

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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THE LINCOLN ANNIVERSARY.

Congress has passed a joint resolution decreasing that February 12, 1909, the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, shall be a legal holiday. The limitation of the holiday to this year will prove a disappointment to many patriotic citizens who have been urging that the birthday of Lincoln be regularly established as an annual national legal holiday. Congress has always been chary in designating legal holidays and the objection to making February 12 a permanent legal holiday is its nearness to the birthday of Washington, which is recognized as a legal holiday in many states.

It is not probable that congress will ever make the Lincoln birthday a fixed legal holiday. Surprising as it may seem, we have no national holiday fixed by a law of congress, not even the Fourth of July. Some years ago congress passed a law making Labor day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and that is the only law on the federal statute books fixing or recognizing a legal holiday. The Fourth of July, Labor day, Memorial day and other anniversaries have been recognized as legal holidays in most of the states. Congress, as a matter of fact, has no power to declare legal holidays in states except as affecting the transaction of business by federal postoffices, federal courts, national banks and other institutions directly under the control of the federal government, and holiday legislation has accordingly been left entirely to the states.

A proclamation by the president setting February 12, 1909, aside as a legal holiday, although of no legally binding force, will be generally observed, but there is little prospect that there will ever be a national law to that end.

THE FISHERIES DISPUTE.

The Hague tribunal will be justified all the trouble and expense of its creation if it succeeds within the next century in finding a satisfactory solution to the fisheries dispute between the United States and Great Britain. The dispute over the Newfoundland fishers has been more or less acute since it was first made the subject of a treaty between the United States and Great Britain in 1783, when John Adams nearly risked war to secure what he believed to be the rights of American citizens. In 1814 John Quincy Adams was ready to break with England again rather than surrender the fishing rights which England insisted had been abrogated by the war. The question was the subject of a treaty in 1818 and another in 1874 which was supposed to settle the points in controversy but which have failed to do so.

For the last thirty years every secretary of state has had a hand in attempting to settle the fisheries dispute with joint high commissions from Canada and Great Britain, but the trouble is apparently as much a live wire as ever. American fishermen claim the right to fish "inshore, to land and dry fish under certain conditions and to procure bait." The Canadian government is insistent that the Americans are constantly overstepping their rights and the whole question is to go to The Hague. The decision of that court is foredoomed to be unsatisfactory to one or both of the countries interested, but for harmony and neighborliness, it ought to be accepted as final when it comes.

THE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.

The failure of a number of congressmen who were heads of important house committees to secure a re-election has brought special attention to the demands of the insurgents that some change be effected in the manner of distributing these positions in the next congress. This is a particularly live topic at this time when it is recognized that much of the success of the new administration will depend upon the organization of the congress with a view to bringing the legislative and executive branches of the government into closer harmony on the legislative program.

It has been the custom for some years for committee chairmanships to go by seniority in service and by promotion to fill vacancies. Just at present the old committees are so organized that if the seniority plan is blindly followed the chairmanships of several of the most important committees will go to members admitted to be of the reactionary stamp and not in harmony with the progressive policies of President Roosevelt and President-elect Taft. The defeat of Jenkins of Wisconsin, Overstreet of Indiana, and Hepburn of Iowa leave vacancies at the heads of the committees on judiciary, postoffices and interstate commerce. The election of Burton of Ohio to the senate leaves the chairmanship of the committee on rivers and harbors to be filled and Mr. Sherman's elevation to the vice-presidency vacates the chairmanship of the important committee on Indian affairs.

Service on a committee does, or should, qualify a member to be of special value with work with which he has had experience, but there is little or no justification for making a man chairman of a committee simply because he has been on it longer than any other member. This is the strong argument of the congressmen who have been demanding a new code of rules to give the house a voice in the selection of the committees instead of leaving it entirely to the speaker. They object particularly to the awarding of committee places by seniority, by which system, for instance, the committee on irrigation is dominated by members from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and South Carolina.

With all due deference and respect, we venture to suggest that the work of the only democratic congressman

from Nebraska for an appropriation to enlarge and develop the signal corps station at Fort Omaha is much more important to his constituents and entitled to more space in his newspaper than his attack on the so-called gunpowder trust.

A bill has been offered in congress requiring every ship carrying passengers to be equipped with wireless telegraphy. Move to amend that every steamship be also equipped with a Captain Seably and a Jack Binn.

Mr. Bryan will not go to Cuba. There are enough insurgents in Nebraska to make him stay close to his base of supplies. The Cubans will have no voice in the next presidential election, anyway.

The county comptroller's office is a great thorn in the side of some ex-county officers who do not care to have their accounts too closely checked up. This explains several moves not plain on the surface.

The New York hatmakers have settled their strike and the trousers makers have declared one. It is encouraging to know that we may wear hats, whatever becomes of the trousers.

So long as the combatants stick to pen and paper that duel between the "Gaston" of the local bench and the "Alphonse" of the local bar will not result fatally to either of them.

Cuba intimates that if Uncle Sam does not raise the wreck of the Maine the Cuban congress will do the job and present the remains to the United States as a souvenir.

New York is rejoicing over the opening of another tunnel under the Hudson. Joy in Manhattan increases as the facilities for getting out of New York are multiplied.

Japan is reducing its expenditures for battleships. Japan has evidently placed the proper estimate on the California sand lotteries and the congressional Hobsons.

Advertising Cures Deficits.

The Omaha Bee wants to see the Post-office department advertised. Is it not already sufficiently well known as the only one in the world that cannot make both ends meet?

Which is Supreme?

The question of supremacy in matters affecting foreign relations must be settled. National pledges must not be subject to the approval of the sandlots nor to the whims and prejudices of local legislatures.

He Can Keep the Change.

Under a new law in Minnesota it appears that Mr. James J. Hill will have to pay fare over his own roads. Still, as there are no other roads in the state to speak of, it's simply taking money out of one pocket and putting it in the other.

Harriman Knows a Good Thing.

What most impressed E. H. Harriman during his recent visit at Atlanta was to be told that the state capital building there cost less than the estimates and less than the amount appropriated. "I take off my hat to the graftless capitol," he is reported as saying and doing as he passed the building.

Should Be Made Compulsory.

Surely the fortunate conditions of sea and wind off Nantucket on Saturday will not blind any one to the necessity hereafter of equipping every passenger-carrying vessel with a fireless cooker. It should be made compulsory, like the carrying of side lights and the blowing of the whistle in fog, even though it is not yet clear that the collision could have been avoided had the Florida also carried a wireless outfit.

Colonel Guffey Reappointed.

Colonel Guffey has again been made a member of the democratic national committee out of which he was thrown by the orders of Colonel Bryan at the Denver convention last year. Colonel Guffey was the subject of much personal abuse at that time at the hands of such eminent Democrats as Governor Haskell of Oklahoma, and in spite of Bryan and Haskell and others he has continued to be the recognized leader of the party in Pennsylvania and the defeat of Bryan clearly added to his prestige. If Colonel Guffey expects to be a candidate for the next nomination he will have a much more unpleasant experience with Pennsylvania than he had the last time.

PERSONAL NOTES.

A Chicago millionaire has deliberately retired from business on the ground that he has enough.

Never mind the spelling. The name of the president of Cuba is pronounced "Gometh." Lisp a little on the s.

Rochester has a sort of a fairy godfather or patron saint in George Eastman. Not long ago Mr. Eastman gave the city a fine tract of land for a park, and within a day or two has sent his check for \$400,000 to the Rochester hospital.

"For my part," said a Chicago club woman, "no man will ever enter again into my life. I have tasted freedom and found it sweet." Her marriage announcement is now out, and of course creates no surprise among students of a charming sex.

Should occasion require the governor of Tennessee to make the customary social salute to neighboring executive he will be obliged, as a law-abiding official, to hike to a point four miles from the nearest school house if he would still act to the word.

Two had that Carrie Nation got pelted with eggs, but perhaps they were comparatively good eggs, and that's something.

Governor Regis H. Post, of Porto Rico, has been a member of the Bayport, L. I. Fire department since 1881 and was its chief in 1900-01.

General James Shields, who did distinguished service in the Mexican and Civil wars, is to have a monument placed over his grave in St. Mary's cemetery, Carrollton, Mo., if the bill favorably reported in the senate passes—as it is sure to do. It will be a modest monument, for only \$2,000 is to be appropriated. A man with his fame as a soldier, who was also United States senator from three states, Illinois, Missouri and Minnesota, surely deserves such honor.

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON.

Current Events Gleaned from the Army and Navy Register.

The War department has received the reports of the boards of army medical officers before which were conducted the test to present themselves for examination to the junior grade of the army medical corps. Of the applicants who were authorized to present themselves for examination, sixty-six completed the physical and professional examination. The papers have been sent to a marking board, and it is expected the results will be known in about two weeks. The medical authorities were much gratified to observe the large percentage of resident hospital physicians who presented themselves before the boards. There are now ninety-seven vacancies in the army medical corps.

A provision in the army appropriation bill of importance to retired officers detailed for duty at military colleges is that which extends to them computation of quarters, which has all along been allowed to other retired officers detailed on recruiting duty and on duty with the militia. There has really been no reason for the invidious distinction which has prevailed against retired army officers on duty at educational institutions. It was in accordance with the law of 1883, applying to officers on college duty and providing for them only the active pay of their respective grades. Two years ago an effort was made to induce congress to extend the allowance of computation of quarters to the officers from whom it was withheld, but the appeal made no impression at the capitol.

The quartermaster general of the army has had before him the claim of a retired first lieutenant, recently relieved from college duty and ordered to his home by competent order which carried mileage with it. The officer claimed reimbursement of the cost of the crating and shipping to his home of his household goods and professional books. It is held by the War department that a retired officer on college duty is not, under the law of 1883, entitled to allowance, but it has also been informally held by the War department that mileage is not an allowance, and it is now decided that the same competent order which authorized the mileage carries with it the right to the transportation of the proper amount of household property and general baggage of a retired officer to his home as a reimbursement of the expenses which the travel necessitates and not as an allowance. The normal method in this respect would be to turn over the property to be crated and transported to the quartermaster's department, but, as there were no such facilities at hand, the officer had this work done at his own expense.

The fireless cooker is destined for much practical trial of the device, to have restricted use in the military service. The authorities of the War department have reached the conclusion that it should only be used in garrison, unless it can be added to the field equipment. Any increase in the material which is carried with troops in campaign is rigorously opposed for obvious reasons, and those who appreciate the value of the fireless cooker do not believe it should be adopted for troops in the field, if such action requires additional transportation. It appears to be out of the question to have a fireless cooker replace the present cooking outfit used by or for troops away from garrison. One argument advanced in favor of the fireless cooker in the field was that upon occasion the insulated boxes might be discarded and the kettles used for the purpose of cooking. Those who have charge of army subsistence believe that the fireless cooker should not be used as a substitute for the present cooking appliances in the field and the question of adding the transportation is so vitally connected with the mobility of an army that probably none of the various appliances, such as the rolling kitchen and the moving oven, will be permanently adopted for use in the army.

BITS OF BRYANISM.

Nebraska City Press: The World-Herald uses a lot of space in its editorial columns denouncing The Bee for denouncing Bryan and winds up with the statement that The Bee is not injuring Mr. Bryan. What is the use of getting sore about it then?

Nebraska City Press: Mr. Bryan is very solicitous about having a school of politics established in the university of Nebraska. By the returns of the November election Mr. Bryan had better have a school established in other states, notably New York and Missouri.

Aurora Republican: That Prince of Peace lecture of Bryan's distributed last fall by the democratic committees was a strong appeal for prohibition votes. But a straight forward lecture on the subject of "county option," addressed to the majority of the "faithful" in the legislature would be much more to the point just now.

Hewells Journal (dem.): The sending of W. J. Bryan to the United States senate is not only a possibility, but a probability. If the present legislature shall keep the faith and redeem the party pledges there can be no doubt about the complexion of the next legislature. Democracy is on trial and its representatives must make good. We feel confident that they will.

Beatrice Express: There is some weakly sentimentality in permitting the Nebraska university to share in the plan of Andrew Carnegie to pension retired teachers. Certainly contributions to a pension fund could not be expected from men of small means, and if furnished by the government the millionaire would still be an essential helper. It seems foolish to scorn Carnegie's proffered aid.

Beatrice Sun: Mr. Bryan has offered his services to deliver a series of lectures and conduct a school of citizenship in connection with the State university. Mr. Bryan's high standing as a citizen and his prominence in national affairs would make him a valuable addition to the faculty. Academic instruction is effective only as it brings to the student the written or spoken words of men of brains. A course of Bryan lectures would be a drawing card, and would give prominence and strength to the university.

O'Neill Frontier: The legislature hasn't crystallized into law yet any of Mr. Bryan's much vaunted "reforms." In fact the "peerless" seems to be trying to evade his former paramount issues and is out with a new scheme in the shape of a proposition for a school of politics in connection with the State university. The idea may or may not be commendable, but is of little concern to the voters of Nebraska who have looked for something practical after all of the great swelling words of Mr. Bryan. Are all of the great reforms that were going to revolutionize and idealize our state going to dwindle down to a mere school of politics, where Mr. Bryan can go on droning out his wearisome platitudes?

Kearney Hub: Notwithstanding Mr. Bryan's protestation of disinterestedness in seeking to have a school of citizenship grafted upon the Nebraska State university the proposition appears to be generally received with distrust, as an opening wedge for the creation of a school of politics. Mr. Bryan states that a school of this character should be able to attract students from other countries, and asks: "How can we better help the orient and the republics to the south of us than by educating the more ambitious of their young men and sending them back to apply American ideas and ideals in the working

LAUGHING GAS.

"Do you approve of the plan of teaching pupils to box?" "Not unconditionally," replied the country pedagogue, remembering his lanky 12-year-old. "But be all right, though, if you'd authorize the teachers to carry guns."

"Why do you take such an interest in the uplift of the farmer?" "I'm just curious," answered Mr. Corns. "To see whether it's going to be the same old throwdown in a new disguise."

Former Customer (after a long absence): "What has become of the pretty blonde that used to feed the hungry at this lunch counter?" "Dark-skinned Waiter Girl—I'm her; what you goin' to order, sir?"—Chicago Tribune.

The man hater had just announced her engagement. "But you always said that men were horrid creatures," said her friends. "So they are," replied the bride-to-be, "and here's my opportunity to punish one of them."

"They all agreed that it was real noble of her."—Philadelphia Ledger.

A traveler stopped at a hotel in Greenland, where the nights are six months long, and, as he registered, asked a question of the clerk. "What time do you have breakfast?" "From half past March to a quarter to May."—Harper's Weekly.

PO' OL' ADAM!

P. I. Stanton in Atlanta Constitution. I. Adam wuz his own boss. Twel he gone ter sleep; Dem if wuz he los' a rib. An'—trouble in a heap!

II. He riz up, he riz up— Per dat he couldn't stay; "I'll go dar, whar dem lins at. 'I one rib short today!"

III. Don't Eve it wuz dat answer— An' skereed he wuz, for ah! "I'll go dar, whar dem lins at. You don't deserve no mo'!"

IV. "An' now I gwine ter tell you: Keep quiet ex a mouse, Kaze I de very lady. What runnin' of de house!"

V. "You got ter make de money— You got ter rise an' shine; Oh! up an' eat yo' brakfast. An' so long whar you gwine!"

VI. Adam ain't say nuttin'; De talkin' never cease; "I'll go dar, whar dem lins at. Ter get my res' an' peace!"

VII. You reckon he wuz peaceful?— Befo' de day wuz gone; Ewe make him smile de kindin'. An' put de kettle on.

VIII. Adam—po' ol' Adam! Fum den ontel day day He had des one opinion: "I sleep my rights away!"

Advertisement for ROYAL BAKING POWDER. Text: Absolutely Pure. Grapes give the chief ingredient, the active principle, and healthfulness, to ROYAL BAKING POWDER. Absolutely Pure. Insures wholesome and delicious food for every day in every home. No Phosphates. No Alum.

Advertisement for Karo Syrup of Purity and Wholesomeness. Text: The most delicious for griddle cakes of all makes—or any use where syrup takes. A pure, wholesome food. In 10c, 25c, and 50c air-tight tins. A book of cooking and candy-making recipes sent free on request. CORN PRODUCTS REFINING COMPANY, New York.

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Advertisement for First National Bank of Omaha. Text: Keep Your Money . . . at work. Do not let a large amount lie idle. If you think you do not need it for some months, it is much better to put it to work, earning something. A 3% Certificate of Deposit is an ideal investment. It is safe; it brings a good income, and is available under ordinary conditions at any time, as collateral security. If you have valuable papers, jewels, etc., these should be kept. In a Safe Place rather than about the house or office. \$3.00 a year for a Safety Box is certainly very low insurance and a form that you cannot afford to neglect. First National Bank of Omaha. Thirteenth and Farnam Sts. Entrance to Safety Deposit Vaults is on 13th St.