

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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What the use of having a hidden brass tube if a man may not crawl into it occasionally?

The Mexican bull fight gives promise of becoming almost as risky a pastime as American football.

Those champion wrestlers, finance and the tariff, will next take a fall out of the German Reichstag.

The Hague plans to open its "Palace of Peace," which has thirteen letters, in 1913. Who's superstitious?

What can have become of French gallantry, that Mme. Steinhilf should be bounded out of the country?

With reference to the pay-as-you-enter car, "you will learn to like it," just as did Paprika Schnitzel.

The Omaha Indian supply depot is due for another melodramatic rescue in the coming session of congress.

Not having been able to get to the pole, of course Walter Wellman knows that no one else but Peary could have reached it.

As a typical Frenchman, the minister of war may be expected to reward the man who received the bullets meant for him by kissing him on both cheeks.

The World-Herald neglects to state that one of its own staff is a member of the Public Library board "that swallowed the nasty dose with touching humility."

According to official figures, we are not only getting back the shrinkage in our export trade, but gaining steadily beyond it. Now will the croaker be more cheerful?

Wary of the "Show Me" appellation, Missouri asks for a real pet name. With seven states and one territory bordering her boundaries, the old girl has been pretty well shown.

If those Sandy Hook sharpshooters cannot hit a balloon tied fast for a target, what might not a hostile fleet do. Aeronautic marksmanship must be still very much in the air.

Not a trace of nonpartisanism now in those democratic papers that before election were so loudly declaiming against submission to party ties that might prevent republicans from voting democrats into office.

Here's a scion of a New York house cut off with the mere begrudging allowance of \$50 a day. How does the old man expect the boy to pay his chauffeur's fines, to say nothing of maintaining his monogram and crest on his cigarettes?

The revelation that a royal press agent is at work to popularize the prince of Wales as the time inevitably draws near for him to assume the throne recalls that when his father was prince he was his own efficient exponent of publicity.

A committee from the Lincoln Commercial club has reported that there is no "joker" in the agreement by which the local traction company wants to compromise its corporation tax with the city. It is assumed that the committee knows a joker when it sees it.

Governor Glenn of North Carolina has come out for Governor Harmon of Ohio, General Cleveland's former attorney general, for the 1912 presidential nomination on the democratic ticket.

Governor Glenn will no longer be the welcome visitor at Fairview that he once was.

Prospects for Postal Savings.

Congressman Hitchcock's paper, the democratic World-Herald, manifests great glee over the Associated Press report from Washington to the effect that the enactment of legislation for the establishment of postal savings banks must wait on the report of the monetary commission and be considered in connection with that commission's recommendations. Whether the sources of information of the Associated Press correspondent are good or bad will transpire later, but the World-Herald, whose editor and publisher holds down a \$7,500 seat in congress for performing official functions limited to the free distribution of seeds, already wants to know "how the American people must enjoy being swindled" by the republican platform declaration for postal savings.

One would imagine that of all subjects Congressman Hitchcock's paper would be chary of tackling it would be postal savings banks. Mr. Hitchcock made four campaigns on a personal platform pledging his best efforts for postal savings. Two of these campaigns were successful and two unsuccessful, but beyond the introduction of a bill, which some one had drawn for him, his work to promote postal savings banks is not perceptible. After "swindling" his constituents four times with unfulfilled promises, in his latest campaign he took back all he had said for postal savings and embraced the ignis fatuus of deposit guaranty in its place. His postal savings bank promises of four previous campaigns were discarded off-hand and he played to the galleries in joint debate as the champion of private banks safeguarded by a guaranty fund.

But what is the World-Herald editor going to do now when he returns to congress? Will he go back to his first love of postal savings, or will he work to that object with the republicans who favor it? Or will he stay with the democrats clamoring for deposit guaranty, which he knows he cannot get? If postal savings is defeated or indefinitely deferred it will be because it gets no help from democrats like Congressman Hitchcock, who talk on both sides and do nothing.

The Public Domain.

Secretary Ballinger's suggestions for legislation affecting the public domain appear to be based on a thorough inquiry into the defects of existing laws for meeting the conservation and reclamation policy of the Roosevelt and Taft administrations. It is evident from the text of Mr. Ballinger's report that congress had in the beginning too little forethought concerning public lands, and that we have on the whole been too prodigal with our riches, as a result of which much substance has been wasted that with proper provision might have been safeguarded. Remedial laws seem to be among the immediate needs of the land office administration particularly governing the coal lands in Alaska, and giving more definite authority appertaining to coal, oil, phosphate and other deposits in the states, as well as water and timber rights.

Properly avoiding any controversial comment on the admitted mistakes of the past, Mr. Ballinger wants their lessons made the foundation for enlightened effort toward future control of the resources still within public control. Whether the government should retain control through a system of leasing or through supervising restrictions, is for congress to determine, but the public interests call for immediate measures to prevent either monopoly or extortion, without, however, unnecessarily impairing or impeding development.

One point made by Mr. Ballinger should not be lost sight of in the zeal to administer the lands for the best interests of the people and against personal or corporate greed, and that is that investment in these projects is to be encouraged. The restrictions must not be made so severe that the domain continue idle, nor so costly that the excesses be charged back ultimately upon the consumer. What is wanted is thoughtful and efficient adjustment of conservation and development so that the public domain may be really devoted to the public welfare.

An American Admiralty?

Conflicting reports come from Washington concerning the recommendations of the so-called Swift board for reforms in the Navy department. This is the board of officers appointed by Secretary Meyer to investigate naval affairs here and abroad, with a view to suggesting possible improvements in our strategy and general service. Its report to Mr. Meyer has been closely guarded, but enough has been disclosed a warrant for the belief that radical reforms are in prospect.

The younger element among our sea fighters has urged the elimination of what it considers dry rot, and it is believed that this faction has to a considerable degree persuaded the Swift board to some of its proposals. Among other things the Swift board is expected to recommend reorganization of the navy yards, so that they shall be conducted on modern business principles, like private concerns, with co-ordination in all branches, and another suggested improvement said to have found favor is the removal of somewhat haphazard methods of ship-construction, so that vessels may be designed more absolutely by experts on scientific lines, instead of being left to a civilian secretary subject to congressional directions.

The most revolutionary proposal to come, however, advises establishment of an admiralty-board similar to that of Great Britain, a senior sea power

of the most eminent officers of the service to pass on all needs for an increase in naval strength and all measures for new construction. Whether congress is prepared to establish an American admiralty is open to doubt, and it is very likely also that this feature will be disapproved by Secretary Meyer in reviewing the Swift report. Such radical innovations will doubtless be left by the secretary for congress to consider apart from his own recommendations, and he will probably submit the Swift report as a separate document in addition to his own views. Our traditions and custom have been against putting too great power into the hands of an admiralty, deficient though our present bureau system may be in various particulars, and congress may be counted on to go slow in acting on any new naval program.

Uneasy Cuba.

The recrudescence of unrest in Cuba seems on first consideration to be largely a matter of partisan contention among the island politicians, in which case it may amount to no more than an exceedingly lively campaign in the next election. It must be borne in mind, however, that Cuba is in the zone where political unrest begets sudden revolutionary movements, and the history of the island is not encouraging to placid contemplation of such imbrolios as that which seems to have developed between the Gomez and Zayas constituencies.

After our past experiences with our southern neighbors, it would be distinctly discouraging, if not discomfiting, to have conditions arise that would require us to interfere again for the sake of peace and progress. It is sincerely to be hoped that the good sense of the Cubans will save us from any such further embarrassment, but in the meantime it seems to be necessary for us to maintain a watchful eye in that direction, with a view to speaking a pleasant but firm fatherly word in case the ruction gets too belligerent.

The Indian Supply Depot.

For about ten years Omaha has been the seat of one of five or six Indian supply depots, whose discontinuance is now recommended by Secretary Ballinger in his report as head of the interior department, under which the Indian bureau comes. Mr. Ballinger's reference to the supply depots is as follows:

I am strongly in favor of discontinuing the United States Indian warehouses at New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Omaha and San Francisco as soon as it is possible to clear up the business that will pass through them under the annual contract system. The Indian service is purchasing about \$2,000,000 worth of supplies each year under a system which is in nowise based on commercial methods. It is proposed to develop a system of purchasing through purchasing agents and to make arrangements for the elimination of certified checks, contracts and bonds and to provide for the settlement of all bills within discount periods—certainly not exceeding thirty days from delivery.

Mr. Ballinger does not in this make plain exactly what he wants to substitute for the warehouse system, and perhaps the details of his proposal should be awaited before passing judgment on the question of continuance or discontinuance.

It goes without saying that so long as the government provides reservation Indians with articles of food consumption, wearing apparel and household necessities there must be distributing points, and the location of these distributing points must be governed by considerations of proximity to the reservations, railway service and storage and warehouse facilities, and also by convenience of market and favorable conditions for lowest prices. Omaha met all these tests when the supply depot was located here and has continued to meet them. The same reasons which have made Omaha a desirable point for assembling and re-shipping Indian supplies in the past should make it a vantage point in any other method of distribution which may be adopted.

Watching the Payroll.

Coming so soon after the plea for an increase of salaries among government clerks, the publication of the blue book somewhat starts with its considerable increase in the aggregate of the payroll and in the number of persons on it. Next year the payroll will be swelled by \$5,000,000 more in extraordinary expenses because of the census work, and it would seem as though the agitation for a higher rate of pay for public service employes would have some serious obstacles to surmount.

Mr. Payne has voiced the sentiment not only of congressmen, but also of the people in his recent utterance that economy should be the watchword of the coming session. In the matter of the payroll the government is in the same position as that of any commercial institution, facing a never-ceasing pressure toward higher wages. It is easy to swell payrolls, and always impossible to cut them down without inflicting hardship, and in the face of the blue book figures it is well for all heads of departments in the government service to prune estimates to reasonable limits as a guidance for careful congressional appropriations.

It ought to be Omaha's ambition to be a musical center as much as it is a commercial one. But musical culture is of slower growth and requires more cultivation than do commercial ventures. Our most enthusiastic music lovers have enlisted in a movement to insure success for an annual May festival, which can be, and ought to be, made the musical event of the year. Public-spirited citizens should encourage the culture side of life in Omaha

Army Gossip

Preliminary reports have reached the War department concerning the work so far accomplished by the army board in session at Rock Island for the purpose of reducing the burden of the foot soldier. The board, under Colonel H. A. Greene, Tenth infantry, has taken up the question in a most practical way. It has gone into the subject with a thoroughness which is quite unprecedented in all the history which relates to efforts in the same direction. The board is conducting tests in the field, and its final report will be based on conclusions which are sound and which have the advantage of the demonstration of service. It is expected the work of the board will not be completed before March or April.

The adjutant general of the army has had the records searched with a view to showing the sources from which were appointed commissioned officers of the army. It appears from these statistics that 35.9 per cent of the officers on the active list of the regular army October 15 were graduates from the United States Military academy, that 12.7 per cent of those officers were appointed from the army, and that 43.7 per cent were appointed from civil life. Of the 43.7 per cent appointed from civil life, 21.3 per cent had had prior service in the army and 22.9 per cent had had no such prior service.

An interesting compilation has been made in the adjutant general's office concerning the most effective methods of advertising for recruits. The reports are in the line of the experience of previous years in favor of the sight of the recruiting flag and stationery and the use of the recruiting poster, which attracted more than half of the applicants for enlistment. Various methods have been tried in a number of the districts, such as advertising in street cars, ferry house advertising, hand bills, painted wall and fence signs, moving pictures, theater curtains and a base ball score book.

The methods adopted by army recruiting officers attract the attention of men who are likely to be candidates for enlistment have been varied and successful. The use of newspaper advertisements was discontinued last February.

Several retirements of army officers are in prospect as a result of recommendations made by boards before which these officers have lately appeared for examination as to physical fitness. Major Charles G. Dwyer, Seventeenth infantry, who appeared before a board at Governor's island, has been recommended for transfer from active list. Another officer so recommended is Colonel Edward B. Pratt, Thirtieth infantry, on duty at the Presidio of San Francisco. The army retiring board in the case of Captain A. A. Cabanias, Twenty-fourth infantry, on duty at Fort Ontario, New York, has found that officer not physically disqualified for duty. Captain Cabanias recently appeared before the board which was in session at Governor's island and of which General Leonard Wood was president. A delay has been authorized in the examination for retirement of Major William L. Buck, Tenth infantry, who is in the army general hospital at Washington and who was recently ordered before the retiring board in session in Washington.

President Taft will shortly consider the list of officers of the army who may be regarded as eligible for appointment as brigadier general in the vacancy which will take place on December 29, the date upon which, it is understood, that Brigadier General W. S. Edgerly will be retired. The list of officers of the army retiring board, which met at Governor's island, with Major General Wood as president, General Edgerly would, ordinarily, be retired on May 29, 1910, by operation of law, but his transfer from the active list will occur next month on account of incapacity for duty. He has been granted a furlough of 30 days, and on November 14, when Morton retired, and on November 14, when General A. L. Myer retired. A new chief of engineers will be appointed in June, upon the retirement of General W. L. Marshall.

The secretary of war will not issue orders for the stoppage of pay in the cases of those army officers who have been reported by the auditor for the War department as owing the government in amounts respectively paid during the war with Spain and in the Philippines for "excessing higher command" than that devolving upon them by virtue of their proper rank. Many officers have been unexpectedly confronted with an indebtedness upon the finding of the auditor, and the sum ranged from \$100 to \$2,000. As has been pointed out in these columns, the requirement, that such officers shall refer to the Treasury department the money, which has been paid them by army paymasters in good faith and received for their property and actually performed, operates as a distinct hardship. The War department authorities made an effort to have the obligation removed by legislation at the last session of congress, but, for some inexplicable reason, it was taken out of the army bill in conference. The recommendation for the relief legislation will be renewed at the coming session of congress, and, in the meantime, the secretary of war does not consider it necessary to cause the stoppage of pay of the officers so unjustly treated.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Eusapia Palladino is certainly good at materializations. She entertained thirteen people at a seance in New York the other day and by doing materialized \$600.

Governor Hadley of Missouri has recommended the erection of a monument to all the soldiers—union and confederate—of his state who fell at Vicksburg, and the papers in St. Louis are supporting the idea.

Mrs. G. W. Butler of Troy, N. Y., is ambitious to win the trap shooting championship. She is one of the best wing shots in the country, and in the last few months has shown great improvement in steadiness and accuracy.

William H. Ledstone of Parkersburg, W. Va., was buried the other day with wings. His plan was prophetic, although it may be off in detail. The great chiefains of the future will undoubtedly be followed to their graves by their faithful aeroplanes.

Referring to the report that General G. M. Dodge has given up his business office in New York and had returned to his old home in Council Bluffs to stay this time, the Des Moines Capital says: "The people of Iowa will once more give him the glad hand. Here's hoping he may stay out of business and take the rest to which he is entitled. Hereafter when he has decided to rest, somebody has induced him to build a railroad. Let us hope that he may enjoy long years of tranquility and peace."

NEBRASKA DOING THINGS.

Prize Cultivators of Corn Produce Astonishing Results.

The boys over in Nebraska are producing 14 bushels of corn to the acre. Whatever lack of efficiency there is in the conduct of public affairs under the democratic administration, the farmer boys are certainly doing their part. In the corn-raising contest for boys under 18, William A. Wieser of West Point took the \$500 prize for 14 bushels to the acre. He did all the work himself and realized \$115, including the \$50 prize, for his acre of corn. He was able to sell the corn at a premium price.

Along with this result in bushels and acres, the boys were able to make to the State Board of Agriculture a detailed statement of his work, showing intelligence and system as well as energy. Other boys who competed in this corn-raising contest showed good results, 13, 8, 7, 7 and 7 1/2 bushels to the acre, and so on down to the lowest on the list, who, on the hilly and washed-off land at Gretna, was able to produce only 2 1/2 bushels to the acre. It all shows how the farmers of Nebraska are attending to their business and are training up the boys to appreciate intelligent and proper handling of the soil.

When the young soldier of Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois returned from the war, married their sweethearts and went into the little sod houses on the prairie homesteads of Nebraska, no one dreamed of the splendid achievements they would work out in the then uncertain prairie state.

The 200,000 miles of prairie, sloping upward from the Missouri river at the rate of eight feet to the mile, was considered high and dry and was marked on the early maps as a part of the great American desert. The people of the older states, when the young folks set out to the new prairie homesteads, hoped for the best, but doubted the experiment. "There is no timber for fuel or fencing or building," they said, "no spring or running water for the stock," and what was a country good for, when the young folks set out to the new prairie homesteads, hoped for the best, but doubted the experiment. "There is no timber for fuel or fencing or building," they said, "no spring or running water for the stock," and what was a country good for, when the young folks set out to the new prairie homesteads, hoped for the best, but doubted the experiment.

Now these Nebraska farmers have the best water system and the best water in the world, and while they have no timber nor coal, they have no waste land, and every acre is either a corn, or wheat, or alfalfa, or grass-producing acre, and the money income from one of these producing acres will pay the farmer's coal bill for a year.

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Of the seven corn states in the union, Nebraska stands with Iowa and Illinois as one of the three great corn states of the world.

At the Nebraska farmers know the value of their land. They know how to get the best results and their boys know that it pays to be intelligent and to understand the soil. There are lightweight politicians, lightweight governors, lightweight congressmen and senators, but the men raisers of Nebraska are not lightweight.

Old Lessons Lost.

Baltimore American.

John Bell has a long memory, after all. The House of Lords was reminded the other day how the nation lost the United States of America.

The Steady Growth of this bank has been particularly noticeable in the exclusive Women's Department. An ideal place for the transaction of financial business, for meeting friends, and for rest after shopping. First National Bank of Omaha. United States Depository. 13th and Farnam Sts.

IMPROVING THE MISSOURI. Factors to be Considered in Devising Methods of Control. Denver Republican. It is interesting in journeying down the Missouri river the national waterways commission found the forty-five miles just above the mouth in good condition for navigation as a result of work done in the last seventeen years by the government.

TO THE CHRYSANTHEMUM. W. J. Lampton in New York World. Hall, about To whom the horticultural legends bow! You're with us now.

PASSING PLEASANTIES. "In those old times when they cut off people's heads, the train of events proceeded on one modern idea."

Edison Phonograph. You cannot judge the Edison by hearing other kinds. The Edison is the sound-reproducing machine at its best. It is not a talking machine. It is a Phonograph reproducing every sound faithfully—the song exactly the way the singer sang it; the opera exactly the way the orchestra played it; the two-step exactly the way the band rendered it.

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