

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. Omaha, Douglas County, Mo. George B. Tschuck, treasurer of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of December, 1908, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation category and Number of copies. Includes categories like 'Copies of this issue', 'Copies of other issues', etc.

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

San Francisco is responsible for the latest temper in the Japan teapot. Oyster Bay will be on the map for a few days after March 4 and then retire to the Esopus class.

If the weather man will only let a little sunshine in he will be forgiven for about everything else. A New York dispatch announces that the ice trust needs money. It should tell its troubles to the Coal trust.

These pictures of Messina after the earthquake will have a familiar look to the residents of Baltimore and San Francisco. It is stated that American coins are melted as soon as they arrive in a foreign country. Here they are burned up.

The president wants the army officers to leave their hobby horses long enough to get some experience with cavalry horses. The Sultan of Turkey might as well surrender and be good. The Young Turks have turned their attention to American foot ball.

It is passing strange that the fire in the wireless telegraph station at Fort Omaha has not been charged to "defective wiring." T. Jenkins Hains says he is glad his trial is over. So are the rest of us, even if we are as pleased over the verdict as Hains must be.

The speaker of the New Jersey legislature is a teacher of dancing. The speaker at Washington has also given some instruction in that line. President Gomez of Venezuela is reversing all of the Castro policies. The other nations will invite him to go as far as he likes in that direction.

The condition of Omaha's streets is not one of the reasons why Mayor Jim and his administration should be continued through another term of office. The new supervisor of street cleaning in New York has removed the snow contractors. Possibly that's the next best thing to removing the snow.

Speaking of names, Representative Joy of Eden has introduced a bill in the Maine legislature excluding automobiles from the island of Mount Desert. The independent window glass makers have formed a combination to fight the Glass trust. This will revive the old question. When is a trust not a trust?

The investigation of Senator Tillman's case is to be dropped. The senate is willing to admit that he is innocent, if he will promise not to do it again. The new chairman of the executive committee of the Commercial club has had enough experience with trade excursions and the like to know that he has plenty of work ahead of him, at any rate.

The latest American heiress to wed an English nobleman received as a wedding present from him a photograph of the ancestral diamonds. He should have gone further and given her the pawn ticket.

HASKELL'S LATEST OUTBREAK

Charles N. Haskell, governor of Oklahoma, has assumed another enviable role by his attempt to impede the progress of justice in an Oklahoma case in which he is an interested party. On a warrant charging "conspiracy to defame," Haskell has caused the arrest of an attorney who has been engaged in Oklahoma in securing evidence for W. R. Hearst, who is defendant in a \$600,000 libel suit brought by Haskell. In addition to causing the arrest of the attorney, Haskell has had his papers, including letters from his wife, his private bank account and other documents of that kind, taken from the attorney and placed in the hands of the court, after having first been examined by the attorneys of the governor. Charging that the attorneys and others were working up false testimony against him, Haskell says:

I paid no attention to them until recently, when I learned that they were disappointed at not finding anything truthful to use against me, whereupon apparently they became desperate and began offering large sums of money to persons to aid in manufacturing false statements. In several instances, I am reliably advised they have used the expression "we have the money and are willing to give it to you if you will help us."

It is not Hearst alone, but there are other interested parties in the conspiracy, and with the main purpose of injuring me they combined their efforts. I have nothing further to add except that the arrest of Mr. MacReynolds is only the beginning, and other conspirators will have the same opportunity to square themselves with a jury of honest people. The famous Oklahoma constitution is recognized as something of a catch-all, but it is doubted if even that all-embracing document will furnish warrant for Haskell's high-handed methods. None will question Mr. Hearst's right to secure all the information, records and other data obtainable in the defense of the suit brought against him by Haskell. He has a perfect and unquestioned right to employ attorneys, detectives or other means he deems advisable in securing this data and Haskell's attempt to secure this data or prevent Hearst's agents from securing it is an outrage of law, decency and good citizenship. Haskell has his remedy in the courts in case Hearst present false testimony against him and full recourse in the law for any wrong that may be perpetrated or attempted upon him. He is no more justified in using a trumped-up charge through the courts to secure the attorney's papers than he would have had to have used a highwayman's blackjack to the same end.

ABOLISHING PENSION AGENCIES. The house of congress has gone through the annual farce of passing the pension appropriation bill with a clause providing for the abolishing of all of the pension agencies in the country, with the exception of the one at Washington. The bill will now go to the senate, where, following precedent, this provision of the bill will probably be stricken out, and the forces employed at the eighteen pension agencies of the country restored to the federal payroll.

Commissioners of pensions have endeavored for several years to have the pension agencies abolished. There are eighteen of these, maintained at an annual cost of about \$200,000, and the authorities all agree that there is no just reason for their continuance. Under the very liberal pension laws that have been adopted by congress there is practically no work left for branch pension agencies, with their force of agents, clerks, bookkeepers, physicians and expenses. However, these employes have their personal and political friends and those have heretofore been influential enough to prevent the senate's concurrence in the house plans for economy. The case furnishes another illustration of the extreme difficulty with which congress succeeds in separating persons from the payroll after they have once been placed in the government employ.

SENATOR BACON'S MISTAKE. Senator Augustus Octavius Bacon of Georgia has gone to great length in an effort to convince congress that either the house or the senate has complete and perfect right to compel heads of the executive departments to supply congress with information on any subject in connection with the business of such departments. The Georgia senator suggests that refusal of a cabinet officer to furnish such information may be punished by congress refusing to make appropriations for the payment of such officer.

The declaration of Senator Bacon that President Roosevelt is assuming the powers of royalty in refusing to furnish such information has nothing to do with the case. From the beginning of this government the right of congress to obtain information from executive departments has had clearly defined and well understood limitations. From Washington to Roosevelt almost every chief executive has had demands made upon him by the legislative branch of the government that have not been granted, but have called for rebuke by the chief executive. President Cleveland refused to lay before congress the history of negotiations leading up to a proposed treaty, and every president has decided for himself how much or how little information he would give to the legislative branch of the government in response to its requests for information. There is no legislative authority for congress to ask the executive for his motives in doing or refusing to do a given thing or to demand specifications of the manner of doing it. Senator Bacon, who is usually well poised on legal questions, has taken the demagogue's view of the president's refusal to tell congress why he did not take legal steps to prevent the absorption of the Tennessee Fuel and Iron company by the United States Steel corporation.

THE PRESIDENT'S RIDE

There does not appear to be much left for the colonels of the Army and Navy club at Washington to say in the way of protest against the president's order requiring officers to get out and demonstrate their fitness for field command by doing out-of-door work. The president's requirement was that field officers should make a ride of ninety miles on horseback in three days. The roller deck colonels grumbled that the requirement was a hardship for men unaccustomed to the saddle. The president replied by taking a ninety-eight-mile ride on horseback in one day and returning to Washington to keep a dinner engagement.

Owing to the disturbed conditions at Washington just now, the president's exploit is being treated with some ridicule by his political opponents, but the fact remains that his feat was very much out of the ordinary and one that few trained horsemen would care to undertake. With four relays of horses, the president left Washington and, for most of the way in a sleet storm of considerable severity, rode to Warrenton, Va., and back to Washington, all in a matter of some seventeen hours, counting a liberal allowance for rest and luncheon at Warrenton.

So far as the colonels are concerned, they must make the ride or retire. The government educated them for that kind of duty and rides of that kind may be expected from them in time of war. If they are not in condition to make such a ride, the fault is theirs. The government pays them to be in constant readiness and constant condition to undertake just such equestrian stunts, and the president has demonstrated that the test can not be very severe, as he has done in one day what he asks the colonels to do in three. The colonels are clearly on the defensive.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? A new fire engine house costing \$20,226.35 stands at Twenty-first and Lake streets absolutely empty and unused. This building was erected with the proceeds of bonds of the city of Omaha voted in November, 1905, the bonds being issued January 1, 1906, drawing interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum since that date. The money was placed on deposit in the banks at 2 per cent, being drawn up as the work progressed, and final payment was made in July last, when the engine house was completed. The building remains vacant because there is no fire department equipment to be installed in it nor any fire company to occupy it.

Another batch of fire engine house bonds in the sum of \$30,000 was voted on November 5, 1907, to buy a site and erect a building at Twenty-fourth and Ames avenue. The bonds were sold May 5, 1908, bearing 4 1/2 per cent interest. Every dollar raised by the sale of these bonds is now and has been from that date on deposit in the banks, bringing 2 per cent interest. The site has never been bought nor any steps taken toward construction of the building, and even if the building were erected there would be nothing to put in it.

In the meantime, two of the city's fourteen fire engine houses are rented. For one of them the city pays a rental of \$3,600 a year. As a result of this beautiful financiering, therefore, the city, while occupying fire engine houses for which it pays rent, has one fire engine house absolutely vacant and is loaning the money, which it borrowed at 4 1/2 per cent to build another, to the banks at 2 per cent.

What are we going to do about it? "Those looking for work," says the Cleveland Leader, "should go to Iowa, where a town has been given that name." Those looking for the postal guide, according to the postal guide, in Arkansas, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Secretary Strauss is trying to ascertain the extent to which American manufacturers are sold cheaper in foreign markets than at home. Evidently the secretary does not believe he sees in democratic campaign books.

John Worth Kern says he was defeated in his fight for the Indiana senatorship by "treachery, double-dealing, chicanery, corruption and downright robbery." Sounds like one of Mr. Bryan's explanations right after election.

Mr. Bryan has not as yet told his admiring fellow democrats where he stands on county option. But, never mind; when the right time comes he will tell the legislators just what he wants them to do.

Congressman Barthold of Missouri has been taking a hand in the row at Washington and reports that he has not had so much fun since he served as a delegate to the peace conference at The Hague.

John W. Kern's declaration that he was beaten out of the senatorship in Indiana by double-dealing is not complimentary to Tom Taggart, who managed the Kern fight and is an expert at dealing.

Retiring Oil Inspector Allen makes a number of reasonable recommendations to the legislature, but it is quite likely they will not be heeded because coming from a republican. The one

in regard to gasoline would save the consumers of Nebraska several hundred thousands of dollars annually if put into effect.

It has cost New York City \$876,000 to acquire title to property valued at \$475,000, in addition to paying for the property. Still, some folks wonder at the growth of socialism in New York.

The weather bureau is conducting experiments with long range forecasts. It will be safe in keeping the "cloudy and threatening" bulletin standing for Washington until after March 4.

President Angell of the University of Michigan says he will retire when he gets "old." He's only 50 now and does not believe that he will get old so long as he keeps working.

George Bailey, the Houston Post humorist, has been selected to carry the Texas vote to the electoral college. That's about the only fun Texas got out of the election.

The Wetmore jury apparently didn't put a very high estimate on the veracity of certain estimable persons who have been quite prominent in the work of reforming Omaha.

The democrats at Lincoln must be preparing for an assault on the state's cash box; else why the dust cloud that is being raised as to republican extravagance?

It has been figured out that the payroll of congress during the time spent in spanking the president was \$75,000. Take it out of the garden seed allowance.

Freak bills are showing up in the legislature at a rate that bids fair to redeem the expectations of those who realize that the democrats are in control.

Silence More Becoming. While it may be a fact that the United States has exceeded all other countries in the amount of aid given the Italian earthquake sufferers, wouldn't it be in a little better taste not to brag so much about it?

Sporty Pace of Kid. One of the early acts of the new Cuban congress is outlined to be a declaration that cock fighting is the national sport. By this means it may be hoped to avert the absorption of that island into the straits of our base ball fever.

All the World Kin. China's contribution of \$30,000 for the relief of the earthquake sufferers in Sicily and Calabria is significant. Sympathy rings the earth, and far Cathay isn't nearly so far as it was a few years ago from what westerners look upon as the center of civilization.

A Thrifty Senator. Senator Tillman has discovered that if he lacked the franking privilege the postal rate on his typewriter would be \$16. He will also find that he could mail it to a foreign country for considerably less money. The average citizen would rather see congress at work on this point than on some others that occupy much of its time.

Elements of Happiness in Cuba. In behalf of the continuous recognition of lotteries in Cuba, Governor Magoon says no impetuous Cuban is really happy without a lottery ticket that's destined to show one of the big prizes. When the drawing comes off and his expectations are not realized the disappointed investor consoles himself by buying a ticket for the next one, and so on. Thus is Cuban happiness perpetuated.

COMPARATIVE PROSPERITY. Railroad Cry of Poverty Shown to Be a Mockery. In connection with that plea on which the railroads propose to screw up freight rates for the business that is trying to emerge from depression, it is instructive to note the figures given by Mr. Moseley, secretary of the Interstate Commerce commission, on the earnings of the railroads of the country for the last five years:

Table with 2 columns: Year and Earnings. Shows a general decline in earnings from 1904 to 1908.

PERSONAL NOTES. Judge Taft has invited "Tom" Murphy, of the Augusta Chronicle, to go with him on the Panama trip as a representative of the southern press.

"Say, Nat," said Willie Collier to Mr. Goodwin as they came out of the Lamb Club on a few days public attention will be attracted to the one hundredth birthday of the emancipator by placards on hundreds of billboards throughout the city.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert A. Hoover, of Los Angeles, are to rival Mr. and Mrs. Glidden in mothering around the world. Their scheme is to cover approximately 36,000 miles. They have ridden from California to New York, and on the 26th will sail from New York city with their new machine on the White Star line steamer Republic for Algiers.

BED SHEET STATESMANSHIP

Nebraska's Reformer Sink Achieves Some Publicity. A bill has been introduced in the legislature of Nebraska providing that all hotels in that state shall be inspected hereafter annually, that all bedding must be aired and disinfected at least once every three months, and that in every wash room a clean individual towel must be furnished to each guest.

In addition, the bill provides that all hotels shall provide each bed with pillow slips and under and top sheets of white cotton or linen, and that all such pillow slips and sheets, after being used by one guest must be washed before they are used by another guest. The bill appears to be a very good one, and we would suggest an important amendment—that all guests at the hotels be required to take an all-over bath at least once a day. This would be in the interest of personal cleanliness, and it would probably save the hotel keepers much wear and tear upon their sheets and pillow cases and bed covering generally.

Scolding at Our Elbow. Henceforth cleanliness shall be next to godliness in Nebraska. If Assemblyman Sink can work his will, he has called on the legislature to insist that hereafter Nebraska beds shall be garnished with clean linen, and Nebraska wash rooms with an abundance of towels. There shall be no transient visitor within the state's hospitable domains to complain of its soiled linen, or to have such clean, honorable laundry bill at the expense of the sensibilities of its guests. Clean streets for all, and a paucity of towels for none is henceforth to be the watchword of Nebraska bonifaces.

This is the first time that the attention of his state's state has been called to the hygienical shortcomings of Nebraska. They have heard, indeed, that water was hardly more plentiful there than Kentucky dew. They have heard that the North Platte furnished only enough irrigating purpose, and when a cowboy wanted a bath he had to scoop a hole in the bed of the river and wait half a day for it to fill up. But the Nebraska laundry deficiencies never before have been made a thing of legislative concern. Nebraska has had its prosperous way to greatness by the aid of its tropical climate, its energetic population, and its good fortune in being the domicile of a certain great man. Whether the climate permitted the natives to go without shirts or to forego the luxury of freshly ironed towels at each periodical lavation was a matter of indifference to those not in Nebraska.

But the state of things offered the nostrils of Assemblyman Sink. Culture must have clearly defined for its own, and he saw the error inherent in the idea of the family towel with an extra one for father on Sundays. He realized that the "face" towel of one week ought not to be the "hands" towel of the next week; it ought to be much more than a white sheet beneath, as well as above him, that with this amazing information pertaining to the habits of Nebraska hotels came also the assurance of comfort hereafter while sojourning in that delectable commonwealth.

Reform Doesn't Go Far Enough. Whether the regulation of hotels is provided for in the constitution of Oklahoma, which Mr. Bryan has introduced, is a matter of no concern to us. What we do know, but obviously the bill introduced in the state legislature by Representative Sink does not go far enough. Its concern is simply the linen and cotton sheeting used in the sleeping apartments and the wash room. Each sheet is to be supplied with a freshly made bed and an "individual" towel and once in three months the bedding must be disinfected.

We submit that the obligation of the landlord is greater. It extends to food, entertainment and treatment. May the traveler not reasonably expect modest hotels in the land of the model constitution? The abuses of landlordism are many and known to all. In some hotels the sleeping accommodations are satisfactory and the food execrable; in others both are unsatisfactory and in still other houses of entertainment everything is execrable. Where a towel contains but one hotel choice is denied the traveler and he must submit to oppression and be victimized.

Mr. Sink's bill should be amended and the hotel proprietor regulated once and for all time. Under severe penalties, fine or imprisonment, or both, he should be required to supply his table with a variety of wholesome and well cooked food, including tender meats, palatable poultry, fresh fruits and green vegetables if in season, filtered spring water and potable coffee and tea. The guests of the pure food law should be rigorously applied to all he sets before his guests and it should pass under the eye of state inspectors, with the power to dismiss chefs and waiters upon the complaint of guests before a police magistrate or a justice of the peace.

State inspection might warrantably extend to every department of hotel keeping. Under the Sink bill a landlord can be penalized for failing to provide "individual" towels in the wash room, an offense that seems to call for his arrest and to put the whole protective machinery of the law in motion, including the writ of habeas corpus. Regulation of one thing, regulation of all things, ought to be the motto of Oklahoma legislation. The office, the smoking room, the writing room, even the bar, and correspondingly the clerk, the barkeeper, the porter—all should be duly inspected and thoroughly regulated. Hotel keepers will get off all too easily if they must comply only with the elementary demand for clean towels and sheets. Nothing that concerns the comfort and satisfaction of guests is too insignificant to be regulated by the legislature.

Mr. Sink has a glorious cause, and his fame will be imperishable if he produces a perfect hotel by a remedial statute.

Loved and Hated. Europe hates our rich art patrons and loves them. It loves them for the money they have made and are willing to spend on old masters and new masters, even when they are spurious. It hates the rich American when he beats a rich European in competition for some highly desired art treasure. Then Americans become mere men who triumph by brute strength of the longer purse, and, worse than that, art consumers who, unless prices be unreasonably high by their traditional desire to get what they want when they want it.

The Strength of a Bank. is judged partly by the amount of money invested by its stockholders in the form of Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits. These give security to the depositor because that money stands between the depositor and any possible loss in the value of the securities held by a bank. The First National Bank of Omaha has frequently increased the amount of its Capital, Surplus and Profits accounts so that they might always maintain a proper relation to the amount of deposits. At present the amount of these accounts is over \$1,200,000.00. This certainly gives assurance of absolute security. A 3% Certificate of Deposit is one of the best and safest forms of investment for your surplus funds. First National Bank of Omaha Thirteenth and Farnam Sts. Entrance to Safety Deposit Vaults is on Hill Street.

NEBRASKA PRESS COMMENT. LINES TO A LAUGH. "I suppose your motto is business before pleasure?" "No, sir," answered Mr. Dustin Stax. "In my opinion when business is good there is no greater pleasure."—Washington Star. "Nelle—is that fellow of yours ever going to get up the courage to propose?" "No, sir," answered the waiter, "an' dat's Belle—I guess not—'s like an hour glass. Nelle—An hour glass?" "Yes—'s like more time he gets the less sand than he has."—Cleveland Leader. "How do you 'possum taste, suh?" asked the solicitous waiter. "Well," responded the patron who had ordered the apple, "it tastes pretty good, but it isn't 'possum." "Suh," rejoined the waiter, "an' dat's a sign it's genuine. De genuine 'possum is a great pretender, suh; yah, suh."—Philadelphia Ledger. Editor—Have you ever done any work on a newspaper? "Applicant for Position—Yes sir; for nearly six months I contributed to a column in our home paper under the head of 'For the Uplift of Washington.'" Editor—Go to the office of the building, on the top floor, and see if they want an elevator man.—Chicago Tribune. "Have you done anything that people will remember," asked the friend. "I don't know," answered Senator Borghum. "You must not overlook the fact, brought out by investigations, that things are not unimportant merely because they are forgotten."—Washington Star. "Why," asked the person of influence, "are you so anxious to go into the service instead of making a political career for yourself?" "Because," answered the young man, "I am convinced that it is better to pursue some other man's path than to possess one of your own."—Washington Star. "May I ask, sir, how it is that you and your brothers are so bald?" inquired the inquisitive barber. "And the number was her pride. For of maiden she knew there was very little of it." "Well, it's certainly sir." "Well, it's certainly sir." "Well, it's certainly sir." THE MODERN WAY. Baltimore American. (A woman who advertised for a husband, giving her property qualifications, received 1000 proposals, believed to be more than any other woman in the world ever received.) She was homely; she had no money. But a character without a peer. And a soul of sweet purity. And she came to court her. All lonely was her life; She'd have blessed a home, had an offer come. But none asked her to be wife. She was young and fresh and pretty. With a fluffy pompadour. Of yellow hair, but no brains to spare. And of sense but little store. But a dozen came to court her. And their number was her pride. For of maiden she knew there was very little of it. By so many begged as bride. She had lands in fee and money. And her head it was business steady; So to gain a mate, her good estate In the papers she advertised. A thousand came to court her. They mobbed her for her hand; And she had her pick; did this maiden sick. For man did she understand.

Shirt Sale. We are having a special sale of Shirts—fancy patterns, madras cloths and imported percales, pleated bosoms as well as soft negligee styles, cuffs attached or detached—all coat style. The patterns are gentle and exclusive. Shirts that sold at \$3.00 and \$3.50 are now \$1.95. Shirts that sold at \$2.00 and \$2.50 are now \$1.45. Shirts that sold at \$1.50 are now \$1.05. A Hat Special. The patterns are genteel and exclusive. For \$2.50, \$3.00 and \$3.50, now—\$1.75. ONE DAY, Saturday, Jan. 23d, ONE DAY. We have some odds and ends of Men's Suits and Overcoats that sold from \$15.00 to \$28.00, that we are going to close out Saturday at one price. Your choice for—\$10.00. SEE WINDOWS. Browning, King & Company. R. S. WILCOX, Manager.