

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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George W. Tschuck, treasurer of said

company, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of December, 1908, was as follows:

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

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GEORGE W. TSCHUCK, Treasurer.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st day of December, 1908.

ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

WHEN OUT OF TOWN.

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

Abe Ruef expresses a desire to reform. He will at least lead an honest life for the next few years.

It is not the first time that Senator Foraker has been a member of the Down and Out club.

Since the first of the year, it is a long time between drinks in at least four southern states.

Missouri still insists that the Standard Oil company is not fit to move in the refined society of the state.

Colonel Bryan says he has been defeated three times on principle. It has become a habit with the voters.

Scylla and Charybdis remain, although a little disfigured, since the description written of them by Virgil.

Oklahoma is to provide cases for its surplus convicts. A cage would appear to be the proper place for a jailbird.

Possibly the photographers are back of the scheme for having so many men mentioned as cabinet possibilities.

This legislature will be its own master.—World-Herald.

Then why wait for orders from Fairview?

The New York World makes 100 suggestions to congress. The World is apt to be sued for infringement of the executive privilege.

It cost the government \$130,000 to get the battleships through the Suez canal. The toll is high, but it is cheaper than to go around.

If the democrats had three members of the county board and the republicans only two, there would be no question as to what would happen.

Mr. Carnegie is strongly in favor of profit sharing with workmen in the industries, but he shows no disposition to make his plan retroactive.

John W. Gates is said to be looking for a capable man to manage his circus. He might open negotiations with Cipriano Castro, late of Venezuela.

Mr. Bryan is still at a loss to explain his defeat in 1908. Some day it may occur to him that the fault may have been with the candidate.

Congressmen may breathe easier. The president mentions no names of members whose activities have been investigated by civil service officials.

"How much money has Hetty Green?" asks a correspondent. Don't know, but it's a safe wager that she has more today than she had yesterday.

A native of Georgia has been selected to deliver the oration at the Lincoln celebration in New York thus making another dent in the sectional line.

The Standard Oil company is apparently willing to admit that Missouri can get along without it better than it can get along without Missouri.

The Omaha Street Railway company is trying to improve the ventilation of its cars and asks the co-operation of its patrons to meet that end. What would it have the passengers do? All ride on the rear platform?

THE LEGISLATURE.

Another legislature is about to convene duly commissioned to make and unmake laws for Nebraska. Although the democratic preponderance in both houses is large, the present prospects are that the session will be replete with turbulence and tribulation, but extremely doubtful of fruitful results.

The fact is that, broadly speaking, there are no grievously crying ills afflicting the people of this state, waiting to be cured by legislation. That is the present democratic legislature's good fortune. The last legislature, under guidance of a progressive republican majority, gave the people relief from long standing evils and did the work so thoroughly that little more is to be desired.

Efforts will be constantly made to persuade members of the present legislature that they were chosen on specific issues, requiring the redemption of particular platform promises. The most of them, however, were running on two platforms, with divergent or conflicting pledges, none of which was really at issue. In other words, Nebraska has a democratic legislature not because of the platforms promulgated, but because of a combination of corporate interests that wanted to rebuke the republicans and to insure immunity from the democrats.

Unfortunately, Mr. Bryan has publicly announced that Nebraska is to be made an experiment station for the various legislative fads and fancies of the Denver platform rejected by the nation at large. If so, that will be Nebraska's penalty and punishment, because no other state—republican or democratic—with the possible exception of Oklahoma, will undertake seriously to carry out that program.

DEFICIENT MIDDLES AND CADETS.

Discouraging reports come from both West Point and Annapolis of the lack of progress by the young men being educated as the future officers of the army and navy. The cadet corps at West Point is about 100 below the normal number and of these something like sixty have already been posted as deficient in their studies and advised that unless marked improvement is shown, they will be dropped.

The situation is no less disturbing at Annapolis, where 233 of the middles, or more than one-fourth of the entire number, have been posted as deficient in their studies and more than three-fourths of these are deficient in navigation, the knowledge of which is the most important of the branches taught at the academy.

The students at West Point and Annapolis are supposed to be selected from among the brightest and most promising young men of the country and the training at the two institutions is supposed to be the finest in the world. The failure, or threatened failure, therefore, of nearly one-fourth of the young men in the two schools must be set down either to over strict tests, to lax discipline, to a fault in the quality of students selected or to a mistaken course of study.

Millions have been expended on these schools in the last few years and everything done to improve the equipment, yet never before have such discouraging reports been received of the work. The schools are liberally supported at public expense and have the best teaching corps available, and the favored students are expected to make good and can have no good excuse for failure.

RELIEF FOR STRICKEN ITALY.

The public will approve the action of congress in promptly authorizing the president to expend as much as \$500,000 for relief of the stricken districts of Italy and in using battleships, transports or any other vessels of the navy in carrying on this splendid work. The action of congress had been anticipated by the president who, with congress in recess, has directed the Navy department to land supplies and naval stores at such ports as might be designated by the Italian government and to use the officers and men of the navy wherever their services were needed.

Later accounts of the devastation wrought by the earthquake in Sicily and southern Italy sweep away the hope that its extent has been exaggerated and it must now be accepted as one of the very greatest calamities in the world's history. It would be impossible to overestimate the dire extremity of those left alive in the stricken district and in need of succor. In such times, the relief is best that comes quickly and there should be no delay in carrying out the mission of the congressional appropriation. It will require years for Sicily to recover from the effects of the catastrophe and relief provisions must be made on a basis to extend over several years, but the crying demand now is for immediate help for those, who though fortunate enough to escape with their lives, find themselves in great danger of starvation.

COUNTY BOARD ORGANIZATION.

For the next twelve months the county board for Douglas county will consist of three members elected as republicans and two members elected as democrats. If the democrats had three members and the republicans only two members, it goes without saying that the democrats would organize the board and take upon themselves the responsibility for its acts. With a majority of the members elected as republicans, the republicans will be charged with responsibility, and while the minority members may share the credit for good work, they will try to put on the majority party members all the blame for mistakes.

And yet there are rumors current that the republican members of the

board may fail to get together on organization. We do not think there is any good reason why the three republican members should not adjust their differences, if they have any, and do what they were elected to do. It is not a question of patronage nor of policy, because we have no doubt that the democratic members-elect will cooperate with the republican members with a view to giving the county an efficient and economic administration of the county affairs, but it is a question of party responsibility.

We suggest that here is an opportunity for the various republican clubs in Omaha and South Omaha to get busy by resolution and otherwise to make sure that the republican majority of the board perfects the organization.

THE PRESIDENT'S ANSWER.

President Roosevelt's latest message to congress makes lively reading. This message is the answer drawn out in response to a resolution of congress asking for further information on the work of the secret service and an explanation of what was taken to be a reflection upon the personal integrity of its members in that part of the annual message dealing with the secret service.

Mr. Roosevelt comes back along two lines. First, he disclaims intention to attack personally any member of congress and asserts that a false construction was placed on his previous words, to which misunderstanding the congressional inquiry is due. Second, he reinforces his reasons and argument for restoring the appropriation for the secret service without limitation or conditions.

While many question the propriety of injecting into a presidential annual message language that could be so readily distorted into a serious reflection on unnamed congressmen, will concede that the president brings proof from the record that what he said was strictly true in the sense that he now explains it; and, furthermore, that the usefulness of the secret service is in danger of great impairment, if the restrictions placed upon it at the last session of congress are to be continued.

The president submits convincing proof that the secret service has been of incalculable value in safeguarding public interests and shows that it is absolutely necessary that the service be under one head with possibility of assignments of men to the different departments as needed. This position of the president is fully supported by the history of the land fraud cases in Nebraska, the Beef trust investigations, fight against Standard Oil, and all the active work for enforcement of the reform legislation enacted within recent years. Whether intentionally or not, congress seriously hindered the work of the law-enforcing branch of the administration by placing limitations on the use of the secret service, and the people will be with President Roosevelt for removing those limitations.

In this latest message, however, the president again invites criticism by drawing on the personal equation. His mention by name of men employed merely as attorneys for law breakers is calculated to cast a cloud upon them and fails to distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate service on behalf of their clients. It seems hardly fair to shield offending congressmen and derelict federal officials by withholding their names, while at the same time holding up to public view fully identified private citizens against whom no charge is preferred.

The various state organizations of county officers seem to be maintained for the purpose of influencing legislation affecting those particular offices. If this influence were exerted occasionally for the benefit of the public these organizations would be entitled to credit, but if their influence is to be exerted only for the benefit of the incumbents of the offices for the time being they will soon lose their prestige. The general public is apt to acquire the idea that all the county officers get together for is to figure on raising their own pay, giving themselves more help and reducing the amount of work.

According to the local democratic organ, "the old standbys of the legislative lobby will be mighty lonesome figures at Lincoln this winter, if they are there at all." It is much more probable, and in fact already demonstrated, that "the old standbys of the lobby" will simply be replaced by "the new standbys of the lobby," but that the lobby will be there just the same and no more lonesome than heretofore.

Senator Aldrich is said to be alarmed over the prospect of a radical tariff bill to come from the house and is accordingly preparing one of his own to be offered as a substitute in the senate. This report will be a hard blow to the democratic editors who have insisted that the house bill would be an attempt to revise the schedules upward.

The new State Board of Optometry in the eighteen months that it has been operating in Nebraska has taken in a little over \$2,500 in examination, registration and other fees. Nothing the matter with the eyesight of the three members constituting that board.

If the people who annually protest against the street fair as an unworthy appendage to the Ak-Sar-Ben festivities want to do anything to make their protests effective they will have to start in right away. The only way to abolish the street fair is to provide a more wholesome substitute for it or to make sure of a sufficient revenue to meet Ak-Sar-Ben's expenses from other sources.

One thing is certain, the city tax levy this year cannot be any higher in Omaha than it was last year. The mayor and council last year went the full limit under the charter and it will be impossible for the legislature to raise the limit in time for the next tax levy.

Mr. Edison says this will be a great year for inventors. Wish some inventor would hurry along with a device that will close the window when the alarm clock rings in the morning.

The new chief of police of San Francisco is making a record for novelty by discharging incompetent officers instead of transferring them to the residence districts.

The Italian optimist may find encouragement in the report that the Strait of Messina has been rid of its obstructions by the earthquake and is now navigable.

The president's latest message to congress will convince every one but the crooks that the government needs an active and efficient secret service organization.

The zeal of our democratic congressman to prevent our democratic mayor from being vested with the power to appoint police board members is easily understood.

The Chicago Tribune says that Senator Foraker is known as a constructive statesman. The record shows that he is also an obstructive statesman.

"The Winning of the South," by William Howard Taft, promises to be quite as interesting a volume as "The Winning of the West" by Theodore Roosevelt.

Consider the Difference. Chicago Record-Herald.

Statistics inform us that the cost of living has increased 20 per cent during the last 100 years. Still, it will have to be admitted that living is worth a good deal more than it was 100 years ago.

Minstrel of Mercy. Philadelphia Record.

Now, when the great armored ships of war can be swiftly sent to Italy on errands of mercy, peace and goodwill, there will probably be less objection to the enormous expenditures of the nations in building them.

Protecting His "Scoops." Washington Post.

President Roosevelt, in refusing to permit newspaper men to accompany him on his African trip, indicates that he has no intention of having the raw material for his dollar-a-word stories copied by premature publication.

Challenging Fate. Boston Transcript.

Probably at this very instant there are hopeful souls—not all of them connected with the real estate business, either—who are planning the "new Messina." There has been a city on its site for twenty-five centuries, which is not merely a coincidence, but an illustration of the persistency of trade routes.

Overriding the Jubilee Business. Pittsburgh Dispatch.

That proposition of having a grand reconciliation observance on Lake Erie of the centennial of Perry's victory, with Great Britain and America joining, might be all right, but don't grow so effusive as to plan a city on its site for twenty-five centuries, which is not merely a coincidence, but an illustration of the persistency of trade routes.

An Exemplar of Socialism. Boston Herald.

Socialist J. G. Phelps Stokes explains that the reason why he doesn't divide up his fortune among those who helped to produce it is that if he give them only about one quarter of a cent each and would do them no good. This is practically the same reply that the elder Astor once made to a like question as to his fortune, but it failed to satisfy his socialist critics, who continued to urge the partitioning of his fortunes just the same. Socialist Stokes occupies a glass house.

Excessive Toll of Life. Philadelphia Record.

The excessive loss of life and the excessive waste of material in the operation of American mines as compared with the lesser losses in the more difficult and hazardous work in English and German mines furnishes sufficient cause for active government regulation. The best results may be anticipated from the willing cooperation of humane mine-owners. Where there is lack of co-operation compulsory means of relief are fully justified.

A PECULIAR BOYCOTT.

Race Track Interest Striving to Bulldoze New Orleans Papers. Pittsburgh Dispatch.

An application for a judicial principle, now under debate, comes from New Orleans in a form that will produce little dissent among the moral. At that city the gambling interests are charged with organizing a boycott against newspapers that oppose the re-establishment of race track gambling. Judge Saunders of the United States district court is stated to have brought the reports to the attention of the grand jury, with the following comment:

We cannot permit a quasi-criminal partitioning of the popular attention and dictate that the newspapers of this city shall be permitted to say in their discussion of public questions, and in their exposure of the conspiracy of this kind then it behooves you to investigate it thoroughly and indict the offenders in it.

On the moral question, which at this distance is the chief issue, the judicial attention is indisputable. The case presents clearly the dangerous character of the organized boycott and the fact that it is resorted to the use of the unscrupulous and immoral, and, as illustrated in this case, had the boycott been successfully applied to the suppression of free discussion and the stifling of independent opinion.

That is a phase of the boycott which no thoughtful mind can overlook. But as merely collateral point, since the president has been so hotly criticized as desiring to encroach on state rights, and the courts have been pointed out as the barrier to such aggressions, it is impossible to refrain from the inquiry what a United States judge has to do with a boycott which by the statement of the case is limited to a single state, and under what national statute or constitutional clause a federal grand jury could find the indictment as suggested by the quotation above.

NEBRASKA PRESS COMMENT.

Columbus Tribune: The Omaha Bee's suggestion of a national frog exposition is a long leap into the future.

Siaston Picket: Mayor Jim Dahman of Omaha announces that he will be a candidate for re-election. Evidently he has contracted the habit from his friend at Fairview.

Bloomington Advocate: Jim Dahman has announced that he will be a candidate for re-election as mayor of Omaha. One thing can be said in Jim's behalf, and that is that he has been the most talked of mayor in the union. His hot air spouts have been heard all over the country.

Lexington Pioneer: The Thirtieth Nebraska senatorial district comprises fourteen counties and has a population of about 70,000 people. Nebraska should be re-districted, and its eastern Nebraska fellows sent to jar loose the Central and western Nebraska districts and to make more representation in the state's legislature.

Ord Quiz: Say, dear populist friend, do you like the political situation? No one ever thinks of referring to the coming legislature even as fusion. The populist element is wholly forgotten. It is simply democratic that the state will still go on with the faces of keeping up a populist organization, for a lot of you can swallow a democratic pill only when put up in a box labeled "Populist." Now wouldn't that jar you?

Rushville Recorder: The show at Omaha is said to have been a greater success than the Ak-Sar-Ben festival. The comparison is hardly fair, for the show is widely apart in their object. One had for its object education by scientific methods for corn raisers and others in similar pursuits. The other provided a little diversion which we all crave in some form at some time. We are glad to hear of the success of both.

Weeping Water Republican: The word is passed along that a democratic daily paper is to be started in Lincoln. One exchange insists that if such is the case, only dyed-in-the-wool democrats should own the plant, and not as already announced, those of doubtful parentage. The suggestion is a good one, and the republicans who have read The State Journal during the late campaign can appreciate the need of a partisan paper. The Lincoln dailies catered to both parties in order to keep out the veto competition that is now prominent. An independent paper sounds nice, but it doesn't fill the bill.

Kearney Hub: The Omaha Bee prints a timely editorial on the log-rolling, button-holing, lobbying habit, of everyone connected with the state university (and not omitting the citizens of Lincoln) for every dollar that can be wheedled out of Nebraska legislatures, and the Bee remarks that "it is to be hoped that the unworthy system will not again be resorted to." We will agree with the Bee that "the people of Nebraska take great pride in their state university and are always ready to support it as liberally as their resources justify," but that "they do not want the curriculum enriched with a course in the genetic art of lobbying."

Sterling Sun: The republicans in the legislature will be in such a hopeless minority, that they can do nothing of themselves, but the republican legislature of two years ago made a record for the party of which they may be proud and one which the democrats this winter will not seek to wipe out, and now they can afford to assist the democrats in the passage of any law that are for the good of the people, remembering that the people are more interested in good legislation than they are in partisan politics. Whether democratic or republican, we are all compelled to live under and be governed by the same laws, and wholesome ones are the kind we want.

O'Neill Democrat: When a senator can be elected in Nebraska by direct vote of the people M. F. Harrington can go to the senate, if it is his wish. The Democrat believes that no man in Nebraska in any party can get as many votes in this state for this position. No man has done so since the round and intelligent reformer in this state as Mr. Harrington, and none so thoroughly qualified to hold such an exalted position as he. Mr. Harrington never held an office, nor does he want one, but Nebraska has a right to insist on some one to whom Harrington for senator should be one of them if the time shall come when the people may choose a senator by direct vote.

Wayne Herald: One of the platform pledges made by the democratic party during the last campaign was to provide for the physical valuation of corporation property so that the rate making powers could have this valuation as a guide in fixing rates. This pledge is now being carried out by the legislature to adopt a successful measure, because at the same time that pledge was made there was another promise to cut down the expense of the state government and to reduce the taxes to be paid by the farmers. It has been reported to the democrats who will be responsible for what the legislature does that Michigan spent \$5,000,000 finding out the physical value of its railroads and that Wisconsin spent \$3,000,000.

Columbus Tribune: The new sojourners are now concentrating their minds on the thought of a new law for the guaranteeing of bank deposits. We are not selfish enough to want the legislature to adopt an unsatisfactory law. The people of Nebraska, by electing a big democratic majority, along with other things, said they wanted this law. The new state of Oklahoma, like a young man starting in business who usually, in his own mind, so much brighter than his father or "the old man" passed laws that are even now blocking the way of progress, and as the banks of our state are of the most important of all institutions caution should be exercised in framing this law. We don't want the law to be detrimental to our state. We hope to see one that will be beneficial for above all democrats and republicans, we stand as citizens of Nebraska.

A CROWDED COUNTRY.

Immense Loss of Life in Earthquake Zone Was Inevitable. New York Evening Post.

The vast loss of life which has befallen the Tyrrhenian coastlands of Italy was due in large measure to the extreme congestion of the population. Italy as a whole supports 35 inhabitants to its every square mile. In Sicily the ratio is 52 to the square mile, and about unhappy Messina the ratio rose to 46. We think Sicily as so exclusively an agricultural country—the land of wheat, oil and citrus—that it is surprising to find over one-fourth of its population of some 2,800,000 congregated in cities having more than 25,000 inhabitants. Of such cities there must be between fifteen or twenty. The soil has had to stand the wear of constant cultivation from the times when Sicily fed Athens and Rome, but the island is still a granary and a garden spot. It is still parcelled out among great land owners, who, like the latifundists, who, with holders of the land and subtenants, crowd together in the cities when the week or the season's cultivation is done. With them they not infrequently bring their farm animals and thus give to Sicilian cities an aspect of particular alarmiveness. That a catastrophe of nature coming upon such a human congestion should work immense loss of life was inevitable.

SAFETY 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 DEPOSIT 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. Entrance to Safety Deposit Vaults is on 13th street.

WHAT RESOLUTIONS COME TO.

An Early Example for Later Day Good Intentions.

Collier's Weekly. The end of the good resolutions made on January 1 usually sets in about the end of January. Just as well, perhaps, for at the best they are frozen and unhuman devices to attain uprightiness. It may be the third week in January; it may be February; but they are pretty sure to go by the board at last. A very lifelike document is the diary of the crusty old Dr. Johnson. We select a few jottings:

"1769. Resolved. To rise as early as I can.

"1761. My purpose is, To regulate my sleep.

"1784. My purpose is from this time, To rise early.

"1784 (September) I resolve, To rise early; not later than six, if I can; I hope sooner, but as soon as I can.

"1785. My resolution, I propose to rise at eight, because, though I shall not yet rise early, it will be much earlier than I now rise, for I often sit till two.

"1788. I propose and hope to rise early in the morning, at eight, and by degrees at six.

"1772. I hope to rise by degrees more early in the morning.

"1774. I hope to rise at eight."

Evidently no lack of good resolutions; yet only a few years before his death we find him writing:

"I have now spent about fifty-five years in resolving; having from the earliest time almost that I can remember, been forming schemes of a better life. I have done nothing. . . . My life has, from earliest years, been wasted in a morning bed."

Few would agree with Dr. Johnson's estimate of his life, but we may concede that his resolutions were not of great assistance.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

January sales in Pittsburgh will not affect prices of councilmen. The goods have been removed from the bargain counter for an indefinite period.

Uncle Sam may be a trifle slow in dispensing awards, but he gets there. A Pennsylvania man has just received a check for 66 cents, his share of the loot captured by a union gunboat in 1862.

Thanks to the tendency of wedding cake in resolving; having from the earliest time almost that I can remember, been forming schemes of a better life. I have done nothing. . . . My life has, from earliest years, been wasted in a morning bed."

The Pennsylvania man who predicted the world would come to an end December 27 is carefully keeping out of reach of his dupes. A few deluded mortals who hoped to take on celestial wings caught cold instead.

An expert in such things calculates that as two Sunday cocktails induced a Chicago man to confess a friend with a loaded salad dish, two like confessions would make a Kansas man sob for more. Such are the mysteries of thirst.

The story that it took \$400,000 effectively to bury the dual rulers of China will be read with outward evidence of inward grief by the undertakers of Baltimore. In the monumental city almost \$60 for a funeral is regarded as unseemly extravagance by the solemnly brethren.

Mme. Schumann-Heink, the robust singer and mother of a large family, naively explains why she prefers the United States to the fatherland. "In the United States," she says, "I gave last year 120 concerta, each netting me \$1,000. In addition I made some money in singing into phonographs."

Gomez, the new dictator of Venezuela, is said by an American correspondent to be an apt pupil of Castro, and to have outclassed his master as a cattle rustler. Considerable artistic skill was displayed in swiping the presidency, but there is some doubt whether the maverick will take the brand.

Chicago aldermen are convinced that their services are worth \$2,500 a year to the city, but as several of the members are hold-overs whose compensation cannot lawfully be raised, the more liberal associates allowed them "secretaries" who will absorb the difference between \$1,500 and \$2,500 a year. This is a sample of the brand of nerve that makes Chicago famous.

"TRYING IT ON THE DOG."

Prospective Legislative Experiments in Nebraska. St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Nebraska has "a hen on" in its legislative chambers this winter. In the person of William J. Bryan, who is brooding over its proceedings to make it sure that certain grand ideas of his shall hatch out in so far as possible the declarations of the Denver platform should be embodied in state enactments. Well, it is always better that a remedy, or a suspicious article of food, should be "tried on the dog" before it is dealt out to the family; and Nebraska will serve the purpose of a dog, in trying the effect of Bryanite nostrums, possibly even better than Oklahoma. The republicans of Nebraska, who were so weak-kneed that they permitted their state to go democratic—the only falling star in the northern galaxy—will get only what is properly coming to them if their state legislature shall make a fool of itself.

INES TO A LAUGH.