full purpose, because the saving of the natural resources of one country at the expense of those of another country would be of the same order as the little boy's demand to eat his sister's apple first.

In an interview published in the New York Herald nearly a month ago the editor of The Bee called attention to this feature in response to a question as to whether Canada would not impose an export duty on wood pulp in case we put wood pulp on the free list as follows: "If the Canadians thought our demand for paper would ruin their forests they certainly would impose such a duty. This question is not a purely American question, anyhow. It is a part of the great problem of the conservation of natural resources and is bound to become a matter for international agreement."

The preservation and renewal of the forests by more intelligent use of the timber constitutes only one item. It is almost as important to us that the coal deposits and minerals of other countries be carefully conserved as that our own be protected from wasteful consumption. Along with the development of our own waterways, it would be equally stimulating to our trade and commerce to have the waterways of other countries likewise developed.

Of course, the movement for the conservation of natural resources cannot become world-wide over night. The truth is that we are behind the older countries of Europe in this work. The enlistment of Canada and Mexico will add material strength to it and lead later to still further territorial expansion.

BETTER BUSINESS.

Reports of the clearing houses and the commercial agencies for the last week, including comparisons with last year's record, indicate marked improvement in general business throughout the country. The only exception to the rule is found in railway earnings, which, after a sharp recovery in September and October, slightly decreased for November, the number of idle cars having increased, for the first time since last April. This is explained, however, by the fact that the grain movement in September and October was abnormally large and that November and December are normally dull months in the movement of merchandise from the manufacturing centers to the interior.

The most encouraging sign of improvement is found in the report of business failures for November, compared with the corresponding month of last year. After the panic of 1907 there was an alarming number of failures all over the country for several months. Early last summer the number began to decrease, and this decrease has continued until now the showing is quite satisfactory, indicating a steady tendency to more stable business conditions. For the month of November there were 1,120 failures in the United States, with liabilities of \$12,600,000, compared with 1,180 failures in November, 1907, with liabilities aggregating \$17,638,000. In banking there were ten failures, for \$863,181, compared with thirty failures, involving \$9,144,225 in November of last year. In both the manufacturing and retail lines there was a marked decrease in the number of failures and in the amount involved.

The statistics are highly encouraging, particularly in view of other evidence that the limit of the depression has been reached and that improved conditions are existing in all channels of trade, making the outlook for a highly prosperous year in 1909, from a commercial standpoint, very promising.

There are some shrewd financiers over in Europe, too. Turkey has agreed to accept \$20,000,000 from Austria for two nominal Turkish provinces that are under Austrian domination and Austria promptly makes the payment in \$20,000,000 worth of Turkish bonds which the old sultan had never dreamed of redeeming.

The net earnings of the American railroads for the ten months ending with October were only \$451,868,655. The railroads have been met more than half-way by prosperity.

One of the candidates for speaker of the coming Nebraska legislature is quoted as saying that he will continue

IN THE RACE.

"until I find a better man who stands for the things I do." A candidate in that state of mind will be persuaded with difficulty that anyone else is better than he is. Inasmuch as the supreme court commissioners holding over, notwithstanding the constitutional amendment increasing the number of supreme judges, are all republicans, it is reasonable to expect that the democratic legislature will not tempt them to remain longer by renewing their salary appropriation.

The extra session, beginning immediately after March 4, next year, will give the new congressmen a chance to feel that they are really earning their salaries from the start. The only democratic congressman from Nebraska may feel that he is really earning his salary, but what has he done to make anyone else feel the same way?

Mr. Bryan says it was a "combination of financial, industrial and commercial" interests of the country that elected Mr. Taft. Still, there are 7,637,676 male citizens of lawful age who believe they had something to do with the case.

The Japanese government has dropped 684 railroad officials, thereby saving about \$250,000 a year. That indicates that a railroad official in Japan gets about \$400 a year, or about the same as an American messenger boy.

Chambers of commerce in England are asking for a lowering of the American tariff schedules. Most foreigners would like to see the American tariff schedules abolished, which is one good reason why they will not be.

The payment of only \$45,000 to sixty Pittsburg councilmen indicates that the Pittsburg councilman is working below the scale established by their brethren in St. Louis and San Francisco.

The Interstate Commerce commission threatens to investigate the service on railway dining cars. We hope the threat will not be carried out. What we don't know is not apt to hurt us.

Omaha's building outlook for next year already promises to be a record-breaker. Omaha mechanics in the building trades may count on steady work without going away from home.

Signs of the Awakening.

Washington Post. The fact that China proposes making a big bond issue is all the evidence needed to prove that American ideas are at last making a dent on the old empire.

An Inspiring Suggestion.

Pittsburg Dispatch. Senator Bourne's bill to give the president a salary of \$100,000 seems inspired by a determination to make the presidency of this nation measure up peculiarly with the presidency of a trust.

A Luminous Translation.

Philadelphia Record. The canniest of Scots on either side of the ocean says E. H. Gary is a "pawky chiel." That is to say, in the vernacular he is "a sly, insinuating, cunning fellow," who never betrays his real thought.

Where Doctors Fail Down.

Pittsburg Dispatch. There is one mislaid which has defied the skill of all the physicians in the world. They can alleviate it in some cases, but they cannot claim to cure it or prevent it. This is the common cold in the head, which afflicts millions of us annually.

A Question that May Bother.

Cleveland Leader. When congress gets through with plans for punishing the president for his comments upon the law which restricted the use of the secret service men to the single field of counterfeiting possibly it may occur to the senate and the house that the country would like to know just why such limits were fixed.

Personal Compliment Politics.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. By a small majority the democrats carried Nebraska at the recent election and now it seems that there are two kinds of democrats in the new senate, one kind considering the party platform too radical on the state guarantee of bank deposits. Nebraska would be better off if it had not turned its election into a personal compliment.

ELIOT ON LAWLESSNESS.

Real Remedy for Present Day Inefficiency. Brooklyn Eagle. The address of President Eliot before the Civic Forum on lawlessness did not mince words. No one questioned the correctness of his description of the lawlessness of high finance, although his statement that we need a state police with a military organization to cope with our crimes of violence may surprise people who have grown accustomed to taking newspaper reports of such incidents as a matter of course and considering the party platform too radical on the state guarantee of bank deposits. Nebraska would be better off if it had not turned its election into a personal compliment.

But the real remedy for inefficient government is an arousal of public opinion. We have seen such an arousal during recent years in regard to crimes of cunning and such are being shackled and will be shackled further. A few years ago President Eliot's blunt talk about financial crimes would have been sensational. Now that the remedy is in course of application it attracts only a casual attention. We need a further and stronger awakening in regard to the protection of human life, not merely from assassins, but from the greed of business which sacrifices lives to cheapen the cost of production. Not merely are the death and accident rates on our railroads greatly in excess of those in Europe, but the machines in our factories are far too little guarded, and we are only just beginning to grow sensitive to the sacrifice of the health of women and children by unduly long hours of labor and by unwholesome working conditions. On these matters more plain speaking like President Eliot's is highly desirable. The commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," will receive far too limited and technical an application.

FEDERATION CONTEMPT CASE.

Editorial Views on Conviction of Labor Leaders. St. Louis Republic (dem.). Acknowledging the correctness of the decision in its conclusions and even approving the justice of the sentence carries no compulsion to approve the emancipation of logic or award approval to a course of reasoning which assaults the simple, Anglo-Saxon sense of justice. And the man who wrote all the fallacious piffle is named Wright.

A Judicial Stratagem.

Minneapolis Journal (rep.). Judge Wright, in sentencing Messrs. Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison to actual imprisonment instead of fining them, seems to strut rather grandly across the public stage. It is true that the judgment is that of a unanimous court, but we believe it fails to take into account the sincerity of the offenders, and their representative character. It fails to take into account the comparative novelty of the question raised, and the "viral" character of the contempt. It fails to take into account the fact that a very large body of citizens does not yet recognize that the secondary boycott is illegal.

Offensive Defense.

St. Louis Times (ind.). An orderly mind will not fail to see that Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Secretary Morrison might have proceeded less offensively wide the case at issue was yet before a court. Their misdoing admittedly was the violation of an express injunction which in no sense prejudiced actual case at issue. On the other hand the same orderly mind will frame a thought of regret that two men so prominent as Gompers and Mitchell, to say nothing of Morrison, should be made to suffer humiliation because they did that which they believed to be right in behalf of a cause.

Penalizing False Leaders.

Baltimore American (rep.). The verdict means that labor shall no longer suffer the false leading of men who confuse self-aggrandizement with constitutional rights. It means that hereafter the intelligent labor forces may work out their interest in harmony with the general welfare of the country. It means that hereafter the law shall be accorded full recognition. It means that the dangerous trend toward utter confusion and class antagonism shall be checked. The atmosphere has been cleared and much of vagueness has been dispelled by the decision against the men whom Judge Wright called boastful and persistent violators of the law.

Court Had No Alternative.

Kansas City Star (ind.). In this particular contempt case the evidence, so far as it is understood by the general public, seems to have been so explicit that the court had no alternative from conviction and sentence. If a way could have been found to acquit the accused no doubt the country would have been well satisfied. But no such way seems to have been left open. Even now there is left the privilege of appealing to a still higher court, or of asking for pardon or clemency; but whatever is to be done, must be done within the law, not in defiance of the law, which, it is submitted, leaves a large latitude as to what may be safely allowed for the correction of error.

Raises Acute Questions.

Washington Herald (ind.). Judge Wright's action, however conclusive it may be as to the law in this particular case, raises a number of acute questions that will have to be settled in the forum of public opinion or by legislation. One relates to the scope of the injunction process as applied to labor disputes, and another to the amendment of the Sherman anti-trust law so as to exclude labor organizations from its operation. Probably the most important immediate effect of the sentences will be to invigorate the agitation for the rather radical legislation demanded by the Federation of Labor on these topics. From this point of view the severity of the punishment imposed may be regretted as adding fuel to the flames of a propaganda that was in a fair way of extinction.

Spirit of the Accused.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican (ind.). Mr. Gompers seems even to anticipate the jail experience with a positive relief, like an English suffragette, in the expectation of being a martyr and increasing the agitation over the injunction issue. Mr. Mitchell showed by his attitude yesterday in court that he is in full sympathy with Mr. Gompers. Our courts have not encountered hitherto such a spirit in this matter, and how they will meet it is a question. At first thought the program of these labor leaders would seem to be cleverly conceived for purposes of agitation; and so long as jail life for contempt of court in labor cases involves no social stigma—for Mr. Mitchell would be invited to the White House just as often by Mr. Roosevelt, no doubt—the leaders would make no very terrible sacrifice in their fight against judicial authority in behalf of the abominable boycott, which in theory and practice is a twin sister of the abominable strike.

Courts Open to All.

Baltimore Sun (dem.). If the labor organizations or any laboring men have suffered wrong at the hands of the Buck Stove and Range company the courts are open to them, and that is the arena where the issue should be settled. But the idea that the courts are to be ignored and causes are to be settled by violence, or by a man doing that which seems right in his own eyes, is intolerable. As Judge Wright defines it, the question at issue in the matter he has just decided is, which tribunal shall be supreme—the tribunal of the whole people, as represented in the courts of the land, or the tribunal of a class, as represented in the councils of the Federation of Labor? One or the other must succumb. The accusation of Judge Wright against the labor leaders is not only that they have violated the injunction of the court, but that they have brought about the breach of the stove company's contracts with others, have deprived the plaintiff of its property right in the good will of others and have restrained trade among the several states.

Taking the Risk.

New York Sun (rep.). We infer from these portions of the opinion of Justice Wright which have been published that Messrs. Gompers and Mitchell have taken the ground from the beginning that there was no constitutional power on the part of the court which granted the injunction in question to make any such order, and that for this reason they paid no attention to its commands. This was a perfectly safe and correct course of conduct if they were right in their assumption as to the power of the court. If the injunction was granted in violation and therefore without any legal effect, it was absolutely null and void, and it had no more force or effect in the view of the law than piece of blank paper. But the defendants in assuming this position took the risk of its being correct.

SAFETY DEPOSIT VAULTS. Is desired by all of us, whether it be in the matter of money, valuables or ourselves. If it is a question of money, can you do better than your money in a bank of the known strength and stability of the First National Bank of Omaha? If it is a question of your valuables, why not use the Safety Deposit Vaults of this bank? Three hundred new boxes have just been added to the already large equipment. 100 of them rent for \$3.00 a year each. Larger ones in proportion. First National Bank of Omaha. Thirteenth and Farnam Sts.

CLOVES AND LEMON PEEL FAIL.

Shakedown for Men Who Couldn't Hide Smell of Roast. Emporia (Kan.) Gazette. A few days ago many railroad employes in a Nebraska town stepped up to the captain's office to get their pay, for the laborer is worthy of his hire in that state, as elsewhere. The merry Christmas time being at hand, the pay envelopes were doubly welcome, but there were thirty of the men whose faces became sad and drawn when they opened their envelopes, for they found therein notification that their services were no longer required. If they felt as though the bottom had fallen out of everything, the emotions of their wives probably were more harrowing; for it is a cruel thing to be deprived of one's livelihood when the joy bells are ringing all over the world.

An Unfortunate Decision.

New York World. Next to actual maintenance of the supremacy of law and of the courts, nothing is of more importance than keeping public sentiment in sympathy with such supremacy. However fair and impartial Justice Wright endeavored to be in dealing with the defendants, however correct his conclusions, however just the sentence, the fact remains that labor leaders will be able to cite a hundred words and expressions from his decision with which to persuade their followers that the court was prejudiced against all labor unions. To say that this is unfortunate, and doubly unfortunate at a time when organized effort is made to cripple the power of the courts, is to state it mildly.

THE AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN.

General Bell's Remarks on the Steam Radiator Soldier. St. Louis Republic. During his service in Washington Major General Bell, chief of the army staff, has evidently acquired false notions about the resourcefulness, self-reliance and fighting qualities of the present-day American man. It is doubtless true that among the department clerks and cushion warmers at the national capitol there are too many who do not know how to shoot or to take care of themselves away from the coddling warmth of a steam radiator. But even these fellows learn readily enough to shoot and to take care of themselves if they cannot learn to sleep comfortably under a blanket on the ground when responding to the call of military duty.

In the men of no other nation is the personal initiative stronger than in the American. If the standing army of a country like Germany could invade the United States by marching across an imaginary line our trained army and frontier fortifications would be far from sufficient. But the periodic cry that we are in danger of invasion from Europe or Japan takes no account of the natural defenses provided by several thousands of miles of water.

If any foreign power should accept General Bell's estimate of the weakness of the American army and the unfitness of the American civilian for prompt service in war, it might be led into ruinous mistakes. A combination of all Europe, using all the ships it could get into the Atlantic, could not land men along our Atlantic coast faster than they would be killed or captured by the men who would jump forward from the farms, workshops and counting rooms to oppose them.

The nucleus of an army we need—and will always keep. Coast fortifications are necessary at the sea entrance of our principal seacoast cities, more to warn away foreign insult than as a protection against serious menace to the country. Any hostile force that should land here would, in order to get away alive, have to retreat to its camp as hastily as did General Ross after burning the capital at Washington in 1814. The United States need not and will not depart from their traditional policy of fighting their wars with the valor of the volunteer soldier.

PERSONAL NOTES.

One of the current magazines has an article, proving that Poe really wasn't so much of a writer, while another demonstrates that he was a genius without peer. Happy this preserves the average. California courts have for the second time within a week sentenced a bomb-thrower to life imprisonment, and no superior court has interposed a word of objection. Evidently the moral uplift out of that way is the real thing.

President Roosevelt has promised to attend the dinner to be given Representative Sherman on January 23 in Washington. The dinner is to be given by the members of the New York delegation of this and the next congress and others. Mr. Helms indignantly denies the correctness of the story about his dinner with \$100 bills for dinner cards, but his chosen lady friends are less close mouthed about the entertainment. It is their enthusiastic opinion that P. Augustus is a very nice man and truly hospitable.

It will soon be pertinent to remark that "as the days begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen." From the 10th to the 20th of January is statistically the coldest part of the year, although these dates sometimes include the January thaw—the name given to any warm spell in that month.

Don Helms, the copper-lined millionaire of Montana, manages to forget occasionally those annoying New York indictments. While in the big town last week he threw some money to the birds. Six of the latter, with stage wings, were given a Helms luncheon, costing \$50 a plate.

The many admirers of the New York Sun's answer to little Virginia O. Hanlan's question, "Is there a Santa Claus?" will be interested in knowing that it was first published in the Sun of September 21, 1897. It has become a classic of the Christmas spirit and was more widely reprinted than any other article before. It was reprinted season after season, with this note revealing the author: "Complying with many requests and in affectionate remembrance of my author, Francis Pharcellus Church, we reprint an editorial which will never be old or without its strong appeal to every generous spirit, in all who reverence the fair humanities of the imagination."

NEBRASKA'S SKIN.

Feizer skies no land possessors. How'er fair these skies may be Than arch o'er Nebraska's prairie, Like a radiant canopy. There's a glory in the sunshine, That o'er spreads Nebraska's plains Which awakes in the heart-string, Grateful, glad, inspiring strains. After gleams of golden beauty From the earth to heaven arise, When the glories of the sun-set, Light Nebraska's western skies.

Stars that stud the Bryan heavens, Never gave forth rays more bright, Than are those which fall so richly From Nebraska's fairs of light. All this beauty of the heavens, Shines upon Nebraska's land, Till they laugh in bouquets of gladness At the wealth which Nature lends. Omaha. J. W. COVIL.