

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: The undersigned, publisher of the Daily Bee, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the Daily Bee during the month of December, 1908, was as follows:

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 10th day of December, 1908. ROBERT B. TROCHUCK, 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.

Found—One cold wave. Owner please claim it.

Omaha's policemen and firemen are again "on the tip-toe of expectancy."

Twenty-nine different men have served in President Roosevelt's cabinet. Can you name them?

There should be some law against allowing that Medicine Hat cold wave factory to run overtime.

It is evident that about every woman in the country has a big hat. Fashion has just decreed that the big hat will soon become obsolete.

A Boston physician says everyone should swallow a dozen raw eggs each day. Not until money comes easier or the hens get busier.

Secret service officials appear to be as successful in turning up counterfeit congressmen as they are in detecting counterfeit currency.

Having shown what he can do in a pinch in the way of below-zero temperature, the weather man seems disposed to rest on his laurels.

The claim is made that the cocktail is a North Carolina invention, but the governor of South Carolina will want something to say about that.

Peking has invited Yuan Shi-Kai to return home and stand trial on the charge of having killed the emperor. Chances are that Yuan will fail to recognize his queue.

Mr. Burton was moved to tears when the legislative caucus chose him for senator from Ohio. What Senator Foraker was moved to by the same act is not stated.

Mr. Taft can afford to cultivate the 'possum and 'taters vote in an off year, but in the end he will have to pin his faith to the buckwheat cakes and sausage vote of the north.

It cost \$150,000 to get the fleet through the Suez canal, but Uncle Sam will doubtless remember the incident and get even when the Panama canal opens for business.

Up to date Mr. Taft has refused to appear even interested in Connecticut's complaint that the state has not been represented in the president's cabinet for thirty-five years.

The government has spent \$15,000 trying to find the truth about the Brownsville incident and the layman may have proof of any conviction he cares to entertain on the subject.

The federal officials removed by President Roosevelt to clear the track for a vigorous prosecution of the Nebraska land fraud cases would do well to let the public regard it as a closed incident.

Where there is much smoke there is liable to be some fire. Particularly applicable to the republican county commissioner who resents so loudly the inquiry whether he is tied up with the democrats.

The senate has finally agreed to the construction of a \$400,000 embassy house in Paris. The poor fellow who can afford to keep up an establishment of that kind may now stand a chance of being considered when the diplomatic appointments are being passed around.

SENATOR TILLMAN'S BOURBOINISM.

Even in the south, where the negro and his chances of advancement are rarely seriously considered, protests are being offered against Senator Tillman's violent denunciation of proposed compulsory educational laws in South Carolina and other southern states.

The pitiful fact is that the negro is to be raised a foe to white supremacy and the final downfall of the nation. He adds that this is but a part of Mr. Taft's plot to buy the south with federal patronage, educate the negroes and turn the south over to them, to be used as a recruiting station for republican votes and the lasting overthrow of the democratic party.

Senator Tillman's argument is not creditable to the south, no matter in what light it is viewed. If he fears that education of the negro would make him more aggressive and effective than the white man, then he admits that the uneducated white man has an advantage over the uneducated negro which disappears when both are educated.

The argument that white supremacy would be threatened by the education of the negro will hold water no better. A state or society is in danger from the ignorance of the people, not from their intelligence. Tennessee and Kentucky are suffering today, as demonstrated by their experience with night riders, from the ignorance of their people.

Nor will the whites of the south thank Mr. Tillman for his assertion that they are of such a low order that they may be bought to transfer their political allegiance with a few federal offices. Senator Tillman is apparently unmindful of the fact that a better south is growing every minute, a south free from many of the prejudices and false doctrines used in the past to keep fire-eaters like himself in the forefront in national affairs.

WHAT IS A FULL CROP? The statistical bureau of the Department of Agriculture has issued a circular of explanation of the terms used in reporting crop conditions and estimates that will tickle the average farmer almost as much as it would for him to find a new variety of weevil in his wheat.

Many reports of the department have been based upon comparisons with the "full normal" and the bureau is now explaining what is meant by the term. To begin with, the circular states that a "full normal" condition does not indicate a perfect crop, but a condition above the average, giving promise of more than average crop. Furthermore, a "full normal" condition does not indicate a perfect crop or a crop that is or promises to be the very largest in quantity or the very best in quality that the particular region may be considered capable of producing.

drawing their pay at the increased rate from December 1, assuming that that declaration made the amendments effective.

Third, all the regularly elected supreme judges whose titles are beyond question, and who alone could finally adjudicate proposed litigation, have recognized the appointees of Governor Sheldon by administering to them their oaths of office, by sitting with them as a court, by according them full voice in its deliberations.

Finally, had Governor Sheldon responded to the democratic entreaties for two of the four judgeships he was to distribute the titles of his appointees would never have been questioned by a democratic legislature.

THE FALL OF YUAN SHI-KAI. The deposition and dismissal in contempt of Yuan Shi-Kai, who by virtue of peculiar offices may be regarded as the prime minister of China, furnishes a conspicuous illustration of the instability of greatness in China. It has also created a sensation among the diplomats specially charged with keeping a grasp on Asiatic affairs unequalled since Bismarck was dismissed from the chancellorship of the German empire.

So far as the powers interested in Asiatic affairs are concerned, the death of the emperor and dowager empress produced less excitement than the removal of Yuan Shi-Kai, who for ten years has been recognized as the real brains of the Chinese government. It is asserted that the progress made in China in the last ten years has been due to the sagacity and powerful influence of Yuan Shi-Kai, and when he was made the right hand man of Prince Chun, the regent, it was believed that more rapid progress would be made toward a ranking place in the family of nations.

It is too early, of course, to make predictions as to the result of this upheaval. Liang Tung-Yen, who has been appointed to succeed Yuan on the imperial council, is a progressive Chinaman of American education and strongly favors more friendly relations with the western powers. Yuan's successor in other posts of honor, however, is Na Tung, recognized as a political intriguer and violently opposed to foreigners. Unless his official wings are clipped, he may be expected to try to destroy the effect of Yuan's influence for better relations with other powers and development of the empire's resources and material welfare.

HIS FIRST CHANCE TO MAKE GOOD. The appointment of two members of the Omaha Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to fill vacancies created by resignations will give Governor Shallenberger his first chance to make good.

The full normal may be described as a condition of perfect healthfulness, unimpeded by drouth, hail, insects or other injurious agency, and with such growth and development as may reasonably be looked for under these favorable conditions. As stated in the instructions to correspondents, it does not represent a crop of extraordinary character, such as may be produced here and there by the special efforts of some highly skilled farmer with abundant means, or such as may be grown on a bit of land of extraordinary fertility, or even such as may be grown quite extensively once in a dozen years in a season that is extraordinarily favorable to the crop to be raised.

country that forces suspicion that he read between the lines in the mandate of banishment.

Mr. Bryan insists that the editor of a newspaper "is not always independent of those who employ him." Mr. Bryan ought to know. He was employed as editor of the World-Herald as part of the deal by which the silver bullionaires poured their money into that paper in order to convert it to the advocacy of 16 to 1 free coinage.

When it comes to a businesslike state administration and real legislative reforms the democrats who have succeeded to the control of Nebraska will have to go some to equal the republican record of the last two years.

John W. Gates is in favor of cutting the tariff schedules on iron and steel by 50 per cent. It will be remembered that Mr. Gates is on the outside looking in on the steel business just now.

Charybdis Getting Her Due. It was ever thus with old Charybdis first celebrated in Homeric verse and now again shattered by a subterranean earthquake. Charybdis was a voracious woman who stole the oxen of Hercules and was hurled by the thunderbolt of Jupiter into the sea where she has been making trouble ever since.

Select Senatorial Bench. Chicago Record-Herald. It is pointed out that Ellihu Root, will when he becomes a senator, go to the bottom on the committee lists, owing to the inflexible rule of seniority which prevails in the most dignified deliberative body on earth. Think of Root falling in behind such men as Dewey, Penrose, Dick, Bailey and Jeff Davis.

The Financial Magnate. Brooklyn Life. A magnate is a man who is expert at getting hold of things and never letting go. It is he that discovered the perpetual franchise. When conditions are prosperous and industries are running full tilt, he takes all the credit and all the prosperity, but not all the industry. When affairs might be better he gives us to understand that, were it not for him, they might be worse.

Fate of All Taxes. Wall Street Journal. The fairest of all taxes, and probably the least popular, is the income tax. Its incidence can be scientifically distributed so that it shall not press unduly upon the shoulders of any particular class. It is far superior to our state property tax, and the collection of it in England has shown that the possibilities of evading it are relatively small.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Hippies on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. "Humpty" Jackson, the champion crook of Manhattan, having a record of 101 arrests without seriously impairing his liberty, has the hook in good shape this time, and students of criminology are watching to see if he can squirm out. Jackson was caught with the goods on, a portion of \$100,000 worth of loot stolen from an express company. One of the few generous things he has done led to his undoing.

Most prosperous physicians in New York are specialists. Or they become specialists if they are prosperous. That fact often angers the man who wants a doctor in a hurry, as one chap uttered the other day. His wife was ill; they had just moved to a new neighborhood, and his family physician was out of town. The first doctor he routed out of his house was a specialist, and a specialist, mightily short-tempered one. The second devoted himself to the nose and throat. The third was a negro. The fourth handled only surgical cases, and the fifth was a woman. "Scurry," said the searcher, "but my wife is perishing. I'd take you in a minute—she will not care to trust a woman physician."

That Christmas stories are not all contained in books, relates the New York Tribune, some of the passengers know who were on a subway train leaving the Brooklyn bridge about 5 o'clock on Christmas eve. Among those who boarded the train at Spring street was a workingman, who carried a lunchbox, a tin can and a tin in the other and under his arm paper parcels. He stood on the platform of the car, and when this had started he put one of his parcels on the floor and reached into an inner pocket. Immediately he uttered an exclamation of surprise and became known that he had lost his pay envelope. When he left the train several men who had spoken to him followed and questioned him after the train had moved on. Evidently convinced of his honesty and the truth of his story, a little consultation was held, and before man ascended the steps he had consented to take a neat little sum which the strangers, evidently warmed by the Christmas spirit, had made up to take the place of the lost envelope.

"I don't know how they manage it," says a conductor on the Broadway line, quoted by the Sun, "but whenever there is an accident involving the injury of a passenger, the claim lawyers hear of it about as quickly as the agents of the company. There are dozens of lawyers in the city who have no other occupation than that of prosecuting damage suits against the company, and there must be some fee-mongery about the business, for no matter how hard the company's employees may try to keep news of an accident from reaching the public, the lawyers always hear about it, and very often reach the injured party before the agents of the company can get to him."

There is a friend who not long ago was slightly hurt in a collision and being afraid that his injuries were more serious than they proved to be, I took a day off to go and see him. He was hurt early Wednesday morning. I called on him before 3 o'clock Thursday, and he then showed me the business cards of twenty-six different lawyers, who had dropped in to see what they could do toward inducing him to bring a suit against the company. The claim business, however, is not so prosperous as it was two or three years ago, for the lawyers are all careful to get written contracts, providing that they shall receive anywhere from 20 to 60 per cent of whatever sum is recovered in the suit, and besides, they sometimes manage to get in expense items of different kinds, so that if the suit is successful, the client's share is usually very small. The people are beginning to understand that they have a better chance of fair treatment by dealing directly with the claim agents of the company than by trusting to the issue of a lawsuit.

There is to be an afterglow to the fires on the New York state reservations that is of general interest. The counsel to the forest, fish and game commission has been directed by Commissioner James S. Whipple to begin actions against railroad companies for setting fires which resulted in the destruction of timber and property of the state. The theory of the prosecution is that there is no reason why railroad companies which, through negligence in caring for the right of way as prescribed by law, have caused fires, should not pay for the property destroyed the same as an individual would have to do in case of trespass or negligently destroyed property. John K. Wood, the lawyer who is to lead the way, says that he is ready to proceed, "but as it will necessitate the bringing of a very large number of actions it will take some time to complete the evidence."

Cost of the White Plague. Philadelphia Record. We took note the other day that a New York physician estimated that he could eliminate tuberculosis from the city if he had sixteen million dollars, in the next five years, and some legislation. And now we have the estimate of the State Board of Charities that tuberculosis alone costs New York State \$2,000,000 every year. That is about ten times the annual expense of suppressing it on the basis of the estimate for New York City.

Farewell to a Parting Host. New York Sun. It is beautiful to see the graces and amenities preserved in spite of difficulties. The prisoners in the county jail at Milwaukee have "presented resolutions to Ben Johnson, the retiring jailer," thanking him for his treatment of them "during his regime." The maker of the "address of presentation" is under indictment for murder, "a boy who beat a grocery collector to death in a wagon during a storm," but a tender heart and sympathetic disposition. "We wish to thank you for the little acts that made us forget for an instant that we were in jail," the regretful guests say to the parting host. Little courtesies like these light up the dungeon cell and foretell perhaps the roseate day when even the penitentiary shall be co-operative.

ATLANTA'S BANQUET TO TAFT.

Elaborate Decorations Planned for the Coming Feast. Atlanta Constitution. Nothing in the South has ever equaled the decorations planned for the Taft dinner, to be given on the night of January 15 at the Auditorium-Armory by the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce in honor of the president-elect. The lobby of the Auditorium will be a mass of ferns, palms and plants, flags and a myriad of electric lights. But this will be only the prelude.

The grand symphony of color will be seen in the dining room. Behind the speakers' table, there is to be about seventy feet long, and which will be placed against the wall, there will be festooned a gigantic United States flag, made up of ferns, flowers and electric lights. The stars in the flag will be made of white electric lights and the other colors furnished in the same way, while the whole will be artistically blended with the choicest of house flowers. The lights will so rise and fall as to give the appearance that the flag is waving.

The guest table will be the base of the flag on which the lights will be so arranged as to form the stars and background. Leading away from it at right angles will be nine tables, with their white napery making the white stripes and after a row of American Beauty roses forming the red and completing the floral picture of the Stars and Stripes.

During three years consecutively there has annually been added to the world's wealth in the yellow metal an excess of \$90,000,000, or more than \$1,000,000,000 for the last three years. The mines and placer sands of the world produced more gold last year than during the previous year or during any past year of which there is record. In a preliminary estimate just given out by the director of the mint the gold yield of the world for 1908 was valued at \$427,000,000, as compared with \$410,555,000 for 1907. The African mines show a steady increase in the output of the precious metal year after year. The total product from the dark continent last year was \$165,000,000, which is far in excess of the amount yielded during any one year preceding the year.

The United States, including Alaska, ranks second in the value of its gold yield during the last year, the total product of this country possessing a value of \$96,300,000, as compared with \$90,455,000 in 1907 and \$93,375,000 for 1906. Colorado was the chief gold producing state last year, the relative proportions measured in coinage values of the four leading gold areas being, Colorado, \$22,811,174; Alaska, \$20,930,784; California, \$15,581,870, and Nevada, \$12,090,218. There was a notable decrease in the production of silver in the United States last year and a decline in the commercial value of silver bullion which was even more notable. The value of the silver yield dropped from \$77,000,000 for 1907 to about \$72,000,000 for the last year—the price having declined from 66 cents to 53 cents per ounce.

WHAT THE COURT SETTLES. Points Settled in the New York 50-cent Gas Case. Philadelphia Press. No decision in years has settled as much on public service corporations as the New York 50-cent gas case. None will be so often cited.

Actual value is made the basis upon which the capital of a railroad is to be estimated. The mere presence of "water" in shares does not count. The franchise is a part of the actual value. This increases in value with time and use. The earnings on this value must be 6 per cent. This gives a public service corporation fair protection, but on the other hand, it cannot refuse a rate until it has tried it. The state can fix the rate. It can decide the charge to the public. Once enacted, the charge must be accepted until experience shows it does not earn 6 per cent on actual value.

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"VISITATION OF PROVIDENCE."

Abundantly of Attributing Evil to God. Baltimore Sun. Men speak in the South of a "visitation of Providence," by which multitudes perished. It is a visitation of Providence. If any calamity happens it is a visitation of Providence or "the act of God." Men are very quick to attribute evil to God, but to claim the credit of that which is good to themselves. If the country is prosperous it is the result of the tariff, the wisdom of the lawmakers or the energy and enterprising of the people. We never talk of prosperity as a "visitation of Providence." But if evil befall the land, if there is war, pestilence or famine or death and destruction in casualties, then it is a "visitation of Providence."

Mr. John Wanamaker, the Philadelphia merchant, undertook to convince the Young Men's Christian association that the terrible earthquake in Italy was "a visitation of the Almighty for disregarding the law of Mount Sinai." Among those who died in that dreadful calamity were thousands of infants, who did not know their right hands from the left and had never heard of the law of Sinai. Did God visit death upon these for the sin of the others? "And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were allowed to avenge all the Galileans because they suffered such things? I tell you, nay * * * or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, nay." That was a distinctly defined doctrine from that which is taught by Mr. Wanamaker. Of the twelve Apostles only one died a natural death, and he died after a life which was a living death. All the rest were done to death in the most cruel manner. Was that a visitation of the Almighty because they had disregarded the law of Mount Sinai? In the early days of Christianity thousands upon thousands of devoted Christians were tortured and had their eyes nailed to their skulls and scourged, were stoned and sawed in sunder or were thrown to the lions and torn to pieces while the pagans looked on in security and enjoyment. Does Mr. Wanamaker believe that all these things happened to those devoted people because they had disregarded the law of Sinai? "There comes a time when God's patience is exhausted," says Mr. Wanamaker. Who is to put limitations upon God's patience when we are told that His mercy is everlasting? The truth is that the occurrence of such calamities as that which has befallen Italy is a mystery. No human mind can fathom the purposes of the inscrutable Providence—no finite mind can measure or comprehend the infinite.

PERSONAL NOTES. Richard Croker has begun his residence at West Palm Beach in a house fronting the ocean. He says he expects to remain for the winter. Miss Helen G. McDermott quit teaching to take a place in the business office of the Worcester Post, and now she has been appointed Worcester's police clerk. Young Hargis, the Kentucky paricide, was out of jail twenty-four hours before necessity arose for putting him in again, perhaps there is some good in the boy after all. Rudolph Frankens, the new consul general of Germany in New York, has arrived in that city. He is one of the prominent younger members of the German diplomatic service and is married to an American woman. In order to learn the "business," E. H. Brewster, millionaire clubman of Los Angeles and a business associate of Charles M. Schwab, has assumed the position of ticket seller at the Belasco theater. In a few weeks he will take a position as stage hand, and later still he may induce the manager of the theater to give him a job as secretary. Barney Reynolds, one of the oldest comedians in the country, was found dead in bed at a Cleveland hotel. Reynolds had spent most of his seventy years on the stage, and was the creator of the Dutch comedian part. He began his theatrical career at 16 as a circus acrobat, and later played in everything from vaudeville to Shakespeare. At one time he owned a theater in Milwaukee.

PASSING PLEASANTIES. "The lobster will be extinct in twenty-five years." "No he won't; he'll just have moved from the green room to the bald-headed row."—Houston Post. "Did that elderly bride's brother give her away?" "No; he didn't have to. Her dearest friends had attended to all that."—Baltimore American. "I am rather sorry leap year is no more." "Why?" inquired his friend. "Because," replied the smiling ecstasist, "I enjoyed the reassurance of the chase."—Cleveland Plain Dealer. "So you do not approve of my style of speechmaking?" said the youthful statesman. "No," answered Senator Borghum; "your speeches are not short enough to be epigrammatic, but long enough to be postponed for time-killing in an emergency."—Washington Star. "What's the matter, Mr. Gilday? You appear annoyed." "Yes, I am annoyed by the upper room door?" "Yes." "That's a blatant old humbug." "Yes, that's papa."—Cleveland Plain Dealer. "Senator, you surely will vote for this measure?" "Why should I?" "It's for the benefit of posterity." "Posterity, what? I don't know any posterity, but my posterity will say about me, and I'm going to get even with it before-hand. I shall vote for the measure, but just to spite posterity."—Chicago Tribune. "Was that story you printed a humorous effort?" "It was," rejoined the author with dignity. "It didn't make anybody laugh." "Well, it was a good joke on the editor who accepted it."—Chicago Record-Herald. "I am all around tired," sighed the weary auto wheel. "And I am worn out," moaned the shabby cloak, sinking on the seat. "To the bus, please out," complained the trolley horn. "That's nothing. I have that all-gone, empty tank," said the gasoline tank. "But just then all were put into the garage and shut up."—Baltimore American.

CHARGE OF THE FAIR BRIGADE. Myrtle Conner in Judge. Half a step, half a step. Half a step onward. Over there the balloons lie. On the course piled so high. Luring the unnumbered. Forward the fair brigade! Through the aisles! They cry. (Three know what they want to buy—Anxious unnumbered!) Bargains to right of them; Bargains to left of them; Bargains in front of them. There to be plundered! Storm they with right good will; Boldly they push and sell. Into the jaws of death. "We wish to thank you for the little acts that made us forget for an instant that we were in jail," the regretful guests say to the parting host. Little courtesies like these light up the dungeon cell and foretell perhaps the roseate day when even the penitentiary shall be co-operative.

When will their courage fade? Oh, the wild charge they made! All the men were out. Yet "honored" all the charges made. An oft before they paid. For the sake of the fair brigade! Forward the fair brigade! Happy unnumbered!

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