

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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9. GEORGE B. TSCHUCK, Treasurer.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of April, 1909.

M. P. WALKER, Notary Public.

(Seal)

WHEN OUT OF TOWN.

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

To veto, or not to veto—that is the question that is up to Governor Shallenberger.

For a man who is trying to avoid publicity, Mr. Roosevelt is succeeding mightily well.

No brass band at the station when Douglas county's demo-pop law-makers come sneaking home.

If Nebraska has any hopes born in the glad springtime, the late legislature can plead an alibi.

One can but marvel how Crazy Snake's parents selected such an appropriate name for him.

Now that the legislature has adjourned, the Water board and its high-priced attorneys will again rest easier.

The Waters-Pierce Oil company wants a re-hearing. Those lawyers will never get tired of tapping the oil barrel.

We suggest that Governor Shallenberger read over each morning for the next few days that part of his inaugural message about too many new laws.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody good. At least the telegraph companies are reaping their profit from the action of the legislature in putting the daylight saloon bill up to the governor.

Oxford has cleaned up Cambridge in the annual boat race. If it were Yale beating Harvard there would be a jubilee celebration in the White House.

It is decidedly appropriate that the Optimist club should have a dinner whenever it meets. A man is not inclined to be optimistic on an empty stomach.

Congressman Fitzgerald says Bryan does not know what he is talking about. It could not be expected that one who talks as much as Bryan should always know what he was talking about.

Omaha is still the only city of its size in the union on which the firemen's double shift is imposed by statute. In other words, the experiment in Omaha has not yet proved contagious.

An Ohio man seeks a divorce because his wife married in a temperance procession. Possibly the man might help smooth over the matrimonial difficulties if he would ride on the water wagon.

The refusal to extradite Jan Pourn again serves notice on foreign countries that political refugees can find a safe haven in the United States. The subterfuge of extradition on trumped up criminal charges will not suffice.

Nebraska need not lose any sleep over that bill to require the states that shared in the \$25,000,000 distributed by congress in 1896 to put it back. Nebraska did not even aspire to statehood until thirty years after that famous grab-bag was pulled off.

The Baltimore clerk, who was discovered to be a defaulter to the extent of \$100,000, is said to have forty suits and ten overcoats in his wardrobe and now he must go where he will not need them for the state will furnish him all the necessary clothing.

A Spite Bill.

In the expiring hour of the session the legislature has passed a daylight saloon bill particularly aimed at Omaha as reprisal for the obnoxious performances of the law-makers sent down to Lincoln with commissions to represent this city and county.

The daylight saloon was not an issue of the campaign and the only motive behind the action of the legislature in this case is that of spite and revenge.

Ostensibly the bill is in answer to a demand of the temperance element, voiced by the Anti-Saloon league, but even here it concedes more than the anti-saloon people have been asking.

In the recent primary just held in Omaha the officers of the Anti-Saloon league propounded questions to candidates for the city council, that relating to the closing of saloons being: Will you, if elected, vote for an ordinance closing saloons at 11 o'clock?

In Omaha, therefore, the ultimate goal which the Anti-Saloon league had hoped to reach for the present was 11 o'clock closing and not 8 o'clock closing, although, of course, it would doubtless prefer the latter as a little closer to total prohibition.

The only way a bill legally passed by the two houses of the legislature can be headed off after adjournment is by gubernatorial veto. Assuming that the daylight saloon bill has properly gone through the legislative stages, of which there is much question, it devolves on the governor to say whether or not it shall be law with or without his signature, or whether he shall interpose his official disapproval, which would be final.

The Insurgents' Demands.

The house republican insurgents have formulated a series of demands, and presented them to the ways and means committee in the shape of amendments to the tariff bill, which they want submitted when the Payne bill comes up for action. To these demands the signatures of some thirty members have already been attached, with the prospects that they will be reinforced altogether by fifty or sixty members.

The demands of the insurgents cover several points, including the coal and iron schedules and the restoration of a duty on hides, proposed to be put on the free list. If these items are submitted to separate votes, it is quite possible that the house may make a few changes in the bill, as agreed on by the ways and means committee, but the chances all are that the tariff bill will pass the house substantially unchanged and undergo whatever modification is in store after it reaches the senate.

To venture a prediction as to how the tariff bill will look after the senators get through with it would be a rash undertaking. It is certain that the final form will have to be brought about by a compromise and reconciliation of conflicting interests through the conference committee.

The demands of the house insurgents may do some good in focusing the fight at certain points, but to make sure that anything they may gain now is not lost later, they should insist as well upon representation on the conference committee when it shall be appointed.

Worth Draws Its Tribute.

Nothing that the American people have done in recent years is more to their credit than the high tributes they paid Admiral Cervera, who has just died in his Spanish home. In the midst of war, when passions ran high and the country was flushed with victory, it paused long enough in the jubilation to do honor to the defeated leader of the enemy. Admiral Cervera had taken the fighting man's chance and did the best he could, but even in defeat, commanded respect. No childish whimpers, no exhibition of impotent rage, no idle vapors, such as characterized the brutal Weyer, but a courtly gentleman and a sailor, who did his fighting only when there was fighting to do.

During his detention in this country as a nominal prisoner of war, he grew upon the country and when the time came for him to return home he left behind him many true friends and admirers. Since then he has so conducted himself as to heighten the regard in which he was held and at his bier there will be no more sincere mourners in his own land than in this. Some characters are strong enough to rise superior to defeat, while others generally esteemed great, display great littleness when shorn of the glamour of victory.

Of Cervera's abilities as a naval commander probably only those trained in the service are capable of accurately judging. It was Cervera the man whom the world, and the American public in particular, honored. No technical training was necessary to detect these qualities in him.

The Fitzgerald Incident.

Mr. Fitzgerald pays his commitments to Mr. Bryan in acknowledgment of the exhortation given him by The Commoner, and pays Mr. Bryan back with some of his own coin. Mr. Fitzgerald not only revives the old question, "What is a democrat?" but insists that if he led the ignoble twenty-three in the tie-up with the Cannon forces for the organization of the house, he has just as much a right to call himself a democrat as has Mr. Bryan. In fact, he does not hesitate to declare that he thinks a democrat who is elected by his constituents should have more to say about it than another democrat who has been three times defeated. He further suggests that if Mr. Bryan does not think Mr. Fitzgerald's brand of democracy is good enough to pass muster, he

should have let it be known last summer when he was circulating some Fitzgerald speeches as campaign documents to catch votes. This paring shot is along the same line as the question which The Bee asked a little while ago as to why, if Mr. Fitzgerald and the rest of the twenty-three were all that Mr. Bryan now says they are, he did not denounce them prior to election, knowing then that their corporation strings were, just as well as he knows them now.

All of which furnishes convincing evidence in support of Mr. Bryan's assertion that the democratic party was never stronger and more harmonious than it is today and never had brighter prospects for a victory in the next big fight.

Revenues and Retrenchment.

Recent intimations that the senate leaders propose to solve the government's perplexing fiscal problem by cutting down expenditures instead of levying new taxes indicate a welcome reversion to an old time honored policy. Always providing the senate carries its proposed reform into execution. The first step toward that end has been taken by the creation of a new senate committee on public expenditures, whose duty will be to scrutinize carefully the estimates of the heads of the executive powers for guidance of the senate in making appropriations.

If the new policy is carried out it will necessitate a decided reform in the senate customs. Under the constitution and practice all bills for raising revenue and paying out the proceeds originate in the house, but it has long been the custom for the senate to fix finally the amount of the appropriations.

The record of the upper body for years is not an argument for conservatism in the matter of spending money. According to the record, the house has been, in fact, the watch dog of the treasury and all appropriation bills have been enlarged and increased in the senate, after they have been passed by the house. In the last three sessions of congress alone the senate has added a total of \$147,701,000 to the general appropriation bills approved by the house. It has been the custom of the senate to add liberally to pension bills, river and harbor measures, appropriations for public buildings, and, in short, to all money carrying measures presented by the house. This plan has become so common that it has led to complaint among the house members, who have argued that no matter how hard they have worked to reduce expenditures and make a record for economy their plans have been upset by the senate.

If economy is to be the order of the day and the reform spirit is really abroad in the senate the problem of federal revenues may be solved by saving the millions added by the senate to the appropriation bills as passed by the house. We are yearly spending a vast amount of money, not more than we can afford and not so much, perhaps, as might be intelligently used, but it is being spent without any definite policy for the enterprises that are the big absorbers of money. A nation with an income of about \$5,000,000 a day should not have much difficulty in living within its means if a general plan were adopted by which all the money really needed may be appropriated and a bar put against the expenditure of a penny for waste.

To get a retirement pension on Omaha school teacher will have to show up a record of continuous service that would put her past the Oserizing age. But she is not required to tell how old she is. This is the saving clause of the pension scheme.

The anti-saloon preachers like to talk about their movement as a part of a great moral uplift. What will they say about getting a bill through the legislature by doctoring the records? Will they fall back on the excuse that the end justifies the means?

Congressman Fitzgerald thinks Mr. Bryan should be silent "out of obligation of gratitude to his party." Congressman Fitzgerald does not know Mr. Bryan as well as another democratic congressman or he would not have mentioned gratitude.

The Waters-Pierce Oil company is asking that the \$1,500,000 fine imposed upon it by the Texas courts be set aside as excessive. This thing of protesting against fines running up into the millions is becoming chronic with the oil companies.

The daylight saloon was not in any platform put before the people of Nebraska in the last campaign. Here is a chance to apply Mr. Bryan's rule of interpretation that a platform is binding as to what it omits as well as to what it contains.

Just because anyone in Omaha may run for police commissioner under the new dispensation is no good reason why everyone in Omaha should want to run for police commissioner.

The chorus girl generally has a kick coming, but she cannot consistently complain of the proposed tariff on stockings—she gets something to show for her money.

The first of the month brought an unusual number of bills to Governor Shallenberger. By the time he has settled for them he will be politically bankrupt.

Reporters at the White House.

Boston Herald.

Among the other good habits of the Taft administration is the admission of reporters by appointment, and after statement of the nature of information desired. The president trusts the newspaper men not to

abuse the privilege and they respect the confidence.

Airships as Targets.

New York Tribune.

Count Zeppelin was used to go considerably more than 5,000 feet above the surface of the earth to get out of the range of some of the Kump guns designed to damage airships. Can he do so?

Political Judges Not Wanted.

Springfield Republican.

When it comes to choosing federal judges President Taft makes it clear to senators and representatives that he must be permitted to suit himself, being something of an expert in that field. There is nothing unreasonable about this.

Graft Within the Law.

Boston Herald.

The supreme court of the United States has decided as a matter of law that a congressman has no right to collect from the federal treasury any traveling expenses which he has not incurred. The case relates to the sessions of 1908, when a special session continued until the date of the regular session in December, and members had no time to return to their homes. This new agreement between law and ethics is interesting. But the fact that a formal decision of the supreme court was required to determine the point is even more suggestive.

Two-Cent Fare Law Works Well.

Springfield Republican.

It appears from the report of the Illinois Railroad and Warehouse commission that the two-cent fare law has helped and not hurt the roads. Under this law their passenger revenue was \$2,000,000 larger in the depressed year of 1908 than in the prosperous year of 1907, while freight revenue fell off heavily. Yet the companies are still threatening to take the law into the courts on the ground of being confiscatory. This is what the Missouri railroads did with a similar law, and they won. But they have no intention of putting rates of fare back to the old level of 3 cents.

Out for Fordney All the Time.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

Representative Fordney of Michigan is to be commended at least for his consistency. Mr. Fordney is in the lumber business and he is in it for all he can get. Consequently he is a great believer in the lumber tariff, which enables him to get a great deal more out of the lumber buyers than his lumber is worth. Of course he is opposed to any reduction of that tariff, and is moving upon congress to prevent such a reduction. He goes to congress as a member of that body, lands a place on the tariff committee, the ways and means, and stands up in the house and openly pleads for the retention of his precious lumber tariff, despite the efforts of his fellow members of the committee to reduce it. Fordney is out for Fordney, and he doesn't care who knows it.

GOOD-BYE OR AU REVOIR?

Withdrawal of Last American Troops.

New York Sun.

The American flag came down March 31 at Camp Columbia, the headquarters of the army of pacification for two years and a half. In bidding farewell to Major General Thomas H. Barry at the palace in Havana President Gomez said:

"I pray you, general, to express to your valiant soldiers the extreme gratitude and admiration which the government and the people of Cuba have for them."

If the Cuban people are not grateful, if they have not admired the conduct and bearing of the American soldiers during the occupation, they must be abnormally insensitive to a spectacle of discipline and unobtrusive serviceableness such as, we believe, the world has never seen before under similar conditions.

UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES.

Conspicuous States Give Out Misdemeanors.

Chicago Tribune.

It will be difficult to convince innocent Europeans that the west is not still in its one-time celebrated condition of being wild and woolly if such carryings on as have agitated Oklahoma and Nebraska continue.

What becomes of the pleasant excitement enjoyed by Americans at the expense of Europeans from abroad who expect to hunt bison in Illinois and who fear that their hair may not be safe in Kansas when Chief Crazy Snake manages at this late date to plunge Oklahoma into the horrors of Indian war and a lone bandit holds up a passenger train a few miles out of the celebrated town of Lincoln, home of the Hon. William Jennings Bryan, three times candidate for the presidency of the United States?

It would not be so staggering if the one state were not that of the Hon. Charles Haskell and the other that of the Hon. Mr. Bryan. Europeans are apt to pause when they consider that the latter commonwealth has aspired to give the nation its president and the former that president's chief adviser. One has an Indian war and the other an old-fashioned holdup.

The nation must ask Oklahoma and Nebraska to desist. These great states must be requested respectfully to consider the consequences. We shall have the innocent Europeans asking themselves again: soon as they come in sight of the statue of Liberty.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Features of a Census Bulletin Worthy of Consideration.

Philadelphia Record.

The census office has issued a bulletin on the decreasing size of families which will precipitate an additional flow of ill-considered remarks on race suicide and the decadence of the present generation. Persons who are distressed over the empty cradle take no notice of the empty grave. Fewer births are accompanied by fewer deaths.

Whether a decreasing birth rate be due to the movement of population toward the cities or not, certain general facts are common to the civilized world. They are movement of population in all civilized countries, all industrial nations, is toward the cities. Agricultural industries are dormant during a great part of the year; urban industries go on continuously. A very sparse population may subsist on hunting and fishing. A little denser population is obliged to till the soil. A much denser population must work with machinery to produce a subsistence.

In all civilized countries the birth rate is decreasing. This is true of England as well as of France, and it is true, though in a less degree, of Germany, and it is true of very sparsely settled Australia as well as of the United States. In large portions of which the conditions of living are approximating to those of Europe. Where in all these countries the death rate is decreasing. The slaughter of the innocents is checked. Not so many babies are born, but more that are born have a chance to reach adult years. In a general way it is true of the European countries that those which have the lowest rates instead of decreasing death rates, conversely, where the most babies are born, there the most babies die.

Washington Life

Short Sketches of Incidents and Episodes that Mark the Progress of Events at the Nation's Capital.

Elsworth E. Lounsbrough of Sheridan, Wyo., while in Washington last week, worked off on the local papers a beautiful interview for state and city. "Wyoming is looking forward to a great influx of people for the next year or two," he said. "Not only have we wonderful natural resources, but the federal government, by its irrigation, has aided materially in the development of the state. The Shoshone dam, which has just been completed, will irrigate 100,000 acres of land that heretofore has been absolutely arid. Other irrigation works in process of construction will open up approximately an area of 600,000 acres, and this vast territory will prove a magnet for many persons. We expect to make Wyoming not only a more agricultural and grazing country, but a busy industrial state."

"Sheridan undoubtedly is the best city in the state. Within a few miles of Sheridan are some of the most remarkable coal mines on the continent. It is not necessary to go below the level to mine coal. All that has to be done is to dig into the hills. Recently I went into one of these mines, and, looking up, I could see tons and tons of coal. The hills about the mine were nothing but coal. It is true, it is not the best grade of coal. It is a lignite—geologists call it semibituminous coal—but it is a first class domestic fuel, and the railroads use it in their engines."

"Sheridan is a city of about 15,000 people. It is the curve of a horseshoe formed by a mountain range. It has an altitude of 2,500 feet, and the mountains surrounding it rise to a height of 13,000 feet. The country surrounding Sheridan is watered by twenty-four streams, flowing down from the mountainside, and the city itself lies in a junction of two of these streams."

The preliminary stages of a movement projected by the executive department and the senate for greater national economy provokes discussion among observers on the spot. "Assuming that congress has the courage to cut deep," writes the Washington correspondent of the New York Sun, "where should the cuts be made. The present bill calls for \$65,000,000. Millions could and should be saved by the elimination of unworthy claims. Are there those who believe such an elimination possible? What would the country say to a deep cut in \$100,000,000 for the army, in \$100,000,000 for the navy, \$50,000,000 for fortifications and \$25,000,000 for the military academy? Leaving out the postal account, which includes the post office, would the appropriations for this year be approximately \$50,000,000. The pension, war and navy accounts call for about \$10,000,000. The department of agriculture receives \$13,000,000. The diplomatic and consular service costs \$3,000,000. The Indian bill is \$10,000,000. Announce that there will be no money for rivers and harbors, for public buildings, and the country will announce for purpose to elect a congress that will be more liberal."

"With these accounts taken out of the consideration there is not much left out of which to chop imposing sums. The congress is the agent of the people. Any effective economy can come only in response to a public demand for a halt or a reduction. The people demand, congress appropriates, and the people pay. If the people do not wish to pay, they must cease or modify their demands. Congress is responsible for sundry millions of dollars which go for what comes very near to political graft, for the maintenance of offices which are little short of sinecures, and for many quite needless purposes, yet if any heavy inroads were made in all or any of these proceedings would excite a roar that would shake the capital. Congress can and should save money, but the order to save dollars must come from the people."

After a silence of twelve years Congressmen Brownlow of Tennessee has told some of his friends in congress a joke on himself which is looked upon around the capitol corridors as the best thing that has been heard in ages. Mr. Brownlow has broken the long silence only because his search for a certain telephone girl in Washington has been unsuccessful and he wants assistance. He desires to get her a place in the government service as a reward for their exhibition of repartee he has ever heard.

Mr. Brownlow is a republican, but in the closing days of the Cleveland administration he was persona grata at the White House. There was a federal job in Tennessee which he wanted for a constituent. A democratic colleague also wanted the place, and he had started for the White House one day to clinch matters. Brownlow heard of this and he decided to wait. He knew he could not overtake his political enemy, so he endeavored to beat him to it on the telephone. He gave the White House number several times, but could not get a connection. He finally lost his patience with the telephone operator and said things which were not nice and in his anger got all mixed up.

"Well, what is it you want, anyway?" murmured the hello girl.

"Give me some one who is my equal in intelligence," roared Brownlow.

There was a pause, a click, then a sweet voice which said:

"Hello, what is it?"

"Who's this?" shouted Mr. Brownlow, still out of patience.

The answer came back: "St. Elizabeth's insane asylum."

Ex-Senator F. M. Patterson of Colorado, interviewed in Washington, expresses the belief that Mr. Bryan will never again be a candidate for the presidency. "Mr. Bryan was at my house in Denver a few weeks ago, and while the subject was not mentioned, I am inclined to believe that he would not permit himself to be placed in the attitude of even being a receptive candidate. He will always be found ready to serve the party, however. I hope that evidence is far from conclusive. I hope that Mr. Bryan will be chosen United States senator from Nebraska."

Perils of Pole Hunting.

New York World.

The difficulties encountered by Lieut. Shackleton's party in the attempt to reach the South Pole prove that in spite of dogs, sledges, Siberian ponies, motor cars and all mechanical appliances for progress over polar ice, it is on the human legs that the explorer must depend in the end. Whatever a balloon or an aeroplane may accomplish in the final dash for the North Pole, it is not likely to be useful on the blizzard-swept plateau at the South Pole. But legs are always the good old reliable mainstay.

Paying the Rebate Penalty.

Philadelphia Record.

The New York Central has pleaded guilty to ten counts of rebating and paid \$1,000 for each. The offenses were committed some years ago. It is pretty safe to say that there is not much rebating at present, which means that the railroads are getting the rebate rates instead of holders receiving a considerable fraction thereof to the big shippers who threaten to ship over some other line.

Vale to the Legislature

Edgar Howard in Columbus Telegram (Dem.).

The legislative session is dying—dying to the dirges of sorrow chanted by common democrats who believe in redeeming party pledges—dying to hot-time music of the corporation crooks, who are filled with glee while pointing to the wreck of democratic hopes and democratic promises. So let it die.

But be not too glad in your temporary triumph, ye corporation handits. Your joy shall not be for long. You have shown your hand in your latest triumph, and that hand will be known and recognized in the days to come. You have blasted the good names of men whom you seduced from the path of party virtue. You have placed upon the foreheads of some legislators a brand of shame, never to be effaced. Enjoy while you may the fruits of a victory. There will be other legislatures in Nebraska, and the people will elect to those legislatures men who will know in advance that a betrayal of a party pledge will be an invitation to return not again to the constituency which is disgraced by a legislator who betrays a party pledge. They will elect men who will hold personal honor so high that they will regard the advances of a corporation lobbyist as a good man regards an invitation to burglarize his neighbor's home—and a legislature composed of that brand of men will regard a fellow member in the pay of the corporations just as a woman regards a snake.

ASKING TOO MUCH.

St. Louis Times.

Probably the most effective vindication of Mr. Harriman's theories is Mr. Harriman's success. He and the men who have accepted his financial guidance have acquired a popularly believed, some substantial savings, with which to start over a rainy day. This is the main proof of the Harriman pudding.

When, therefore, one master railroad director announces startling general policies concerning railway management, he is entitled to wholly respectful and considerate attention. Mr. Harriman announces that all the railroads of the country were under one control (and he was known as the "Wizard," Harriman is not a wrecker; he is a builder. Some of the streaks of rust he has taken over in his time are now great properties in every physical respect. And when this \$500,000,000 began to flow out the country would be immensely benefited. The steel industry, for example, would leap to its feet.

"Why not, then, call off the dogs, and let Mr. Harriman have his way without fearing Mr. Wickham's police?"

Simply because the man who became the unquestioned dictator of all our railways could in time become the overlord of all the rest of us, and we are not sufficiently convinced of the purity of purpose of any person now engaged in fortune building to put him on the job of dictating.

EXECUTIVE ECONOMY.

Move to Bring Expenditures and Revenues Closer Together.

Pittsburgh Dispatch.

The announcement that President Taft has laid down for his administration the rule of co-operation between the departments to reduce expenditures and estimates, and to "bring about a responsible relationship between the expenditures and the revenues," will be welcome to the plain people. It is the overlooking of that common-sense economy that has been the greatest weakness of our government of late years.

The much-needed change to an older fashion is also remarkable in its shift from the original theory of representative government. That theory, developed as royalty began to call on the people to pay taxation for the government's support, was that as the people yield the support their representatives should have the exclusive right to taxation and expenditure. The tax on taxation and expenditure. The purpose was to maintain through the representative branch a check on royal lavishness or the waste of public funds on royal favorites. The principle of the people holding the purse strings is the foundation of all constitutional power. It was the crucial issue between Parliament and Charles I. and was the leverage by which republicanism overthrew the Bourbon monarchy. It was copied in our constitutional enactments that taxing and expenditure measures must originate in the lower house, and that no public money can be