

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR. Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily Bee (without Sunday), one year, \$4.00...

States and Treaty Obligations.

One feature of President Taft's inaugural address should be given special attention in some of the states where a certain variety of American citizens appear to find delight in making attacks upon citizens of foreign birth. The president declared that it was important that the congress should pass laws giving the federal government power to enforce treaty obligations without appearing in the attitude of a suppliant to state or local governments where treaty obligations have been disregarded through local prejudice.

It puts our government in a position to make definite engagements to protect aliens and then to excuse the failure to perform those engagements by an explanation that the duty to keep them is in the states or cities, not within our control. While this reference was clearly aimed at California on account of the recent differences and complications on the Japanese question in that state, it applies with equal force to the people of Louisiana, who have been assaulting Italians, to the Virginia and South Omaha mobs who have been making warfare on the Greeks.

The decision of Judge Smith McPherson of the United States district court at Kansas City in a sweeping victory for the railroads in their fight against the enforcement of the 2-cent passenger fare and the maximum freight rate laws passed by the last Missouri legislature. The court holds, in brief, that the rates are confiscatory and therefore not enforceable. The case is one of the most important that has arisen in the litigation between states and transportation companies in connection with the reduced fare and freight laws that have been passed in a number of states.

After the litigation had been started it was agreed that a stay of proceedings should issue in order that the new rates might be given a trial and the court informed of the results. The decision worked to the advantage of the railroad companies, as the months of test came at a time when business and industrial conditions throughout the country were suffering from the effects of a world-wide depression.

It would not, perhaps, be proper to criticize the course of reasoning employed by the learned court in reaching a decision that the rates are confiscatory, but it is only fair to state that the railroads were allowed to present the argument, which the court supported, that the net revenue should show a profit not only over the operating expenses, but also sufficient to cover the interest and bonded indebtedness of the roads. The court rules that it would require a net earning of not less than 6 per cent to allow the roads to be operated at a profit, while in the case of the eighteen roads the average net earnings were only 3 per cent.

Good News From Cuba. The most reassuring sign of a desire for harmony and stability of government in Cuba is furnished by the cable reports of a conference, the result of which is an acceptable plan for the union of the Miguelistas and Zayasistas factions into a compact political organization, to be known as the liberal party of Cuba. Translated, this means that the two stubborn factions of the party in power have agreed to adjust their differences and unite in a fixed program for the administration of governmental affairs in Cuba.

South Omaha and the State. South Omaha does not deserve all the violent criticism that is directed against that city because of the recent anti-Greek disturbance there. The proceeding was disgraceful and deplorable, and the good people of South Omaha have expressed themselves as feeling much humiliation as the result, but some of the Nebraska papers, mainly those of prohibition tendencies, persist in expressing the utmost horror at the conditions that prevail in South Omaha and referring to them as being vile beyond description, and a place where turmoil and disgraceful brawling continually exist.

The Fight Against the Fly. Bulletins by the state health officials of Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and North Carolina warning householders to take up arms in the crusade against the house fly serve as a notice that spring is heading this way and that the pest that never wipes its feet will soon be in this latitude, dragging its filth and poisonous disease-bearing germs through the house and scattering it over everything eatable from soup to nuts.

Prospective Return of War Stickers. No more equitable way could be found to meet the treasury deficit than a discriminating application of a stamp tax, as suggested by Mr. Franklin MacVeagh, the new head of the Treasury department.

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

Almost time to remove the moth balls from the base ball vocabularies. Mr. Roosevelt will carry a message to Africa.

Of course the disappointed office-seeker may lose his admiration for the Taft laugh.

Just before the triennial city election is not often enough to clean the streets of a great city.

George Bernard Shaw says he does not like "Dixie," which is just one more reason for the popularity of "Dixie."

March may be allowed to go on a tear and be forgiven, but it is hoped that April will not insist upon arriving with a bang-over.

There will be no juggling of Georgia's prohibition laws," says an Atlanta paper. Possibly no juggling, but plenty of juggling.

Mr. Roosevelt may not be the most popular president, but he has made more copy for newspapers than any dozen of his predecessors combined.

The Baltimore American declares that the next Maryland legislature must be better than the present one. The remedy is the election of a republican legislature.

The Boston Transcript calls attention to the fact that the sugar maple of the New England states is threatened. This, however, will not interfere with the output of "Pure Vermont Maple Syrup" by the glucose factories at Peoria and Louisville.

purely sanitary measures, and whenever such precautions are adopted there is a marked lowering in the death rate and a general improvement in the public health. It will be only a few weeks until the fly will appear in this part of the country, and it is not too early to plan resistance to its disease-bearing visit.

The Missouri Rate Case. The decision of Judge Smith McPherson of the United States district court at Kansas City is a sweeping victory for the railroads in their fight against the enforcement of the 2-cent passenger fare and the maximum freight rate laws passed by the last Missouri legislature.

Arizona has asked the federal government to set aside one of the Arizona mountains as a haven for hunted wild things. It might be just as well to provide a haven for land thieves, bank embezzlers and other hunted wild things.

The withdrawal of troops from Cuba represented an item of expense under the War Department of \$200,000. It is interesting that the latest available compilation of the expense of the occupation of Cuba by the army of Cuban pacification amounts to a little more than \$6,000,000, which sum about \$2,500,000 is out of quarters and department funds.

Benches will be substituted for desks in the house of representatives at Washington, "so the members may hear each other speak." It is doubtful, however, if the members care to hear each other speak.

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promises. The president may expect to hear murmurs about less majesty, executive encroachment and things like that if he becomes too strict with the sensitive congressmen.

A Pennsylvania woman has forfeited a bequest of \$40,000 rather than comply with a provision of the will requiring separation from her husband. That man will have to be mighty careful or he will hear something from time to time as to how he was once overruled.

The debate over the bond proposition submitted by the Water board indicates that the citizens are alive to the situation. The matter is very much better understood at present than it was when the water-logged statesman was shooting Senate File No. 1 into the statute book.

Prof. Willis Moore sent President Taft a telegram on the night of March 3 promising "clear and cold" weather for inauguration day. Prof. Moore may be excused if he is a little nervous when he files his application for reappointment as head of the weather bureau.

Prof. Starr of the University of Chicago predicts that Mr. Roosevelt will never return from Africa, if he attempts to stay in the fever-infected regions for a year. This is the first time Prof. Starr has been able to break into print for months.

Omaha chauffeurs are making a public plea for better recognition and better pay. If they will only follow this up with better behavior and more consideration for people who do not ride in autos they will stand much higher in public opinion.

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The lawyers in the Maine legislature offered a bill limiting physicians' fees to \$25 a day. The doctors retaliated by presenting a measure limiting lawyers' fees to \$24 a day. The plain citizen will favor both measures.

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Army Gossip

Matters of current interest in Washington gleaned from the Army and Navy Register. A lieutenant of infantry recently applied to the War department for details as a student officer at the Mounted Service School at Fort Riley and the question has been considered by the general staff. It is held that as there are only sufficient quarters at Fort Riley to accommodate the student officers which the cavalry and Field artillery are authorized to send to the school, and as the training which would be imparted to an infantry lieutenant would be of no practical benefit to these two branches, which are now urgently in need of more graduates, it would not be good policy to detail this officer.

The examination of candidates for appointments to the junior grades in the army medical corps will probably begin on July 12. There are 102 vacancies in the corps, to which places appointments will be made from the thirty-three medical officers who are at the army medical school and who will be commissioned, after final graduation, in which includes the New York volunteers, the Philadelphia Field Ledger and the Chattanooga Times. Hearst and the Scripps had better look to their laurels.

It is strange that some of the standpatters do not revive the assertion, in view of Taft's appeal for lower tariffs, that every factory in the country will be at a standstill for months from the day of his inauguration. This is always the case on July fourth.

George W. Vanderbilt is slowly selling out all his fancy stock at Bluffton, his North Carolina estate, as he has found that it does not pay to run a fancy farm. Levi P. Morton once said that the milk and champagne served on his table both cost him the same amount per quart.

Prof. Frederick W. Starr of the University of Chicago, addressing one of the classes of the institution, made the unqualified prediction that Theodore Roosevelt "will never come back from Africa alive." He declared Mr. Roosevelt was too old to withstand the climate and the jungle fever. "I have been in Africa myself lately," said the professor, "and I know that I am talking about when I speak of the climate and the dangers from the source to which Mr. Roosevelt will be subjected. When he sets sail for Africa late this month, according to his present program, and if he carries out his hunting trip as planned, he will have seen America for the last time."

Considerable interest attaches to the pay and allowances which will be entitled Lieutenant Colonel Edward A. Mearns, U. S. A., retired, late of the army medical department, who is to accompany ex-President Roosevelt on his African hunting tour. That officer was directed to report to the president and was assigned to station in the city of Washington. This, under the law, is permissible and gives him the pay and allowance of a retired major. It is understood that no difficulty will be encountered in this particular, inasmuch as no doubt attaches to the legality of the detail, that incident having been secured against trouble by previous consultations with the accounting officers of the War Department of Major Mearns' official duty may cause some trouble to the disbursing officer, who will have to be kept advised in some way that Major Mearns is alive before he may safely make disbursements on account of pay and allowances. This may not be possible with Major Mearns in the interior of Africa, far from the lines of communication.

Success continues to attend the experimental treatment of tuberculosis with mercury at the naval hospital at Las Anillas, Colo. The latest report received by the surgeon general of the navy from Surgeon Wright, who has been conducting these tests, indicates that the treatment is all and more than was anticipated for it. The statistics show that the advantage has been entirely in favor of those patients who accepted the mercurial treatment as compared with those who did not take it. Of the cures 87 1/2 per cent of the cases were treated with mercury and only 12 1/2 per cent took in favor of those patients who accepted the mercury, while of those cases described as failures 33 1/2 per cent took in favor of the mercury. This is a creditable and gratifying demonstration of the value of the treatment in Colorado. It is probable his authorities will make the mercurial treatment compulsory instead of, as it is now, optional with the patient.

StAMP ACT FOR THE DEFICIT. Prospective Return of War Stickers on Checks, Etc. No more equitable way could be found to meet the treasury deficit than a discriminating application of a stamp tax, as suggested by Mr. Franklin MacVeagh, the new head of the Treasury department. Of this course, objections will be made in so far as other plans have been adopted to enlarge the revenues for the purpose of liquidating the national deficit. But a stamp tax applied, say to checks, drafts and stock certificates, would not only overcome the existing deficiency in a comparatively short time, but it would be assessed on those who can best afford to pay. The burden would be relatively trifling for those who make numerous checks and drafts or own many stock certificates could, as a class, well afford the assessment involved.

To be sure, there is no more equitable principle of taxation than that on which an income tax is founded. Such a tax, extending to small incomes would affect no one unable to pay it. But the difficulty about an income tax is that it might again be declared unconstitutional, as it once was by the United States supreme court five or four. Besides, there is just the same objection to the income tax—the objection that it will have a more serious effect on the making of returns. The stamp tax cannot be evaded.

Advertisement for ROYAL Baking Powder. The only Baking Powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar. Absolutely PURE.

PERSONAL NOTES.

It is now proposed to appoint a commission to inquire into the sanity of the Washington weather bureau. There is a general demand for a change in the date of the inauguration. People, however, forget much in four years.

The New York Times exploded an editorial battery of seven columns when Roosevelt quitted. The Sun was content with the solemn exclamation: "Thru!"

The Ochs family has added the Nashville American to its string of newspapers, which includes the New York Times, the Philadelphia Field Ledger and the Chattanooga Times. Hearst and the Scripps had better look to their laurels.

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SMILING REMARKS.

The rich senator was trying to get in for a second term. "It's a hard struggle," he admitted. "The sums I have put up would strain anybody's patriotism."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Splendid!—Queen fellahs, these poets there's the one for instance, who speaks of "an aching void." Now, how can there be an aching void?

Myer—in writing to the secretary of the navy would it be proper to address him as "your excellency?"

Disgruntled Politician—Why don't you fellows drop Bryan for good and all as a presidential candidate?

Friend—Don't worry because your sweetheart has turned you down since you lost your money. There are as good fish in the sea as ever were caught. I'll do one—Yes, but I've lost my bait. Happy as a Star.

Success Magazine. An elephant lay dying on Africa's sunny plain. No soft-hearted elephants soothed his elephantine pain.

Tell my brothers and companions, when they meet me, of my passing, tell me a plunk a word.

Advertisement for Wheat Cakes, Corn Cakes, Griddle Cakes of all Makes. taste better, set better, are better when served with Karo.

Wheat Cakes, Corn Cakes, Griddle Cakes of all Makes. taste better, set better, are better when served with Karo. The most healthful and nutritious syrup for every use, from griddle cakes to candy.