

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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GEORGE B. TRACHUCK, Treasurer.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 2d day of February, 1909.

M. P. WALKER, 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.

Even if bleached flour must go, the bleached blonde remains.

Congress seems determined to compel a lot of army officers to join the army.

Cheer up. The grocer is now quoting the price by the dozen instead of per egg.

What is the first step toward getting a divorce? asks a correspondent. Marriage.

A Chicago man killed himself because he had gray hair—and no gray matter under it.

Mr. Groundhog is again to be congratulated on knowing enough to keep in out of the cold.

The base ball reporter is having a hard time crowding the weather man out of the limelight.

Mr. Gompers declares that he will not stop talking. He acquired the habit in Washington.

The senate has set February 18 as the date for getting that dark Brownsville taste out of its mouth.

The German emperor has abolished his court paper. Madame Rumor will, however, remain on the job.

Democratic prospects for victory in 1912 are brighter than ever," says Mr. Bryan. Far-off cattle have tall horns.

Castro is to be impeached in Venezuela, but his enemies did not get busy soon enough to attach his bank account.

A French count has been seriously wounded in a duel. Accidents will happen even in the best regulated French duel.

In the quarrel with the president over his veto of the census spoils bill congress is, as usual, on the wrong side of the issue.

The Washington correspondent who announces that "Taft will lean on Knox" evidently forgets the comparative size of the men.

The man who spells the best he knows how is an improvement over the simplified spellers who spell the worst they know how.

The Washington base ball team wants to change its name. Changing its name is easier than changing its position in the percentage column.

Dr. Parkhurst says President Roosevelt has too much ego in his cosmos. This is significant only as showing how modest Dr. Parkhurst still is.

The brother of the earl of Suffolk has lost four toes in New York. Lots of men in those southern prohibition states have been losing three fingers lately.

Dr. Wiley, head of the bureau of chemistry of the Department of Agriculture, is to become an editor. We have been confident all along that the fight against him would lead to his promotion.

Edgar Howard must have gotten his idea of a pilgrimage of real democrats to storm the citadel of the corporation senators who have crawled under the democratic tent at Lincoln from some of those famous petitions in boots.

FINISHING THE JOB.

The counting of the electoral vote in the joint session of congress today and the announcement of the result puts the finishing touch upon the presidential election. With the announcement of the vote Mr. Taft will become in the full sense a president-elect, a title that has been popularly, if erroneously, bestowed upon him since the returns were received on the night of election day.

The announcement of the electoral college votes gives Mr. Taft 321 and Mr. Bryan 162. Democrats who have professed to find party encouragement in the fact that Bryan's electoral vote is larger than Parker's in 1904 will discover by an analysis of the returns that they have little consolation. Four years ago Roosevelt received 336 electoral votes and Parker 140. Since then Oklahoma has been admitted to the electoral college with 7 votes, which went to Bryan, as they would have probably gone to Parker, increasing his total to 147. Bryan lost one vote in Maryland from Parker's record and Taft gained one over Roosevelt's score. Bryan's gain over Parker, therefore, is 3 votes in Nevada, 5 in Colorado and 8 in Nebraska, a total of 16. Deducting the one lost in Maryland, gives a net total of 15 more electoral votes for Bryan than for Parker.

Mr. Bryan's defeat in the last campaign was the most overwhelming in the history of American politics since the civil war with three exceptions. McClellan received but 22 votes in the electoral college to 212 cast for Lincoln, the confederate states not voting. Grant was elected in 1868 by 214 votes over Seymour, who received 80 votes. In 1872 Grant was re-elected with 286 electoral votes against a combined total of 80 cast for four other candidates. In 1876 Hayes was elected over Tilden by a majority of one electoral vote. Garfield was elected in 1880 by a majority of 59 electoral votes, receiving 214 to 155 for Hancock. The first democratic victory after the war came with the election of Cleveland in 1884, he receiving 219 electoral votes to 182 cast for Blaine. The tide was reversed in 1888, when Harrison was elected over Cleveland by 233 to 168 votes in the electoral college. In 1892 Cleveland was again successful, defeating Harrison by an electoral vote of 277 to 145. Weaver as the populist candidate receiving 22 electoral college votes.

The days of close margins in the electoral college passed when Mr. Bryan became the democratic candidate for the presidency in 1896. In that election McKinley received 271 votes and Bryan 176, a republican majority of 95. In 1900 McKinley's majority over Bryan was increased to 137, the vote being, McKinley, 292; Bryan, 155. In that election Bryan's vote was but seven less than it was in 1896, the vote of Oklahoma just making the difference.

Mr. Bryan has stated quite recently that the prospects for a democratic victory in 1912 are brighter than ever before. Clearly, he must be getting his encouragement from some source other than the election returns.

THE CALIFORNIA AGITATORS.

California is still demonstrating that it needs education in some of the primary duties of a state. The apparent determination of its legislature to pass a law prohibiting Japanese from attending the public schools, coupled with an attempt to revive the measure prohibiting alien ownership of land in California, opens a disagreeable controversy, involving the old question of states' rights as against the power of the federal government to enforce treaty obligations within the states. President Roosevelt and the secretary of state have patiently pointed out the flaws, faults and fatal defects in the proposed legislation, but the result has apparently been only to spur the California jingoes to renewed activity in their ill-conceived scheme to provoke international complications, without accomplishing the reforms they think necessary at home.

The anti-Asiatic agitators on the Pacific coast appear to have lost sight of the terms of the treaty we negotiated with Japan in 1894, which grants to the Japanese the privilege of trading in any part of our territory and to lease or hire and occupy land, houses, manufactories, shops, warehouses and premises for residential and commercial purposes. They may not own or hire agricultural lands, but are limited to owning or hiring lands and structures for commercial and manufacturing purposes. The only qualification of the provision is found in this clause of the treaty:

In whatever relates to rights of residence and travel; to the possession of goods and effects of any kind; to the succession to personal estate by will or otherwise, and the disposal of property of any sort and in any manner whatsoever that they may lawfully acquire, the citizens or subjects of each contracting party shall enjoy in the territory of the other the same privileges, liberties and rights, and shall be subject to no higher imposts or charges in these respects than native subjects or citizens or subjects of the most favored nation.

This is practically the same provision embodied in treaties with other countries and the supreme court of the United States in four different decisions has held that foreigners may own real estate in states of this union irrespective of state laws on the subject. The latest decision on this point, in 1889, ruled in favor of French citizens holding real estate in Maryland despite a Maryland law prohibiting. In that case the court held that the treaty power of the United States extends to all proper subjects of negotiation between our government and the governments of other countries. Under that decision no enactment of the California legislature would stand

against the 1894 treaty with Japan quoted above.

President Roosevelt has pointed out to the California lawmakers that the proposed anti-Japanese school law would, if passed, be void because in conflict with our treaty obligations. Its adoption could result only in causing irritation and embarrass efforts for further treaty arrangements with Japan on the subject of schools and immigration.

The encouraging feature is that Tokio refuses to get excited over the eruptions in California and Nevada. Count Komura, the Japanese minister of foreign affairs, has asserted in terms of studied courtesy the determination of his country to cultivate friendly relations with all countries in general and with the United States in particular. He declares that the Japanese authorities "would rely on the sense of justice of the American people, together with the friendly disposition of the federal government to dispose of the pending questions without causing international complications." The California agitators might well take a lesson in tolerance from the Japanese.

FAKE HOME RULE.

After all, the democratic protestations for home rule for Omaha, particularly in the management of its fire and police departments and excise affairs, the charter bill sponsored by the Douglas delegation at Lincoln bears the stamp of insincerity on its face. The police commission section of the bill provides for four elective commissioners to be chosen at each municipal election for the regular term of three years. The milk of the cocoanut is to be found in a half-hidden proviso by which the present members of the board are all legislators out of office forthwith without waiting for the people to choose their successors. It reads as follows:

Provided, that the governor of the state shall within ten days after this act takes effect appoint four citizens of the city, possessing the qualifications for the office of fire and police commissioner, prescribed in this act, to serve until the first general city election following and until their successors are elected and qualified.

Why should the present police board be legislated out of existence so summarily, and if their successors are to be appointed in the name of home rule, why should they be appointed by the governor at Lincoln instead of by the mayor and council at Omaha? The present democratic governor has already appointed two of the existing board and will appoint a third in the course of another six weeks. So that, on the surface, the proviso aims at only one member of the board, and a democrat at that, whose term does not expire for another year.

To be sure, the two police commissioners already appointed by the democratic governor have been appointed as republicans and under the proviso he would be able to appoint four new commissioners—all democrats. In the name of home rule, then, the governor at Lincoln is to be accorded a chance to drop his own republican appointees and give us a new partisan democratic board without the people of Omaha having a word to say about it.

Volume of Trade Nearly Normal.

Philadelphia Record. If business isn't booming quite as was hoped for, there is no question about the radical improvement of the country since a year ago. One evidence of this is that the Review is that the bank clearings in 110 cities were \$14,108,361,463 last month, against \$11,326,681,826 in January, 1908—an increase of more than 25 per cent. In many of the cities the clearing was larger last month than they were in January, when business was at its height. But for the great shrinkage in stock business in New York the clearings of the country would have run above those of two years ago. If there is still some idle machinery, the volume of trade must be very nearly normal.

HOW HARRIMAN RULES.

Minority Holding Transmitted in Majority Control. New York Post, Feb. 5. This week's election of E. H. Harriman to the directorates of the Lake Shore and the Michigan Central was another illustration of the power that can sometimes be acquired, not indirectly, by the purchase of a comparatively small block of stock. Harriman owns no Lake Shore or Michigan Central shares, but in the summer of 1908 the Union Pacific purchased \$14,286,709 New York Central. That was only 8 1/2 per cent of the total outstanding stock of the company, but it is the largest single holding of the New York Central controls absolutely the Lake Shore and the Michigan Central. Hence Harriman's election to those boards, after being admitted to the New York Central board last week.

It was shown in the table published in these columns last week that Harriman is now a power in nearly one-third of the total railway mileage of the country. In none of the dozen companies included in that list, however, does either Harriman or the Union Pacific own 51 per cent of the stock. For example, the Union Pacific owns less than 5 per cent of the capital stock of St. Paul, but only this week did it acquire enough to make it the controlling interest. This was how his soul was moved to speak, and he probably never thought more about it. In that case can we lightly say that the sentence is un-rhetorical? or can we easily find any angle there beyond the empty words which can never be read as such or thought of as such without great effort?

PERSONAL NOTES.

No more violent language on the New York Stock Exchange. When irritated men will curb their hot brims and say, "Poo-poo!" A Chicago burglar stole a supply of eggs in preference to the family silver a few nights ago. The Windy city burglar appears to be over up to the minute. Louis N. Parker, the enterprising literary American, who was placed in charge of the recent lord mayor's show in London, turned what has come to be regarded as the most successful circus procession into an interesting pageant. S. H. Hendrix, a federal cavalry veteran of the civil war, died at Waukegan, Tenn., at the age of 65. Hendrix was a friend of President Andrew Jackson, who died in the Hendrix home, where he was a guest, when stricken fatally ill in 1875.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch says that those who declare possum and taters a nauseous dish are commonly "dependent, thin chested gentlemen who have to make three tries with a running start before they can negotiate a soft boiled egg." Mrs. Cecilia Baldwin Barley, daughter of Matthew W. Baldwin, founder of the locomotive works, died in Philadelphia recently at her home. She was the last surviving member of the family, and was for years prominent in Philadelphia society. For the first time in history the three Scandinavian ministers to the United States will dine together when the American Scandinavian society gives its first annual banquet in honor of the ministers from Sweden, Norway and Denmark at the Hotel Astor, New York, on the evening of February 15.

A Chicago school principal, husband and father of a family, living on a farm some distance from town, was rudely shocked when his application for divorce was being quietly through court on finding his deserted wife on the spot with a loud, raucous charge of soul-making on the sly. The charge was explicit in name, dates and the usual details. It took the learned professor W. B. Baldwin, founder of the change of air and scenery necessary for his health. Woman's intuition is a man-beater.

SOME OF LINCOLN'S ENGLISH.

Flaws in the Analysis of a Fault-Finding Critic. Springfield (Mass.) Republican. Montgomery Schuyler, in the course of a brief critical article in the February Forum on Lincoln's English, finds few "purple patches" in the writings and speeches of Lincoln, and some flaws in those few. The Gettysburg speech is admittedly a masterpiece, one of the "great little speeches" in the English or any other language. The force and immortality is assured; yet even there Mr. Schuyler finds in the first sentence, "our fathers brought forth," etc., an "unlucky slip"—"with its necessary and impossible implication that the male is the purer parent." This seems to be rather far-fetched. "To bring" the slaves into its specific sense of producing, conveys no necessary implication of the sort mentioned; while in its derivative sense of "give rise to," or "be the cause of" the phrase expresses the meaning of the speaker as accurately and simply as could possibly be.

Another of the few great passages or "purple patches" found in the Lincoln addresses is the peroration of the first inaugural address which is credited to Seward instead of Lincoln. As it is not generally known that Seward had a hand in moulding the form and thought of that address, the Seward draft of the passage in question may be worth giving: "I close. We are not, we must not be, aliens or enemies, but fellow countrymen and brethren. Although passion has strained our bonds of affection too hardly, they must not, I am sure they will not, be broken. The mystic chords which, proceeding from so many battlefields and so many patriot graves, pass through all the hearts and all the hearths in this broad continent of ours will yet again harmonize in their ancient music when breathed upon by the guardian angel of the nation."

Mr. Schuyler makes Lincoln's secretary of state the foremost dilettante and even clearer the foremost rhetorician of his party; yet compares the above with the passage as revised and adopted by Lincoln: "I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

This is admittedly a vast improvement of form in expressing the same idea; and, as Mr. Schuyler says, there is a masterly rhetorical touch in the change made in the first sentence by which the speaker is made to appear as wishing to linger yet awhile longer to plead the cause he has at heart. Merely as a rhetorician, employing art to conceal art if Lincoln ever did such a thing with any consciousness—the revision of this Seward passage would give him standing.

And the criticism passed upon the third "purple patch" chosen only serves to raise a question whether Lincoln ever was a conscious literary artist. This well known passage is from the second inaugural address, in part as follows: "Fondly do we hope—ferently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until the wealth piled by the bondman's 50 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid with another drawn with the sword, as was said 2,000 years ago, so still it must be said, 'The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'"

"What a pity," says Mr. Schuyler, "about that jangling first sentence." One cannot help scanning it as meter, he says, and even throwing it into metrical form, as "It does what one unlucky slip can do to discredit what follows."

It is hard to perceive the justice of these observations. To be sure, in a studied oration—studied to the point of stiffness—the word "away" would be dropped, and all criticism of this kind would drop with it. But hardly anything is more common in prose speech—even in more or less carefully worded as well as impromptu and impassioned speech—than occasional clauses falling upon rhyming words at metric distances; and the colloquialist artist, recognizing this fact, might in such a passage as the above have purposely put in the word "away" to rob his speech of any artificial appearance. That Lincoln did any such thing is hardly to be believed. But his simple, candid nature may have filled the place of conscious art, as it did in so many other instances. This was how his soul was moved to speak, and he probably never thought more about it. In that case can we lightly say that the sentence is un-rhetorical? or can we easily find any angle there beyond the empty words which can never be read as such or thought of as such without great effort?

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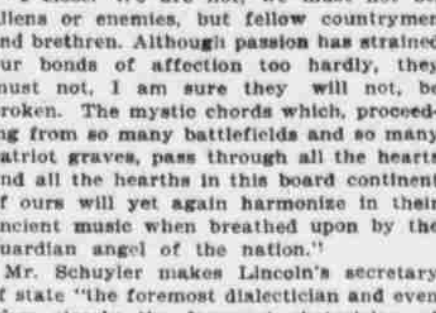
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DIRECT PRIMARY NOMINATIONS.

Beaver City Times-Tribune: There is a bill before the legislature to repeal the present primary law. While it will not be passed, in all probability, yet we would like to have a good old county convention again—both republican and democratic.

Pawnee Republican: It is hoped the legislature will not repeal the direct primary law. The law was passed for the sole purpose of putting the government of affairs out of the hands of politicians and machines and giving the people a chance to rule. The law may be imperfect in some respects, but it can be corrected by amendment. In no event should it be repealed.

Hastings Tribune: There is neither sense nor justice in the proposed amendments to the primary law, which would permit the members of the republican party an even voice in naming the democratic candidates, and vice versa, or give the independent voter an opportunity to assist nominating candidates in either party. No democrat should have anything to say in the naming of republican candidates, neither should any republican have a voice in the selecting of democratic candidates.

Burwell Tribune: We do not think that the state legislature could make a greater hit with the smaller counties of Nebraska than by the repeal of the direct primary law, but in repealing this law they should use care and not give up one that will work even a greater disadvantage than the existing evil. The direct primary has been given a fair trial in Nebraska, and it has been demonstrated that at an expense of about \$3 per vote, nominees can be chosen by the present primary law. Possibly it may not be just the thing to go back to the old convention style of nominations, but we believe it would be even better to do that than to continue to saddle the expenses connected with the present primary methods upon the public. The party in power in the legislature have the opportunity to make good with all the smaller counties of the state, if they will but enact some legislation that will bring relief from the expense attendant upon the present primary system.

Scraper News: Among matters which will occupy the attention of the present legislature is the primary law. Two years ago, although the matter had been given little attention during the campaign and no urgent public demand for its enactment was apparent, the legislature passed the primary law because it was classified as reform legislation. After a two years' trial no particular enthusiasm for the law has manifested itself, nor is there any noticeable demand for its repeal. It is pretty generally admitted, however, that there is no evidence that the course of either political party has been altered as the result of the enactment of the law. One drawback is that good men refrain from becoming candidates because in many instances it is necessary to make two campaigns. The News believes in the rural sections of the state the sentiment is favorable to a return to the old system. The only source of corruption from these sections was removed by the elimination of the free pass. In the cities and larger centers of the population corruption manifests itself in other forms, but a law requiring delegates to conventions from towns over a certain population to be chosen through the primary system would give the people absolute control.

Henry Watterston Grief. Philadelphia Record. Colonel Henry Watterston gave pathetic reason for declining to take part in a banquet to William Jennings Bryan at Tampa on Friday. He wrote: "The death of a dearly beloved daughter, followed by the appalling tragedy which took from me a son who was the very apple of my eye, leaves me unable to take part in a public affair equal to any kind of publicity. Before I left home I cancelled all of my speaking dates and resolved never again to appear before any audience. "There cracked a noble heart," and there is no part of the United States in which Colonel Watterston has not friends who will grieve with his grieving.

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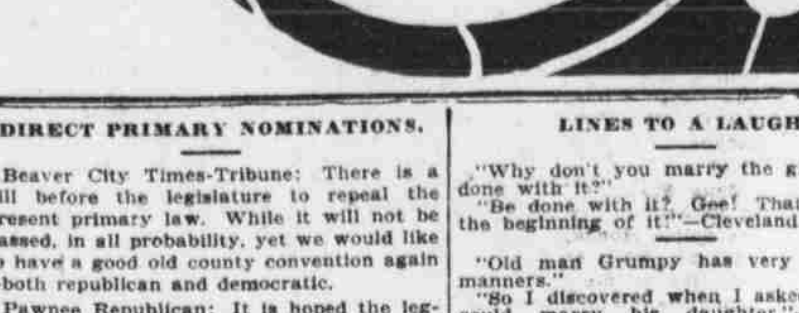
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Why don't you marry the girl, and be done with it? "Be done with it? Gee! That'd only be the beginning of it!"—Cleveland Leader.

"Old man Grumpy has very forbidding manners." "Well, he ain't nadder but to stop in de middle 'n collection to go an' empty de box."—Kansas City Journal.

"What we want most here," said the political reformer, "is an honest count." "They ain't no such thing," replied N. Ulrich, "cause my daughter married one of them. They're no good."—Catholic Standard and Times.

Belle—But you refused him so often—what was the plea with which he finally convinced you that you loved him?—Cleveland Leader.

"Do you believe in the story of some people's having supernatural powers?" "I didn't till I met a dentist who operated on young Brassy and performed a miraculous feat." "He killed Brassy's nerve."—Baltimore American.

"She says you are a fool." "All right." "Are you not going to take her to task for making such an assertion?" "Nope; she has evidence in her possession by which she can prove her statement." "The has?" "I proposed to her once."—Houston Post.

"Pardon me for intruding upon you, sir," said the caller; "but I want to know if you can tell me what that will drive away an incipient bolt?" "Sir," responded the "answers to questions" man, "I can tell you that the bureau of inflammation!"—Chicago Tribune.

Medical Student—What did you operate on that man for? "Eminent Surgeon—Two hundred dollars." "Medical Student—I mean what did he have?" "Eminent Surgeon—Two hundred dollars."—Christian Register.

"So you think my speech is likely to be appreciated by my colleagues?" said the statesman with a mischievous grin. "Yes," answered Senator Burghum; "on the old theory that a little nonsense now and then is relished by the best of men."—Washington Star.

The prisoner was downcast. "I've got a jury of twelve men too stupid to find out that you're guilty." "Naturally the client took a more hopeful view."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Come right on in, Sambo," the farmer called out. "He won't hurt you. You know a barking dog never bites." "Sure, boss. Ah knows dat," replied the cautious colored man, "but I don't know how soon he's goin' to stop barkin'."—Success Magazine.

FEBRUARY'S TRIPLE CROWN. Washington, Lincoln, Longfellow, these three shine like stars above the world to us. Of this, our nation's life, which thank we most. That we are true Americans? The cost of dear bought freedom. Brave and true. With all the stress of war, the first two knew.

The third came, with that meditative smile, threading our country's idyls, all the while, binding us closer to our father's kin. The nation of the world, it was for him to show us in a sad, sweet, mystic lay. The passing story of the Indian's day; brought back the old ideals, half forgot, in clearest crystals of a poet's thought. Ah, February! Cold the winds may run. O'er the proud states that claim each for her son. But ever firm adversity may spring. The strong pure hearts we gladly own as king. So back to thee, chill nurse our hearts still go. To greet thee three, that nature tempered. Warm as thy heart-thrice, pure as winter's snow. ELLA TRUE CONNER. Fairbury Neb.

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