

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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THE ARMY'S WEAKNESS.

General J. Franklin Bell, chief of staff of the army, draws a rather discouraging picture in his annual report of the needs of the army and of the apparent lack of interest in military affairs both in congress and in the public mind.

These conditions would cause alarm if a war were pending or imminent, but to arouse the country so long as profound peace obtains and there is no war cloud on the horizon is very difficult. Yet General Bell contends that this very confidence is a source of peril, because conditions which make it possible to whip an effective army into shape out of volunteer raw material, as has been done in former wars, no longer exist.

Although heretofore the cavalry has been the popular arm of the service, General Bell now declares that the American cavalry is an "antiquated organization," unfitted for its natural part in mobilizing a fighting force and moving it rapidly in times of trouble.

As the headquarters of the signal corps for the west, Omaha will be particularly interested in General Bell's recommendations on that score. He says: "The duty devolving upon the signal corps is so technical in its nature as to preclude a great increase in the corps after a declaration of hostilities, with any expectation that the increase would be efficient and capable of performing the necessary and technical duty required of it."

Our signal corps has proved its ability to meet all services required of it in the past, in peace as well as in hostile operations, peculiar since the war with Spain. Great developments in scientific warfare are being made at present along lines pertaining to duties of the signal corps.

While the public would resent extravagance in appropriations for the development and extension of the army in times of peace, congress will be justified, and its conduct approved, in making whatever provision is actually necessary to place every branch of the service upon its most effective peace footing.

While attempting to rebuke the Bee for emphasizing the expectation of the railroads to be let alone by the coming democratic legislature, the World-Herald corroborates the Bee's assertion that the railroads helped elect the democratic law-makers under assurance of legislative immunity and for that reason the usual railroad lobby may not be needed.

The World-Herald tries to pave the way for legislative inactivity by saying that there is no occasion for further radical legislation affecting railroad interests at this time; that passenger and freight rates are as low as they should be and that the laws governing railway taxation are eminently satisfactory, the correction of any abuses or inequalities being fully within the power of the assessing boards.

When the revenue law was enacted the democratic house leader, under whip and spur of democratic medicine-mixers, brought in an amendment vitally changing the method of assessing railroad property, and, actually, along with the other members of the democratic minority, voted against the bill which he himself had helped to frame.

through the rate reduction bills, and more particularly the freight rate reduction bills, the democratic organs kept insisting that more radical cuts be made and that the republicans were favoring the railroads. But now we are told that the republican trade reduction bills answer all requirements and should stand just as they are.

What more is needed to expose the insincerity of democratic criticism of republican legislation in Nebraska? What more is needed to prove that democratic tirades against the railroads are mere pretense? What further testimony can be demanded to establish the charge that the consideration for the railroad support for the democrats in the last campaign was a guaranty of legislative immunity?

THE PICTURES OF MURDER TRIALS.

The New York newspapers have not complied with the petitions sent to them recently asking that they refrain from going into details in the publication of the testimony in the Hains murder trial. The petitions were signed by many ministers, church organizations and prominent citizens, and set forth the Thaw trial as an illustration of the evil of too much publicity in such cases. It was urged that the newspapers confine the reports of the trial to recording the essential features of the testimony, with all the harrowing details, the pictures of the witnesses and the sidelights eliminated. The newspapers did not reply that they would quit printing the details of the trial when the good men and women of New York quit attending it, talking about it and eagerly buying the papers containing the complete accounts of it.

Chicago is going after the moving picture theaters—first, to make the buildings safe, and second, to free the entertainments from objectionable features. Ample protection against fire and panic and a clean show ought to be provided in every theater whether the admission price be 5 cents or \$5.

A grand jury report out in Harlan county ensures "the practice of some of the citizens of our county in circulating false and slanderous rumors affecting the character and reputation of citizens." That grand jury will be classed as a back number if it sat in Douglas county.

"Tarantism" is said to be the name of the affliction troubling the suffragettes. The name was manufactured by Sir William Shipley, A. M., M. D., LL. D., F. R. S., F. R. G. S., and there is so much of that the suffragettes will hardly have courage to try to get back at him.

When Congressman Cousins of Iowa retires with the end of the present session he will go on the lecture platform. The strange part is that anyone should think it necessary to retire from congress in order to go on the lecture platform.

A Pennsylvania man rated at \$60,000,000 says he is willing to spend \$75,000 to be elected United States senator. However, the toga is not sold at auction yet, even in Pennsylvania.

"I have always been in favor of wiping off the statute books every protective tariff provision," says Bourke Cockran. That man's republicanism was never very deep rooted.

A Texas woman healer makes the claim that she can remain at her home and tell what ails a man in Chicago. It is not difficult to tell what ails a man in Chicago.

RUMBLE THROUGH ALL THE AGES.

Have Wrought by Earthquakes Throughout the World. Should the early estimates of from 90,000 to 200,000 lives lost prove approximately correct, the present disaster in southern Italy and Sicily will come close to first place in the record of earthquake calamities.

The destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum in 79 A. D. was followed in 1384, when one of the cities of Calabria was torn asunder and swallowed up by the Adriatic sea, all inhabitants perishing. In 1456 Naples was partly destroyed and 40,000 lives lost. A second and greater disaster to Naples and adjacent communities is recorded in 1656 when 20,000 persons perished, a number equalling the maximum estimate of the present disaster.

In 1857 an earthquake gripped Constantinople in its grasp and sent its great mosque and towering minarets toppling to the ground, crushing scores of believers, who had rushed to these places for protection when the first tremors were felt. The death caused by the earthquake is never even approximately fixed, but it is known that many thousands perished in one day.

Palermo was shaken to pieces by an earthquake in 1726, and 6,000 of its inhabitants perished. Five years later Canton, China, was visited by the most frightful series of shocks within the memory of man. The entire city was laid in ruins. The Chinese population, herded together in compact masses, were killed like vermin, and when the debris had been cleared away, the number of the dead counted it was found that 100,000 had perished.

In 1755 the entire earth shook with tremors for months, and two great disasters marked the year. Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, was tossed about in a series of shocks that opened great fissures in the city's streets and shook its stone buildings into a more mass of mortar and stone. In all 25,000 were killed in Lisbon, and a loss of \$25,000,000 was borne by the people of the city.

In the same year Kuchan, in north Persia, was utterly destroyed. Although not a large city, 40,000 lives were lost, and the reports carried to the rest of the world were to the effect that the entire population of the city had been wiped out of existence.

Current earthquake records give Yeddo (now Tokio), Japan, the primacy in death toll. In 1792 the city was practically destroyed, and 200,000 lives lost. It was visited by a similar disaster in 1855, but the number perished is not recorded.

The nineteenth century also suffered from earthquakes in all parts of the world. The most striking one in this country was that which destroyed Charleston, S. C., in 1885, causing a loss of \$20,000,000. Only forty-one deaths were caused directly by the shock, but many deaths which occurred within a short time after were undoubtedly due to the conditions which followed the earthquake.

In 1882 the great cataclysmic volcanic outburst and earthquake in the island of Krakatoa saw half of that island tossed into the sea, with more than 35,000 of its inhabitants. The effects of this disturbance were noticeable in all other parts of the earth for months after.

In the same year Ichia was shaken by a series of shocks that sent its buildings to the ground in ruins and caused the death of 2,000 of its people. In 1891 the island of Honou, Japan, was practically destroyed and 12,000 lives lost. In 1894 Caracas, in its lofty seat among the mountains of Venezuela, suffered from one of the most severe shocks in its history and 3,000 lives were lost. Then in 1902 the eruption of Mount Pelee established a record which it is hoped will never be surpassed in this century.

WORK OF SECRETARY WILSON.

Twelve Years' Labor in the Department of Agriculture. The Outlook, New York. Seldom does a cabinet minister remain in a particular office long enough to present a twelfth annual report. Yet this is the achievement of Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture. He is the sole survivor of the McKinley cabinet. Our agricultural production for the year 1908 is above the average, the production of hay, sugar and rice being the largest on record.

The total value of the year's farm products has risen to \$7,758,000,000, 4 per cent above last year's, and four times the value of our mining products. Farm products comprise crops and animal products. In computing the first we find that corn represents one-third of the total; cotton, hay and wheat one-third, and the rest one-third; that corn is now followed by cotton, not by hay, which has long held second place; that the other cereals in order are wheat, oats, rice and buckwheat. The year 1908 lost all former years in the value of all the cereals, of potatoes, sugar and tobacco. Three-eighths of the value of farm products is represented by animals, sold and slaughtered, and by animal products at the farm. We hardly realize that eggs and poultry are worth as much as the cotton crop itself.

This certainly represents a great change during the twelve years, not so much in these special products, as in the methods of dairying and of meat inspection, due to the department's diligence. There has also been a search for better methods of raising sheep and raising hogs, and a search for better methods of raising cattle. The department has also been constantly traversing foreign lands in search of promising seeds and plants for possible introduction here. It has also been some years ago during wheat was brought from Russia and Africa; now its crop in America is worth more than \$30,000,000 to the farmers; furthermore, so great has become the production of alfalfa, an introduction of promising seeds and plants for possible introduction here. It has also been some years ago during wheat was brought from Russia and Africa; now its crop in America is worth more than \$30,000,000 to the farmers; furthermore, so great has become the production of alfalfa, an introduction of promising seeds and plants for possible introduction here.

Our Secretaries of State. Hartford Courant. Mr. Knox will be our fourth monosyllabic secretary of state since 1857. He succeeds Root, who succeeded Hay, who succeeded Day. The earlier monosyllabic secretaries are Phillips, Smith, Clay, Cass, Black, Fish and Blaine. Only a secretary of state—Frelinghuysen—had a four-syllable name. There are seven three-syllable names in the list and twenty-one two-syllable names. In going from the senate to the Department of State Mr. Knox does what Daniel Webster and William H. Seward did before him.

Pushing a Good Thing Along. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The postal saving bank is established in the Philippines and is reported to be growing favorably. Forty per cent of the deposits are in Philippine and this is their first experience with bank facilities.

PERSONAL NOTES. An engineer by the name of Grell has patented an invention by means of which he says, he can transmit biograph pictures by an ordinary telegraph apparatus. Springfield, Ill., is up and a-coming over its celebration of the Lincoln centenary. Ambassador Bryce and Ambassador Jusserand are to speak for Europe and America at the Lincoln centenary in America. This is a "bill" that will draw Greenleaf Whittier Pickard, a grandnephew of the famous poet, is named as a second Edison for his discoveries in wireless telegraphy. He lives in Amesbury, Mass., and since 1902 has received thirty-one foreign and domestic patents, and has twenty-eight others pending.

One of the leading Pennsylvania senatorial candidates for Mr. Knox's place is George T. Oliver of Pittsburg, a millionaire steel manufacturer and for some years past the owner of a Pittsburg newspaper. He has never held any executive or legislative office, and if elected would enter the senate past the age of 60. Judson Harmon, democratic governor-elect of Ohio, will appear on horseback in the inaugural parade at Columbus January 16. "Why should I not ride horseback in the parade?" Judge Harmon asked. "My staff will mounted and there is no reason why I should be trotted along in a carriage when the rest of the boys are mounted."

Putting Money to Good Use. New York Tribune. If the report were true that Andrew Carnegie had provided \$100,000 to carry on the Pittsburg inquiry into municipal corruption he would have initiated a desirable form of moral philanthropy. Endowment funds for the exposure and prosecution of boodling are a novelty which may ultimately appeal to millionaire bounty and in which the public would be doubly benefited for possessors of swollen fortunes to avert the disgrace of dying rich.

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS.

An Iowa Idea Designed to Make Jail Life Attractive. New York Tribune. The warden of the penitentiary at Fort Madison, Ia., if he has been correctly reported, thinks that the interests of humanity would be better served by greater liberality in the treatment of prisoners, and for his own institution by one of the better accommodations than most well-to-do outsiders, appeals rather strongly to an element in human nature which can be cultivated only at the expense of society in general.

TRIFLES LIGHT AS AIR. "Biggins' baby must be a wonder." "Yes," answered Miss Cayenne. "It is the only human being I know of whose conversation he esteems more highly than his own."—Washington Star.

"A photographer is a nice kind of business for a pauper provided by one of the better accommodations than most well-to-do outsiders, appeals rather strongly to an element in human nature which can be cultivated only at the expense of society in general.

"After a man has made millions, would you think his wife and daughters would let him starve?" "No, then he usually has to buckle down to correct his grammar and table manners."—Kansas City Journal.

"I understand you bought some stock in the new aeroplane company?" "Yes, I took a flier."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Even Turkey has joined the march of progress." "Yes, and a few of us are thinking of asking the janitor for constitution."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Cobb—What's the difference between vision and sight?" "See those two girls across the street?" "Cobb—Yes." "Dobb—Well, the pretty one I would call a vision, but the other one—she's a sight."—Judge.

ARE YOU READY? Baltimore American. Friends, Fellow-Citizens and Countrymen: Have you thought given to the coming time. And to the foremost duty of the day. Which all men recognize as vital part. And parcel of the young and glad New Year. Say, have you made with full trust in yourself. The same old resolution made a year ago? The resolution to be good and brave and true. And honest, amiable, and patient quite—To keep your temper, never say cross words. Make everybody love you, treat all men as friends and brothers, shun all idleness, keep all gossip of your neighbors' faults. And deal severely with your own pet sins? Of course, you will not keep them; do not let.

The fear of that be worry to your soul. Will be exacting as it was last year. But still your little pile of bricks must go To help the paving of the broad, smooth highway. Which leads to—hem! We'll change the road now! You will not keep them; do not let. Pray, have you bought a diary? Not so? Then get one right away. Don't pay too much for it. You'll use it for a week and then—Presto! The resolutions and the diary both. Will go the old accustomed way for good And be as naught again till 1910.

The York Store Branch Piano Stock Now On Sale At Hospe's On December 19th, We Discontinued Our Branch Piano Stock at York, Nebraska. This Piano and Organ stock was shipped to Omaha. This stock is now placed on our floors at 1513 Douglas street and is offered to the public at unheard of low prices. The instruments are all practically new, having been in stock but from two weeks to a few months, and are perfect in every respect; as this stock crowds our available space and as we begin making alterations directly after holidays, we are forced to dispose of them without delay, therefore we mark them down to prices that are one-half, in some instances to one-third, off the regular retail selling prices. Every instrument is fully warranted at from five to twenty years. With every piano goes a stool to match and a fine silk or velvet scarf. The terms are the easiest obtainable—as little as \$5.00 per month until paid for. Where cash is offered, we make a small discount. This piano stock contains very late case designs in Spanish mahogany, in French and American walnut, in quartered American and English or antique oak. In styles there are colonial, art cases and the modern cabinet grands, as well as baby grand pianos. Everyone recognizes the importance of this sale when you know it comprised such world renowned makes as the King Pianos, the Chickering Pianos, the Conway Pianos, the Kimball Pianos, the Weiser Bros. Pianos, the Melville-Clark the Kensington, the Cramer and many other high grade pianos. The Organs put on this sale are also new and up to date in style and finish and comprise the Kimball Organ, the Swan Organ, the Hospe Organ and others. When you take notice that brand new, up-to-date Pianos go in this sale for \$129.00 \$148.00 \$169.00 \$198.00 \$235.00 \$259.00 \$278.00 AND UP. On PAYMENTS OF \$6.00 \$7.00 \$8.00 \$10.00 Per Month and only require \$10.00 DOWN to get one sent home, you will fully make up your mind now is the time to buy. Remember there are but fifty Pianos, and all genuine bargains. Don't Forget, \$10.00 Down Takes One Home. A. HOSPE CO. 1513 Douglas St.