

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. I, George B. Tschuck, 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 June, 1909, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Number of copies and Total. Rows include various circulation figures for different days and totals.

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 21st day of July, 1909. M. J. WALKER, Notary Public.

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

An Arkansas merchant advertises: "I want eggs, and I want them bad." No objection.

President Taft simply pointed up to the signboard to show the congressmen they had taken the wrong road.

"Where there is mist there is hope," says the Baltimore Sun. Yes, but it is a forlorn-looking hope after 8 p. m.

The time for filing for places on the official primary ballot has expired, but time has not been called on withdrawals.

Thirteen more Turks have been hanged, and there will be no one to dispute that the number was unlucky for the victims.

Mayor Jim says the city tax levy can be cut \$50,000. A good pruning knife skillfully wielded could cut off more than that.

Over \$40,000 worth of leeches were imported into the United States last year. No wonder the treasury surplus is disappearing.

What with the war on the fly, the mosquito and the common drinking cup, it will soon be impossible for an honest germ to make a living.

Another regulation which the automobilists should be compelled to observe is that requiring the display of lights, front and back, after dark.

A noted evangelist has put the automobile on his bad list, probably because if his satanic majesty gets an automobile he cannot hope to catch him.

San Francisco has another trial of the Calhoun case on tap, and the struggle to keep off the jury will probably be as strenuous as on the previous occasion.

Lincoln's police judge has ruled that Havelock saloon keepers may deliver beer in Lincoln. Can it be possible that there is a demand in Lincoln for beer?

The water in Lake Michigan is reported three inches higher than for several years. This hot weather must have driven Chicago people to the bathing beaches.

Chicago police announce that spooning is to be permitted in the parks. The police evidently took cognizance of the fact that it existed whether they willed it or not.

In spite of the destruction of over 600 moonshine stills in Georgia last year, it is confidently asserted any well-posted man there can tell where to get a taste of pinetop.

The wife of the German ambassador has given Mrs. Taft a two-volume edition de luxe. Let us hope this is not loaded, as have been so many such editions, to the sorrow of rich men's wives.

New York men must be poor marksmen, for one of them who shot at a woman. A man who could not hit the present style woman's hat has no business fooling with a gun.

The privilege of going to Lincoln at personal expense to help frame a party platform does not seem to be in great demand in any of the political parties.

At any rate, there are no signs yet of a bargain counter rush on either side of the political fence.

Tariff Progress.

President Taft may have some difficulty in securing the desired modifications in the pending tariff bill, but for all that there is every reason to believe he will succeed in what he has undertaken, because the people are unquestionably behind him in his effort.

It is this sectionalism which presents the greatest obstacles to reaching an agreement in the conference committee. Certain senators and congressmen, who are with the president in his stand for a general revision of the tariff downward, still contend for local industries, and thus complicate the situation, but there is no reason why a majority should not finally get together on a bill which will meet the president's approval and prove acceptable to the country.

With all the noise that is being made, there are really only a few schedules on which the president and the conferees are reported to differ seriously, and even if rumors are true, these differences are not irreconcilable. It is not to be expected that senators and congressmen will yield to the president without protest on items deemed of importance, to their constituencies, but when the smoke has all cleared away it will be seen that the president has won material concessions, and that, before he signs it, the bill will fairly meet his ideas of what the party promised the country.

Uncalled For.

On the excuse of providing against a falling off of revenue from liquor licenses for next year as a consequence of the 8 o'clock closing law the school board has increased its requisition for a school levy by 2 mills.

Whether the board is justified in figuring on a decrease of license money to the extent it has is open to question. It is a fact that for years the actual revenue from this source has materially exceeded the estimates made by the board's financiers, but has never been taken into account by them to give the taxpayers relief.

Outside of this, however, the board still persists in taking \$25,000 a year out of the taxpayers' pockets for the construction account, which has already been provided for by the proceeds of bonds voted at successive elections and still unexpended. The board's estimate includes, besides this \$25,000, another \$60,000 toward the bond redemption fund, making an annual tax of \$85,000 for building purposes in addition to the bonds that have been voted. It seems to us that if the taxpayers put up their share of the bond redemption fund from year to year there is no good reason why they should be loaded down further with a construction charge of \$25,000 a year.

The school board's estimates have been generally padded and a disposition to reduce the tax burden would easily accomplish the result, or at least hold the school levy down to what it was last year.

Punishing House Insurgents.

Washington advice are that the so-called house insurgents will not fare well in committee places when Speaker Cannon makes his announcement on the closing day of the special session. The insurgents would undoubtedly be surprised if the reverse should happen. They made the fight to curtail the speaker's power and lost, and could not expect to be specially favored in committee distributions. Should they be, they would be open to a suspicion of having recanted and made their peace with the speaker, and in the end weaken their influence in the house.

Among those said to be under the speaker's ban are Norris of Nebraska, Murdock of Kansas and Davis of Minnesota, and, as they all had good committee places in the last congress, there is some speculation where they will be placed. Speaker Cannon has been silent on the question, and neither the three men nor their friends have been able to get an inkling what is in store for them, and it is jokingly predicted that they may be placed on the committee on acoustics. Whatever Speaker Cannon does, there is every indication that both sides to the controversy intend to stand their ground.

Defends Its Wheat Estimate.

The Department of Agriculture comes back with a defense of its March estimate of wheat in farmers' hands, which was assailed by bull leaders in the wheat pit during the May deal. So far as it relates to the May deal, of course, the showing is immaterial, except as bearing upon the reliability of the department's estimates. The service costs the government a considerable sum, and if it were unreliable it would be more than money wasted, for misleading information is worse than none.

Taking public elevator and grain exchange records of stock in sight July 1 in public elevators and milling centers, together with consumption during the four intervening months as a basis, the department makes out a strong case in support of its early

figures on grain in farmers' hands, indicating the amount was over, rather than under, the department's estimate. The department certainly has greater facilities for ascertaining the facts than any single dealer or group of dealers can have, and the discrepancy between the figures of the government officials and those of the grain brokers was so great that it could not be accounted for by any ordinary error of judgment.

The official figures are the only safeguard the public has against manipulative stories, and the showing made in this case will tend to give them greater credence in the future under similar conditions.

Campaign Funds in Colorado.

Colorado has a new law regulating campaign expenses and method of raising the money, which is exploited by Governor Shafroth in The Independent. He recommends it as a means of purifying elections by shutting out corporation contributions and decreasing the amount of available campaign funds. The plan in brief is to pay out of the state treasury 25 cents for each voter, and add to this 40 per cent of the first year's salary of each office, as an assessment of the candidate. The state's contribution under this plan will be \$65,250, divided between the parties in proportion to the vote cast by each, half going to the state campaign managers and half to the county committees. This would give each party in Colorado a state campaign fund of about \$32,000, to which should be added the assessments of candidates.

Some idea of how far the law would operate to purify elections may be judged by Nebraska experience. In other than presidential years the total campaign funds available to the state committee of the two parties in Nebraska do not exceed \$10,000 each, or less than one-third the state's contribution to each party in Colorado. As Nebraska, without woman suffrage, polled over 5,000 more votes than Colorado, with woman suffrage, in 1908, campaigning in Colorado must be expensive, if the amount set aside is considered moderate and assuring freedom from corrupt elections.

The Colorado law will provide poverty-stricken parties with a campaign fund and enable a party with no show of election to carry on a campaign to keep intact party organization, but as to preventing corruption in elections it looks more like an aid than a brake.

Suspended.

The decision of Judge Troup suspending the provision of the law requiring warrants against the county treasurer to be held ten days to permit of protest by taxpayers, insofar as it applies against warrants drawn in favor of the new court house contractor, does not look good to us. The ten-day limit for delivery of warrants was plainly intended to safeguard the taxpayers against treasury raids, with or without the connivance of their public officials. It is a good rule, which has been enforced for many years, and no reason has been presented why it should be abolished or exceptions made to it.

Judge Troup seems to think that the county board can, by simply inserting this part of the law by simply inserting the proper proviso in the agreement. Of course, everyone who contracts with the county does so subject to the law, and presumably knowing that he will have to wait ten days for his money after any claim is allowed. If Judge Troup's ruling stands it will provide additional responsibility upon the architect, who alone will be in position to check up the estimates of the contractor in the interest of the taxpayers. The ruling of Judge Troup does not appeal to us as either good business or the intent of the law.

Franchises.

If either the electric lighting company or the street railway company, both of which have been using the streets of Omaha for the distribution and sale of electric power, have no franchises for that purpose they will have to come to the people asking for such franchises if they want to continue in the power supply business. The decision of Judge Munger denying the claim of the electric light company to a power franchise is subject to an appeal and will doubtless be carried to the court of last resort. The right of the electric light company to use the streets for this purpose was originally challenged by the late city engineer and the right of the street railway company to sell power to private users is scarcely defended by the street railway people themselves.

If the city still has these valuable franchises unissued it should be of tremendous importance to our taxpayers and the city authorities should take every necessary step to maintain those rights. If later we should come to the granting of new franchises it will resolve itself into a question of making satisfactory terms to secure ratification by popular vote. In the meantime if the city has anything further coming to it for unauthorized use of its streets without a franchise it should not waive any of its legal prerogatives.

An unconfirmed rumor is afloat that Abdul Hamid, the shah of Persia, Castro and Reyes intend to elect Bryan to honorary membership in the Out-of-a-Job club. Never having connected with the job does not permit of full honors, but our distinguished Nebraska is entitled to recognition for trying.

Annexation sentiment seems to be growing, not only in South Omaha, but also in the smaller suburban

towns that adjoin Omaha. So far as Omaha is concerned, if there is any advantage to be gained from consolidation it must be brought about before next year's census.

In view of the campus plan for the medical department of the State university which is to be located in Omaha, regret is expressed that no such plan has been followed in the construction of the university buildings at Lincoln, and it is feared that it is too late to make the latter conform to any systematic and artistic design. The only suggestion one can offer is to recall the old adage, "It's never too late to mend."

The geological survey states that at the present rate of consumption the petroleum supply of the United States will not last over fifty years. If it is really going that fast there is hope that some day the powers that be will permit the Wyoming oil fields to be developed.

Considerable excitement prevails over the reported finding of gold on a Wisconsin farm. Nebraska farmers have been digging gold out of Nebraska farms for years, and there is a good rich color in every paul of it.

The ballot to be used at the coming primary in Douglas county will be two and a half feet wide and three feet long. The next legislature will doubtless bring it within the provisions of the nine-foot bed sheet law.

The Federation of Women's clubs insist that if they must have whiskey they have it straight, but it is fair to presume they are acting on the advice of their more expert husbands' clubs.

The Sugar Trust magnates are in just about as big a hurry for a vindication as Governor Haakell, and they want it so bad they, too, have asked to have their trial postponed.

Those African lions are showing a fine discrimination. When they want to chase somebody they pick on guides and porters and discreetly wait until Mr. Roosevelt is out of sight.

Who Cares—in Hot Weather. Washington Herald.

"We have coal enough to last for 7,300 years to come," announces the Department of Commerce and Labor. That puts the department several thousand years and a few months ahead of the average citizen.

Returning Their Own Product. Philadelphia Record.

To the representative of the distressed fruit growers of California, whom "ruin is impending" if the tariff be reduced, President Taft good-humoredly handed a lemon which he can suck at his leisure.

Stands Without Hitching. St. Paul Dispatch.

Former United States Senator Allen is leading the fight against the bank deposit guaranty law in Nebraska. It is but a few years since Allen could get within speaking distance of a bank without throwing a denunciation of the Money Power.

A Vindication for Shaw. Boston Transcript.

Leslie M. Shaw has been vindicated. As secretary of the treasury he never believed in paying any part of the expenses of the Panama canal out of current revenues. He thought there should be a bond issue representing its total cost as an element of popular education in order that the great enterprise might be marked suitably in the financial history of the country.

While in his time this policy was not adopted by reason of the redundancy of money, the treasury arrangements are today making for carrying it out.

Ill-Mannered People at the 'Phone. Philadelphia Record.

In Iowa the supreme court has fully sustained the right of an undesirable subscriber to compel a telephone company to restore their service after it was discontinued for bad manners. This person was in the habit of using profanity to "central," and he listened to conversations by neighbors on the same wire. Doubtless the telephone company as a common carrier, is bound to serve even ill-mannered subscribers, but the company has the right to refuse service if the subscriber's habits and speech are today making for carrying it out.

Knock for the Trusts. Springfield Republican.

This long series of the trusts—Secretary of War Dickinson's order to General Henry G. Sharpe, commissary, not to enter into any contract for supplies with a corporation which is a party to any combination in restraint of trade. This seems likely to affect pretty directly certain beef, food, clothes and tobacco combinations. If other members of the government should take similar action? The next step is for the secretary of war to decide when a combination is in restraint of trade, and this would involve a charge of illegality under the anti-trust law which the Department of Justice would have to notice.

Dawn of Peace.

Modern Engines of War Too Terrible to Practice With. San Francisco Chronicle.

The most reasonable hope of the advent of universal peace lies in the terror inspired by modern engines of war. Inventors of extraordinary destructive guns have declared and believed that they advanced the cause of peace by every improvement of the machinery for slaughter, but as heralds of peace the inventors of machine guns and \$12,000 battle ships are rebuffed by the possessor of a pair of smokeless powder, noiseless artillery and "wireless torpedoes." There is probably no danger which human courage will not face if it can be seen and openly opposed. But no human nerves can bear up under a rain of murderous shells unrelieved by smoke or sound and the terror of which falls not day or night of explosives falling from the sky above or torpedoes driven at the ship by an unseen power safely established out of reach of the ship's guns. Smokeless powder is now adopted for all military purposes. 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