

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE. FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROBEWATER. VICTOR ROBEWATER, EDITOR. Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily Bee (without Sunday), one year, \$4.00; Daily Bee and Sunday, one year, \$5.00. DELIVERED BY CARRIER: Daily Bee (including Sunday), per week, 10c; Daily Bee (without Sunday), per week, 10c; Evening Bee (without Sunday), per week, 10c; Evening Bee (with Sunday), per week, 10c; Sunday Bee, one year, \$1.00; Saturday Bee, one year, \$1.00. Address all complaints, notices, or subscription orders to City Circulation Department.

Patten Versus Wilson. When Secretary of Agriculture Wilson recently issued a statement as to the amount of grain in the country as compared with previous years and the prospective demand for the same, "Jim" Patten of Chicago challenged the correctness of the figures of the secretary. Patten insisted that the prevailing prices of wheat were not due to manipulation, but to the fact of a shortage. Between the two the public had no means at the time of arriving at a correct conclusion, because in the face of the Wilson statement wheat continued to advance in price. Coincident with the abandonment of the wheat pit by Mr. Patten prices tumbled and have continued to fall. The logic of events would seem to indicate that Mr. Wilson knew what he was talking about, both as to the amount of grain in the country and the prospects for the new crop. With the fate of the speculators who went into the deal as a gamble the public has little or no concern, but with the general disturbance to business and the hardships of the consumer the proposition is different. It will doubtless develop a flood of remedies for the evils of gambling in food products. The governor of New York recently appointed a commission to investigate the subject and after an exhaustive inquiry these men were forced to admit they could find no remedy for the evils connected with the trading in futures, which when conducted on a legitimate basis was held to be more beneficial than harmful. The one lesson that might profitably be drawn from the deal is that people who are users of grain should pin their faith on official statements compiled by experts, who have nothing to gain by misrepresentation, and govern their actions accordingly. If the millers had refused to buy at the price fixed by Mr. Patten his task of handling the deal would have been much greater and probably beyond his capacity.

Registration. Today is the only day for revision of the registration lists for the coming city election and it is most important that every voter not already properly enrolled should appear before the registrars and qualify to vote. The election, a week from next Tuesday, will determine who is to have control of the city government for three years, and these three years will constitute one of the most important periods in the city's history. It is of the utmost importance that during the next three years Omaha should regain the good name, which has been blackened by the cowboy performances of its municipal executive during the past three years, and every good citizen who has the reputation and the future growth of Omaha at heart has a duty to perform which he should not shirk. The first step is to qualify to vote by complying with the registration law. Last year's registration holds good, except that anyone who has moved from one voting district to another must take out a transfer. Those who for any cause failed to register for last fall's election, or who have moved into the city or become of voting age, or become naturalized since the last registration, will now have an opportunity to register. Brazen. In their own newly promulgated city platform, the democratic mayor and council, who are asking an extension of lease for their occupancy of the city hall, reaffirm that in city affairs party politics should be subordinated to good government. Do they believe they can cover up the notorious fact that during the whole period that they have been in power they have done nothing but play politics to the detriment of good government? The democratic mayor tried to use his office as a stepping stone to the governorship, one democratic councilman tried to trade his place for the sheriff's office and another succeeded in securing a transfer to the Board of County Commissioners. The democratic assistant city attorney worked himself into the Denver convention, the democratic custodian of the city hall pulled down an appointment for the governor as his reward for political activity and the democratic street commissioner set himself up as a political satrap in the capacity of county chairman. All last year the city hall was the recruiting station and supply depot for the local end of the democratic national campaign. If there were ever three years in Omaha's history where there was more of partisan politics in the city hall and less of attention to the city's business than during the last five years of democratic misrule, it is not recorded. With such a record of political wrangling and manipulation, it takes a lot of brass on the part of Mayor Jim and his councilmanic crew to prate about subordinating party politics to good government in city affairs. Ten dollars a mile looks like a pretty stiff price for fixing the physical valuation of the Nebraska railroads, especially when it is remembered that the result will not be final, but that, from time to time, the same expenditure will have to be met. This is another democratic venture into the realm of experimental government, and Nebraska taxpayers are paying the freight. When the democratic city council was making its record, it had no thought of the coming time when it would have to face that record. This is why some of the candidates for reelection wish now they had a chance to do things over. But it is too late and the people will pass a verdict very soon. It is now asserted that it was Mrs. Morton and not her illustrious husband who originated Arbor day, but why dispute over this? There is surely glory enough in the event for both, and both will long be remembered by Nebraska people, not only because of Arbor day but for other reasons. A French scientist has declared there is nothing mysterious about plant life. "It is," he says, "but a simple physical and chemical function of an organism produced by the substances and forces of its own cosmic environment." Simple enough, isn't it, when it is explained to you? Smith Ely, former mayor of New York, now past 80 years of age, hale and hearty, attributes his longevity to free indulgence in pie as an article of diet. The man who is waiting for a slice of the political kind is easily convinced that men who feed on it never die. Good Court for Crooks. Philadelphia Ledger. The appellate court of California has overturned the verdict against another grafter. The only surprise is that the court was so slow about it, when the fact is remembered that it had the reversal in the case of Roof ready before the verdict had been announced.

In Other Lands. Side Lights on What is Transpiring Among the Masses and Far Nations of the Earth. Events are moving rapidly in Turkey. Any hour may bring news of the downfall of Abdul Hamid II and change the destiny of the Ottoman empire. The unscrupulous craft of the sultan in bringing about the revolt of the soldiers ten days ago proved to be a dismal failure. Not with the least of Mohammed had he intended at the same moment in Asiatic Turkey. Doubtless the outbreak of murder and rapine was intended to supplement and emphasize the revolt against the ministry at Constantinople and restore the reactionaries to power on a wave of religious fanaticism. That both were intimately related is a personal opinion, not one granted to the participants in the revolt. But sultanic craft was powerless in reaching the greater military body pledged to uphold constitutional government, and these forces now surround the capital and control the situation. The sultan is at their mercy. His final appeal to his fanatical people miscarried. What was designed to be a personal triumph developed into a series of massacres of Christians that shocks the civilized world. Meanwhile the primary author of the orgy of blood, unlike his prototype in Shakespeare's Richard III, lacks the physical backbone to meet his enemies in the open. Behind palace walls the sinister figure of the empire pleads and cringes, ready to embrace friend or opponent, if by so doing continuance on the throne is assured. No one who studies Abdul's masterful craft and diplomacy at home and abroad need be surprised if he succeeds in worming himself once more into the confidence of the dominant Young Turks, and hold on to the throne. Should "the will of Allah," as interpreted by progressive Turks, decree abdication, Hamid would pass off the stage as fittingly as he entered—in trail of blood and crime. Belgium and Holland, two of the smaller states of Europe, unsexed by naval scores and military burdens, furnish a striking exhibit of the value of concerted energies of the people on commerce and industry. Together the two states have an area of 28,911 square miles and a total population of less than 12,000,000. During the last fiscal year their imports and exports amounted to \$2,142,229,441. With an area of 29,082 square miles and a population of 29,000,000 the total foreign trade of France for the last fiscal year had a value of \$2,183,018,828, or a little more than the trade of Belgium and Holland. Germany, with nine times the area and five times the population, beat the combined trade of Belgium and Holland by only 50 percent. The new commander of the British forces in India, General Sir Garrett O'Meara Cresser, who will succeed Lord Kitchener in the autumn, is sixty-one years of age. He is a graduate of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and joined the British army in 1886. He has held many staff appointments and seen much service. In the Afghan war he won the Victoria Cross, and took part in the Zulu valley expedition in 1890, being on both occasions mentioned in the dispatches. From 1897 to 1900 he was political resident at Aden, and commanded the Aden district. He commanded the second brigade in the Chinese expedition of 1900, and was afterwards general officer commanding the China force. In recent years he has been military secretary at the India office. Without any desire to aggravate the situation or rile the temper of friendly Britshers, a Brazilian paper prints an amusing illustration of the "German peril," hitherto overlooked. It states that St. Paulo warships that had just visited St. Paulo were all marked "Made in Germany." The Good Hope, the Devonshire and the Carnarvon are all constructed with armor plate made by the Krupp at Essen, and in obedience to law these plates are marked "Made in Germany." These letters have been painted over, but the paint wears off, while the marks are made indelibly by a specially patented process. The English shipbuilders import these nickel-steel plates because, with a thickness of only six inches, they have the same strength as English steel plates of nine inches. Politicians are very much alike the world over. In the old world as readily as in the new they do not always weigh the means by which an end is gained. During the labor strike in Paris an innocent and insignificant bill was rushed unnoticed through the French senate, by which a sure tax is imposed on every visitor to a French bath resort. Every town or community containing mineral springs or lakes of mineral waters brought to its territory every mountain resort or climatic station and every seaside as well as inland watering place, is declared a public health resort, and as such is empowered to establish a cure tax on all visitors, the amount to be fixed by a commission. Hotel keepers and proprietors of boarding houses are responsible for collecting the tax, which must be added to the visitor's bill. The ancestral home of the fabled stork is now watching the movements of the joyous bird with an eagerness and anxiety that commands sympathetic interest everywhere. The House of Orange longs for an heir to the throne and public hope centers on news from the apartments of Queen Wilhelmina. An heir is essential to the perpetuity of Holland as an independent state. Without a direct heir the belief is widespread that Holland would eventually become a vassal state of Germany, whose expanding policies covet the vast stretch of open sea washing the coast of Holland. No wonder then that the approach of the stork is eagerly watched by the Dutch. Should they mysteriously bring the happy message, great will be the joy of the Dutch. Past disappointments will be forgotten, and the queen can have without asking whatever the burghers can supply. The scrappy suffragettes of London and of other population centers of England want a vast amount of physical and mental energy in seeking a privileged and doubtful value, while neglecting lines of effort which, rightly directed, would be immensely beneficial to the sex. One phase of the drink evil in British cities is that of women drinking at bars. An attempt has been made to stop the trade so far as it concerns mothers dragging their youngsters into the "public houses," by prohibiting the entrance of juveniles into these places, but the prohibition has been evaded by establishing nurseries near at hand, where the women can drink while leaving their children in the care of nurses hired for that purpose. Friends of human progress who think they see the light breaking in the east will avoid disappointment by considering the obstacles. In Persia, where revolutionaries are struggling for constitutional government, it is doubtful if one in a thousand of the natives would know a constitution from a spring bonnet. About one in ten thousand can read, and scarcely one in ten thousand can write. In such days

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needs a tallow dip may be mistaken for the arc light. Progress will not be a marathon, and a primary contest hasn't the substance of a dream. As an exhibition of dramatic nerve there has not been any in years to equal the attempt to popularize "An Englishman's Home" in Berlin. That extraordinary freakish production, originating in a dream of German invasion of England, was rightly hooded off the stage in the German capital. John Bull does some ridiculously raw things at times, but the production of a play among people to whom it ascribes ulterior motives and brutal conduct, would seem to be exceeding the limit. A notable uplift in the trade of Ireland is shown by official reports. In 1904 the total trade of the island amounted to \$25,000,000. In 1907 it reached \$40,000,000, a good part of the increase being in exports. The country is now developing tobacco culture and tobacco manufacture, turning out a brand of "Torch" cigarettes as cheaply as Connecticut rolls "Havana cigars."

POLITICAL DRIFT. "Probably the most imposing spectacle to be seen in Washington," says the Charleston News and Courier, "is a Virginia congressman who has been fattened on protected peanuts." Governor Hadley of Missouri thinks that another future is a titanic struggle between the democratic and republican parties for the control of the south's electoral votes. James E. Martine, the "farmer orator" of New Jersey, and bosom friend of William Jennings Bryan, in looking over his diary the other day discovered that he had made 4,186 speeches for his political principles, which, he says, are his religion. Former United States Senator David Turpie of Indiana is one of the notable dead of the month. He was a distinguished lawyer, a great debater and one of the group of famous politicians which made Indiana a fiercely fought battle ground two decades ago. The senatorial investigating committee of the Wisconsin legislature would like to have Senator Stephenson come home and answer a few pertinent questions. But the senator finds his duties in Washington too urgent to bother about the frivolities of the past. Besides, he has the certificate. The New Jersey legislature has adjourned, with scarcely anything recommended by Governor Fort in his message enacted into law. There has been a constant fight between the governor and the party managers, and republicans of all factions are looking forward with dread to next fall's election, when the issue between the governor and the party managers will be carried to the polls. Ex-Senator "Billy" Mason of Illinois doesn't give the intelligence of the voters a very high rating. "The American citizen," he says, "is always thumping himself on the chest and announcing 'I am the people.' As a matter of fact, he is just a plain fool. He has to be jumped on, slugged and thrown down two flights of stairs before he understands that he is being jobbed by the men he sends to congress to represent him. Unpleasant. Baltimore American. The man, it has been said, who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, is the race's benefactor. What is to be said of the man who makes one loaf of bread dearer or one lump of ice more difficult to bring into the homes of the poor?

WHITTLED TO A POINT. "Where's your watch?" "Here it is." "But that watch is silver. The one you used to carry had a fine gold case." "Circumstances alter cases, you know." Cleveland Leader. The lions were considering the case of Roosevelt. "He's only coming to study our habits," remarked one. "I'll do my part to instruct him," said another. "But I never felt sure whether it was a case of appendicitis or a case of political curiosity."—Washington Star. "Did you ever have appendicitis?" said the insurance man. "Well, answered the skeptic, 'I was operated on. But I never felt sure whether it was a case of appendicitis or a case of professional curiosity.'"—Washington Star. "Were the colors on those new goods you bought as fast as the saleslady declared them?" "Fast! Well, when I washed them they ran so you'd think they had speed mania."—Baltimore American. "Put money in thy purse," counseled Polonius. "All right, dad," responded Ophelia. "And not halping, chewing gum, cooking receipts, powder rags and dress samples."—Louisville Courier-Journal. "There is a very queer item in the police news this morning." "What is that?" "Customers are making some ugly charges against that beauty doctor."—Baltimore American. SEISMIC DOMESTICITY. New York Sun. He left the house at 8 a. m. As was his usual way, The tide of business life to stem, Just as he did each day. He left behind a gentle wife, A home all calm and sweet; To these, from all the cares of life, He mightily would retreat. Alas! he hurried home that night, Fond visions in his breast, And found overwhelming awful bliss Had fallen on his head! Had lightning struck the little flat And ripped the place in twain? There was no spot to lay his hat—He put it again. There was no place to hang his coat, No chair in which to sit; A cloud of dust went down his throat—Of supper, not a bit! The bureau overflowed the door, Their trunks were on the bed, There was no carpet on the floor—The bric-a-brac had fled. His wife was somewhere in the gloom—He seemed to hear her voice; Then came in contact with a broom—And left, he had no choice. Now, in his office chair he waits To hear the welcome call; And when it sounds he thanks the fates That home is his—till fall.

WHEN OUT OF TOWN. Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested. Abdul Hamid is having more trouble than the average man with his spring housecleaning. A Chicago woman offers \$200 for a good husband. The price is pretty low for an oversold market. It begins to look as though the struggle were on to demonstrate whether Patten or wheat is king. How appropriate that the democratic senators took for their text in discussing the tariff bill the duty on gas retorts. The man who pulled a gun out of the boat muzzle first has been buried and now comes the turn of the one who rocks the boat. An Ohio student sold his uniform and a cornet to raise money enough to slope with his sweetheart. Here's hoping that he made a good trade. Governor Shallenberger has relocated Omaha on the map, but whether his pull with the local democracy is good remains to be developed. You don't hear so much now about letting the people rule as you did a while back. The democrats are trying to get re-elected and their machine is working like a steam roller. Reports come from East Africa that Roosevelt left the big stick at home. It will be an easy matter to cut another one in the jungle and interested parties should not presume too far. The hollowness of democratic talk about nonpartisan judges is shown by the statement that the machine has things so well in hand that only as many democrats will file as there are places to be filled. Boston announces it will celebrate the tercentenary of the landing of the Pilgrims in 1820 by the holding of an exposition. With a little western push Boston should be able to put an exposition in order by that time. For a country which is depopulated several times a year by the massacre of thousands of its own fairly well. Some day it will become apparent that the Shanghai liar is not the only one. With Patten in flight and the price of wheat tumbling, the food gamblers are a busy lot, but the men/whom paper fortunes are being wiped out will get very little sympathy from the public that was expected to pay for their fun. William T. Stead, the London journalist, expresses the opinion that the only solution of the Turkish question is to turn that country over to the United States. Mr. Stead is entirely too kind. The United States has enough trouble of its own. John Mitchell tells the Yale students that the application of the golden rule would settle all labor disputes. The same might be said of all other disputes, but the difficulty is that when a man thinks he holds the whip hand he misplaces the measuring rod. Promoters of the Northwest Saengerfest very properly resent the imputation that the success of their gathering depends on the hours during which beer may be obtained. The Saengerfest is supposed to have to do with music—Melpomene and not Bacch.

Drift of Political Sentiment. The only election in which national politics figured, held since the tariff bill was introduced in congress, occurred in Cleveland this week where a successor was chosen to Mr. Burton, who resigned his seat in congress to enter the senate. The result here offers no encouragement to the democrats who have been nursing the hope that the republican revision of the tariff would give the democrats control of the next house. Though the district is normally republican the democrats, under the guidance of Mayor Tom Johnson of Cleveland, had strong hopes of carrying it or at the least materially reducing the republican majority. Yet the republicans won out by over 5,000 plurality. The plea cannot be made that it was a purely local fight, for the action of the democrats previous to the election made it a square, clean-cut issue between the two parties, with both bending their energies to secure a victory. The size of the republican majority is particularly gratifying, as the personal popularity of Mr. Burton was such that it was hardly hoped the district could be carried by anything near his plurality at the last election. With this skirmish as a guiding star and the democratic disorganization and disagreement on all public questions, the republicans may confidently expect to be continued in power if they will proceed to give the country an equitable tariff bill. The executive branch of the government offers nothing on which to hang democratic hopes and the whole matter is up to congress to retain public confidence. Wizards of Plant Life. Since the days when a Connecticut Yankee invented a wooden nutmeg experimenter have been busy in producing wonders in the fruit and vegetable world. Seedless oranges and raisins are now a common commodity and Burbank has given us the Logan berry. Apples as red as Charley boy's necktie, as yellow as the gold of Ophir and whose blushes rival the efforts of a school girl are on every fruit stand. The tomato, once the symbol of Cupid, has been elevated to an article of daily diet. Everywhere there has been evolution and progress, and now comes a Colorado man with the latest, a seedless watermelon. The methods by which the seedless watermelon is propagated are not given to the public, but the small boy cares nothing for this if he may be relieved of the loss of time incident to spitting out the seeds and enabled to take larger bites. One more step and the cup of human happiness will be filled—let the experimenter proceed until he has produced a melon with neither seeds nor rind and all core. Then will rain and torrid heat in dog days cease from troubling and vacation time for all be filled with one long, gladsome song. Traffic on the Erie Canal. Second only in importance to the enlargement and increase in capacity of the Erie canal is a movement in New York to maintain the efficiency of the present waterway pending the construction of the new one. The canal is a New York enterprise, but the west has a direct and vital interest in it. While only a small portion of the freight traffic between the east and west passes through the canal, it acts as a rate equalizer and indirectly affects every pound of freight between the two sections. As the new canal in many places does not follow the same route there has been a tendency to allow the old one to fall into decay and not only decrease its carrying capacity, but pos-

ably permanently divert traffic from the water route. New York business interests see the danger of this and have taken action to prevent it. The railroads and elevator interests are showing their hand, which should be notice to all concerned to be active in preventing this great rate equalizer from passing into disuse. It is of just as vital interest to the grain grower of the west as to the commercial interests of New York. There are 500 boats at present in operation and the amount of traffic these can handle if the canal is kept open will be a material factor in the rate situation. Registration. Today is the only day for revision of the registration lists for the coming city election and it is most important that every voter not already properly enrolled should appear before the registrars and qualify to vote. 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Smith Ely, former mayor of New York, now past 80 years of age, hale and hearty, attributes his longevity to free indulgence in pie as an article of diet. The man who is waiting for a slice of the political kind is easily convinced that men who feed on it never die. Good Court for Crooks. Philadelphia Ledger. The appellate court of California has overturned the verdict against another grafter. The only surprise is that the court was so slow about it, when the fact is remembered that it had the reversal in the case of Roof ready before the verdict had been announced.

ARMY APPOINTMENTS. Returns to Practice of Promotion by Seniority. Washington Herald. Army officers will rejoice over the announcement which has been made by the secretary of war of the appointments by President Taft of brigadier generals and a major general to fill prospective vacancies in those grades during the present year. The officers selected represent the appointments in that class of high military positions which Mr. Taft will have occasion to fill by virtue of the retirement of Brigadier General J. B. Kerr and Major General John F. Weston. The selection of the officers—Brigadier General William H. Carter to be major general, and Colonel J. A. Augur, Terrell cavalry; John G. De Knight, corps of engineers, and M. P. Maus, Twentieth infantry, to be brigadier generals—represents a commendable adherence to the desirable policy of recognizing seniority. Mr. Taft is evidently disposed to regard the colonels of line and staff, of whom there are some 120 in number, as furnishing the officers from whom selection may be made in appointing general officers with due regard to personal and professional qualifications. There has been nothing more demoralizing in its effects upon the commissioned personnel of the army than the exercise of executive favoritism in the form which is furnished the officers from whom brigadiers. Officers who are thus jumped by their juniors in rank and service are entitled to entertain a grievance when they find that their own efforts are thus ignored and their chances of promotion are thus blocked. Mr. Taft's appreciation of the virtue of seniority is one of the most gratifying signs of his attitude toward the military personnel, the members of which have entertained the hope that there was an end of promiscuous and rampant favoritism. CIVIL SERVICE CAREERS. Possibilities Shown by Successes of Hitchcock and Cortelyou. Boston Transcript. In the United States there is a steady increase in the number of places in the civil service. The total is already large enough to be a serious draft on the most promising of the nation's army of young men. By frequent examinations the lists are kept up so that those who fall below high standards have little chance of appointment. The hard road to success in private life, which develops the best qualities, the drudgery which precedes success, does not deter the ambitious young man when nothing else offers. But the inducements which the civil service holds out are exactly the things which lure the young, even the ambitious. It gives an opportunity for one to earn a comfortable living with leisure to pursue the studies of a profession. Of recent years the examples of Messrs. Cortelyou and Hitchcock, both employees in the classified service, who have risen to places of prominence in the political world, have added much to the attractiveness of it as a career by showing that it may carry great possibilities. The classified civil service is also sending constantly into private business and professional life a number of men who profit by the special experience which they have had under the government. Patent office examiners become patent lawyers, and customs experts in the Treasury department become custom house attorneys. The Department of Agriculture is steadily sending men into the agricultural industries and so the wedding of the civil service with the general business of life has become very much more close than would at first sight appear. A Marvelous Victory. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Mr. Bryan's only success with the present democratic legislature of Nebraska is the condemnation of Mr. Carnegie's pension system for state university and other college professors. But the Carnegie system moves forward steadily in spite of a few eccentricities. Weary of Hard Work. Chicago Tribune. Mr. Aldrich announces that at the end of his senatorial term he will retire to private life. Mr. Aldrich will be missed, but he needs the rest. Running the country is hard work. In the Good Old Times. Boston Transcript. Speaking of the tariff and of "good old times" we are reminded that Pliny paid \$5 a pound for pepper the year round, and there is no record of a protest by him.

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