

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George B. Tzschuck, Treasurer of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily Morning Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of May, 1909, was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Number, Rate, Total. Rows include various circulation figures for different days and totals.

Net total 1,849,515. Daily average 40,319. GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK, Treasurer.

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

Those undertakers in convention here proved to be live ones. The senate debate is all wool and considerably over a yard wide.

Bellevue college has given diplomas to thirteen graduates. No superstitious fear there.

Muskogee has an election scandal now. A "School for Scandal" must be located in Oklahoma.

If flies and mosquitoes are such dangerous things, why not add a fly squadron to the mosquito fleet?

To the charge of "spurious non-partisanship" the World-Herald enters a plea of confession and avoidance.

This western country is on the water wagon, but the only trouble appears to be that the vehicle is overloaded.

The testimony in the Howard Gould divorce case indicates that it costs a few to keep up a really fashionable establishment.

A German cavalry team captured the king's cup in the hurdle event at the London horse show. More grief for Great Britain.

A French law compels the disinfection of all school books, but a large part of the national literature continues unsterilized.

The house of representatives was in session all of eleven minutes the other day. The life of a congressman is getting too strenuous.

An Oklahoman 105 years old has been fined for whipping his wife. If that youngster does not look out he will land in the reform school.

The latest is a merger of the chewing gum companies. Are there none of life's necessities that are to escape the maw of these grasping combinations?

Mrs. Russell Sage is said to be giving money away at the rate of \$25,000 a day. And just to think, poor Russell lived on 3-cent lunches to save up a fortune.

Nearing the close of the twenty-third week of the Calhoun bribery trial in San Francisco, the state concluded its testimony. That comes pretty near being a record.

Mayor Jim says he will stay on the job continuously, if necessary, to protect his appointees. Surely he had no idea that he was elected mayor to chase around the country as an advertising agent.

The business agent of the Chicago Cab Drivers' union has called in a phrenologist to examine the heads of members. That is hardly fair to the phrenologist to bring him in just after a strike in which bricksbats figured.

The World-Herald has not been in the habit of supporting republican candidates for supreme judge—World-Herald.

No, and it is not likely to get the habit unless it sees a chance to use a republican candidate to pull a demopop candidate along with him.

Omaha's police passed their annual inspection and received a verbal bouquet from the mayor congratulating them on their good work. This will be first notice to readers of our local yellow journals that the police force has been doing good work.

A Back Fire.

In his commencement oration at the University of Nebraska Senator John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, among other things, said:

"The south believes in representative institutions and is not ready to barter them away for direct rule of the people. If the people are incapable of selecting honest representatives, then how much more are they capable of governing themselves."

After trying to carry a national campaign to success on the slogan, "Let the people rule," for Mr. Williams to accept an engagement to speak at Lincoln, procured for him by Bryan influence, and then to start a democratic backfire on Mr. Bryan's pet theories does not seem to accord with the rules of political etiquette.

This shot is plainly aimed at the initiative and referendum, which Mr. Bryan has taken up and which he urged upon the recent Nebraska legislature and other legislatures, and is intended as notice that the southern democrats are not disposed to take kindly to it. Of course, the reason can be easily found by inspection of the political conditions prevailing in the south.

Before his elevation to the senate Mr. Williams, himself, represented a Mississippi district in congress for years, being elected and re-elected by a few hundred votes, where a representative from a northern state would have to have as many thousands votes to be elected. In Mississippi the idea of popular rule goes no further than rule by a small minority of the people, so entrenched behind disfranchising election laws and actual fraud at the polls that the real choice of all the people is never registered. The southern democrats have taken to the direct primary, but for an entirely different purpose from that of the northern people, who favor it. In the north the purpose of the direct primary is to permit the people to nominate their candidates, as well as to elect them, whereas in the south the purpose of the primary is to prevent the people from having a voice in the nominations and to substitute the minority nominations for the final election.

Report on Deep Waterways.

Deep waterways enthusiasts will be disappointed with the report of the army engineers on the fourteen-foot channel proposition for the Mississippi river. The report, however, must not be regarded as discouraging to the general demand for waterway improvements simply because it hits one particular project. The engineers show no disposition to decry the feasibility of river navigation or the need for making navigation safe and certain. But they insist that an eight-foot channel on the upper river and nine foot on the lower reaches are sufficient for all practical purposes and can be secured at reasonable outlay. There is force to their contention that boats designed for river navigation are not fitted for ocean traffic. One must fight tortuous channels and swift currents and the other the heavy strain of pounding seas and the smaller cost per ton of cargo capacity in the seagoing ship should counterbalance the expense of transshipping cargoes.

The encouraging feature of the report is the statement that eight and nine-foot channels can be created and maintained at a moderate expense. If this is true the inland rivers of the country can be made the greatest water traffic highways in the world. The commerce now carried in three and five-foot channels in German and Russian rivers is proof of this. In Germany the length of haul by river is much less than would be the average in the United States, and yet in Germany millions of tons of freight are carried by boat to tidewater and transhipped. If the estimated cost of a fourteen-foot channel is even approximately correct it would mean the absorption upon a single project of all the money we could devote to waterway improvement for years to come. The waterways movement must be kept within the lines of practicability if it is to command popular support.

The Family as a Social Unit.

The National Conference of Charities and Corrections at Buffalo have devoted its time to no more important subject than that which elicited a discussion of the family as a social unit and the necessity of protecting it against disruption. From the beginning of organized society the family has been its foundation stone and nothing else has been evolved to take its place. The present-day outcry against divorce is but a protest against family disruption and the laws against the labor of women and children are intended to safeguard the family.

That contingencies may and do occasionally arise justifying the voluntary or forcible severing of family ties will admit, and it is sometimes a safety valve to society and the salvation of the individuals to separate parents and children even to the extent of breaking up family relations. There is such a thing, however, as permitting this disrupting tendency to go too far and there is no question but that the divorce courts, juvenile courts, child saving societies and kindred organizations, which are most useful in their own field, have at times outrun all proper limits.

So long as the family continues to be the social unit, the responsibility of parents should be strengthened and enforced rather than impaled by relieving them of duties that should be devolved upon them. If the destruction of parental discipline on one side or the other results in weakening the family and sets an example for shirking parental obligations as a conse-

quence of the intrusion of charitable or correctional authorities, more harm than good will be done to society. The divorce courts, juvenile courts, detention homes and reform schools should be the last resort only after all efforts to reform the home and restore conjugal fidelity or parental authority have failed.

Gainers by Modern Progress.

A distinguished French investigator, Georges D'Avenal, gives to the world the result of his inquiries into the effect of modern progress upon the various classes of people and he reaches conclusions decidedly at variance with commonly accepted ideas. He does not affirm or deny that there are greater accumulations of wealth than in the past, but insists the rich can buy comparatively little more personal comfort with their money than formerly, while the poor and middle classes live much better, are better clothed and have more of the pleasures of life than ever before.

One cogent reason is that in all ages the rich have possessed all the comforts the world afforded. Having more money to spend can procure no more and adds only ostentatious display. As an illustration M. D'Avenal cites the millionaire riding in a private car while the masses ride in the common coach, whereas in times past the rich rode in carriages or on horseback and the masses stayed at home. Modern invention has so cheapened the utilities which minister to the creature comforts that all can enjoy in a measure what in the past was only within the reach of the rich.

The most forceful argument advanced rests on the shortening of the hours of labor and the creation of diversions open to the public without expense. The old-time workday was measured by the power of physical endurance or the hours of daylight. There was neither time for pleasures nor physical vitality to take the opportunity. The toiler was chained to his environment and his limited horizon inspired little hope of bettered condition. There has always been want and squalor in the world as there is today, but careful study leads to the conclusion that a larger per cent of the total population enjoys the reasonable comforts of life than ever before.

Honoring the Wrights.

After receiving unstinted honors abroad the Wright brothers have at last been accorded suitable recognition in their own country. President Taft presenting the medals of the Aero club to the inventors.

The Wrights are not only entitled to credit because they have achieved results in a scientific field which had defied other investigators and inventors, but because they have given an exceptional exhibition of American pluck. They risked everything, even their lives, on their judgment and persevered under the most discouraging circumstances. What ultimate results their discoveries may lead to, no man can tell. In the present state of development the army is the only organization which can put the aeroplane to any practical use, but President Taft voiced the common hope that air navigation might be developed to more humanitarian and practical purposes.

It is not belittling the achievements of the Wrights to recognize the fact that the aeroplane is still a crude and unsatisfactory affair. It is too delicate and uncertain in its movements and its powers of flight too limited to accomplish much. The first railway locomotive was hardly more than a toy, yet it opened the way for a mighty forward step in human progress. With the principle demonstrated development of the aeroplane may some day work no less a revolution.

Whatever may prove to be its uses, it must be gratifying to our pride that American citizens should have been in the van in a world-wide effort to tame the elements.

Another police souvenir picture book is to be unloaded on the community under cover of a division of profits with the police relief fund. This species of refined graft should have no countenance from the police authorities. If anyone wants to contribute to the police relief fund he should be permitted to do so without dividing with outside professional solicitors. As a matter of fact the police relief fund ought not to be dependent on a levy of contributions from people under police regulation or protection, even though supposed to be voluntary.

Another war scare has been punctured. It was reported a consignment of 30,000 rifles was in the United States intended to be used by Castro in a revolution in Venezuela, but investigation discloses that the rifles belong to a western mail order house, which will sell them to farmers for exterminating jack rabbits and coyotes.

John Sharp Williams revamps Jeremy Bentham's catch phrase that "That government is best which governs least." If John Sharp should wake up he might discover that this moss-covered dogma has been rejected by every modern publicist and political scientist who has any recognized standing.

Another question which might be pertinent in connection with the pretended conversion of the demopops to the idea of a non-partisanship is this, When did a demopop governor of Nebraska ever appoint a republican to any vacancy on the bench?

Postal inspectors think they turned an unusual trick in recovering stolen money from a man's wooden leg. That

is nothing—many a dollar has been secured by leg-pulling.

President L. W. Hill of the Great Northern denies the report that a plan has been devised for merging the various Hill roads into one corporation. Probably a case of "I regret to report."

A New York man who committed suicide in a hotel left a note begging the proprietor's pardon and promising not to do it again. Nothing will make some folks forget their politeness.

The Last Guest. Cleveland Plain Dealer. General Corbin says he made President Taft. Tom Platt says he made Mr. Roosevelt. Now guess, children, who made W. J. Bryan.

Steering Up Trouble. St. Louis Times. In our judgment the railways in Missouri will hardly lay up a great fund of popularity by exacting their pound of flesh in the matter of passenger fares.

That Would Start Things. Chicago Record-Herald. Perhaps if the advocates of an income tax would specify that it should be laid only upon people whose incomes are less than \$5,000 a year there would be some enthusiasm for it in the senate.

An Army on the Job. Philadelphia Press. There are now 25,833 men employed in digging the Panama canal. Rather a remarkable condition of affairs at a place where, according to the prophetic pessimists, it would be impossible to get enough labor to achieve material progress with the great undertaking.

Dispensing Sweetness and Light. Detroit News. Mr. Bryan has a new lecture entitled, "Watchman, What of the Night?" It is pathetic to think of this big country having to struggle through at least four years of total darkness, with only the light of a lullaby dip, as Colonel Bryan lights one here and there at \$500 per.

Much Work Ahead. St. Louis Globe Democrat. The tariff has a long fight before it can be straggled through and then will come the big struggle in the conference committee. The national law-makers will celebrate their Fourth of July in Washington this year, but whether the holiday will be safe and sane or not will depend on the sort of work which the senate does in the next two or three weeks.

RAILROAD REGULATION.

Peculiar Conjunction of Managerial Cries, "Let Us Alone." Philadelphia Press.

By a peculiar conjunction of events E. H. Harriman, James J. Hill and Charles S. McMillan have recently had stress upon them that they term "too much legislation." These three distinguished railroad chieftains take the common ground that non-interference by the public is the proper course to pursue. This is a natural way for railroad presidents and corporation managers to look at it. They much prefer to be alone. They find it more congenial to manage things without anyone to say yes or no. But what about the much greater army of individuals collectively known as the public? What about the thousands of shippers who must pay all the freight that the railroads haul? What about the millions of passengers the railroads carry?

A railroad is by no means a private business enterprise. It is a public affair and therefore subject to public supervision to a certain extent. To what extent, of course, admits of an honest difference of opinion.

It is a certainty that the people of the United States, by a vast majority, oppose the federal or state ownership of railroads. But it is now just as certain that an equally big majority favor a wise regulation of the railroads.

Mr. Hill is the steadiest declaimer against state and federal laws aimed at the control of railroads. That is because the states through which his railroads extend are constantly trying to hold those roads in restraint.

An examination of freight and passenger rates helps the matter and general accommodations furnished by standard lines of the east and those of the west will convince any eastern shipper that there is a reason for this constant agitation of western people in regard to railroads.

The average dividend paid by the big western roads is larger than the average dividend paid by the eastern trunk lines. The shippers, seeing this, naturally complain when he also sees that the western roads charge very much higher rates than the eastern lines.

The query stands thus: Is it fair for the western companies to charge such high rates in order to keep up their dividends above eastern dividends?

POLITICAL DRIFT.

The Chicago Record-Herald, in the recent judicial campaign, won out on ten candidates out of fourteen supported for election.

General Corbin of Ohio, break into print to tell a busy world how he discovered William Howard Taft, and pointed out the road to the presidency. General Corbin is on the retired list, and needs the advertising.

In a disquisition on the folly of hoodlums incriminating themselves, the Missouri Supreme court intimates that an alderman who accepts marked bills in payment of his vote cannot be compelled to identify himself with the Chicago police with instructions to quash the indictment.

The defeated majority candidate of the Good Government party in Boston has a pretty exalted opinion of his own value. He is suing alleged detractors for \$75,000, \$50 damages sustained by reason of their attacks on him during the campaign. He claims to be professionally, politically and physically injured to that amount.

A distinguished trait of the late Colonel A. K. McClure, the Philadelphia editor, was his inability to stay hitched to a party machine. Independent political movements commanded his support often than regular party lines. In other words, the block was never well adapted to regular warfare, but as a leader of a forlorn hope, he was sublime.

Mayor J. Barry Mebold of Baltimore, has put in service, a fine, big municipal water wagon, with seats enough for all the city employes under him. In other words, the mayor has served notice that servants of the municipality must stay sober. Hereafter, says the mayor, the man who wants to work for the city "must keep straight and let whiskey alone."

In Other Lands

Side Lights on What is Transpiring Among the Near and Far Nations of the Earth.

British politics at the present time afford the instructive spectacle of a reputed conservative government giving official and semi-official sanction to economic policies, regarded only a few years ago as the vapors of cranks. Some of these tentative policies are put forth as feelers, to test public sentiment, and get the direction of political currents. Others have been enacted into law, or form part of pending measures. Restoring the land to the people of Ireland, begun in a half-hearted way a few years ago, has become a settled policy, and compulsory sale must follow as a means of ending the evils of feudal landlordism. The proposed tax on land values, embodied in the pending budget, is considered by land owners as a distinct step toward Henry Georgeism. Besides this, the budget reaches out and lays a heavy hand on wealth, the weight of the hand increasing in proportion to the size of the income or the estate. The higher the income or the inheritance, the higher is the percentage exacted by the government. These proposals cause intense indignation among the property holding class, and corresponding enthusiasm among the vastly greater class of nominal taxpayers. Hence the political barometer of the liberal party indicates clearing skies after many disquieting storms. The courage and dash of Lloyd George in his revenue getting plans, have a rival for public favor in Winston Churchill's schemes to set up state insurance against unemployment. For boldness of conception and dazzling possibilities, the proposal astounds the torpid and gives the liberals a much wider view of political life than it has enjoyed for a year. The insurance scheme has not taken definite shape, but the principle and purpose were outlined by the author in a public address at Manchester. These measures, both active and tentative, indicate clearly the trend of economic legislation in conservative Britain, and their development will be watched with world-wide interest.

A sensational story from Rome, printed in a London newspaper gives a melancholy picture of conditions in the districts devastated by earthquake in southern Italy and the alleged waste of the millions contributed for the relief of the sufferers. It is stated that the donations available for immediate application aggregate about \$1,000,000. According to figures furnished by the president of the central relief committee the subscriptions were approximately as follows: Great Britain, \$600,000; Argentina, which has a large Italian population, \$400,000; Germany, which is Italy's ally, \$400,000; France, \$300,000, and the United States, \$200,000. In addition to these amounts the Catholic church collected \$1,500,000, and there were various sums from other countries, which have not been computed.

The Italian contributions were naturally by far the largest of all. They comprised the sum of \$3,000,000, which Parliament voted for immediate use, and the further sum of \$1,000,000, in the form of sur-taxes, the collection and expenditure of which are to be extended over a series of years, and which is to be employed in restoring public services throughout the stricken region. These contributions were of money only. They take no account of the great quantities of provisions and of other supplies transmitted to the scene of the earthquake. According to the letter referred to, the reorganization of life in the principal ruined cities has not yet been begun. The central committee has spent \$4,450,000 in relieving the immediate necessities of the victims, and it has set aside large sums for rearing orphans and other charities. This has practically exhausted its resources and it has a balance of only \$15,775 in its possession.

Discussion of a partisan character is going on in Ireland and England over the delayed publication of a letter from Theodore Roosevelt, president, to Ambassador Bryce, dated March 2, in which the work of Sir Horace Plunkett in the cause of country life betterment in Ireland and the United States is acknowledged and complimented. "Before I leave the presidency," Mr. Roosevelt wrote, "I want to acknowledge our debt, and send through you the thanks of every man who knows what has been done and sees the need and the sure results of this great movement for the man and woman who feed the nation and stand as the foundation of its greatness and progress." The justice of the tribute to the unselfish work of the noted Irishman is conceded, but appreciation of the compliment and its source is marred by the petty accusation that the British ministry suppressed publication of the letter for two months out of regard for the feelings of members of the Irish national party. Mr. Plunkett is a conservative in politics, a staunch party man. He is opposed to the policies of the liberal party and its allies, the Irish nationalists. The fact that he was superseded as head of the Department of Agriculture of Ireland by the liberal ministry benched a prop from under the pie counter of the Tories. A few of the crumblers in the department fell to the nationalists. In the eyes of the Tories this is a crime little short of treason, and the party guilty of the offense is condemned beyond hope of pardon.

By invoking the assistance of the secret cable code of the State department at Washington, the marriage of an American woman to a bogus foreign nobleman was delayed, if not wholly prevented. Definite information was sent to friends of the bride-to-be advising the assumed nobleman that he was an adventurer and the husband of a wife living in Brooklyn, N. Y. Aside from the feelings of disgust provoked by the tuff-hunting craze, it is a wonder more of the crop of fool marriages are not taken in. Europe has an over supply of bogus noblemen. The real article is venerated vice, the bogus merely a deception in the shady region. In France at the present moment the government is endeavoring to separate the real from the fraudulent, and the winning process brings to light a vast number of titled humbugs. Every holder of a title being required to prove its genuineness as a specific grant, or one formally recognized by the government, has caused a wholesale shedding of bogus plumes among Frenchmen. The French record, when made up, will be unique in one respect. The owner of a title will have a tax certificate to substantiate his nobility.

A correspondent of a London newspaper, writing from Constantinople, relates some curious stories about the investigation of Yildiz Kiosk after the ex-sultan's departure for Salonika. Hidden rooms, false doors, movable planks in the floors, were found on all floors. A locksmith who was opening a safe warned those present to stand back, as he feared an explosion. As soon as the door turned on its hinges pistols were fired automatically. The Eunch Nadid, who was employed as an informer, was taken through the palace handcuffed as a shield, but the investigators were very cautious, as they were warned of traps and ambushes. At some of the windows were sad figures of Abdul Hamid, said to be admirably made, so

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placed as to induce the belief that the sultan was really there when he was somewhere else. These stories are fresh enough to stand a dash of salt, but they disclose a vein of attractive richness for up-to-date makers of comic opera.

The shadows are gathering steadily and closing in around the life of Joseph Chamberlain, the dashing, venturesome and fickle British statesman. Less than ten years ago he ranked second only to Lord Salisbury in the conservative unionist ministry, and was chiefly responsible for the war on the Boer republics. Authentic information states that he is in a very feeble condition, his mind is clouded and his body in a semi-paralyzed state. Recently he returned to England from a protracted stay in the Riviera, and was observed at Dover landing with tottering footsteps supported by his son. It is difficult to conceive of the transformation within three short years of Britain's greatest champion of imperialism into such a helpless being.

THE EMPIRE. St. Louis Republic. (With apologies to the Vampire.) A fool there was, and he made his prayer. (Even as you and I) To the raging rabble assembled there. For a soda bottle had struck him square in the back of the neck, and it made him swear. (Even as you and I).

Oh, the cheers we waste, And the jeers we waste, And the pennant hopes we had planned. Belong to the man who did not know (And now we know that he will never know) That Murphy had beaten Sullivan's throw. And he could not understand. They mused his hair and they tore his pants. Just to make him understand; Then turned in a call for the ambulance. The work of our heart and hand. But all they could find of that empire there. Was a tag and a bone and a hank of hair. They had certainly done him up for fair. For he could not understand. Oh, it isn't the shame And it isn't the blame. That stings like a white-hot brand. It's the thought of losing a game that was won. Thro' an ignorant, meanly son-of-a-gun Who could not understand.

MIRTHFUL REMARKS.

"Do you think there is much gratitude in politics?" "Yes," answered Senator Sorghum; "but it is hard to locate. As a rule it is something that every one is hoping to find in somebody else."—Washington Star. "Folded again," said the chocolate drop, as he was enveloped in his silver wrapping. —Harvard Lampoon. "Your husband says that during your quarrel you used a flatiron on him." "Well, your honor, you see I was trying to smooth things over."—Cleveland Leader. "Mr. Meekum, don't you think a woman should receive a man's pay when she does a man's work?" "Why—er—look at the other side of the question a moment, will you? Think how

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