

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROBEWATER.

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Entered as Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), one year, \$4.00...

OFFICES. Omaha—The Bee Building, South Omaha—Twenty-fourth and N. Council Bluffs—15 Root Street.

REMITTANCES. Remit by draft, express or postal order payable to The Bee Publishing Company.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.: George B. Tschuck, Treasurer of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn...

Table with 3 columns: Date, Circulation, Total. Rows for various dates from 1 to 15.

Special Session Talk. Special session talk again emanates from Lincoln, where some of the democratic politicians are said to be bringing pressure on Governor Shallenberger...

The Kaiser seems to think better of the sick insurance. The time has arrived for the Christmas shopper to count the days.

The Brownsville investigation thus far reveals the same old dusky hue. "Bank closed, cashier absent," may be taken as a sure sign that the cash is also.

Secretary Wilson's cornucopia will look well on Uncle Sam's Christmas tree. At any rate, Omaha's Indian supply depot will refuse to be abolished unless they are all abolished.

A lost Dauphin claim is again bothering France. This has no bearing on the case of the lost Dr. Cook. Of course, those present at the opening of the Cookery at Copenhagen will take all necessary precautions.

As the fever runs its course, the flush of the Christmas shopper will be transferred from purse to check. At the native lion-killing exhibition Mr. Roosevelt has again shown how to tread softly and carry a sharp stick.

A bureau of municipal statistics for Omaha would be very fine, especially for the statistician at \$250 per month. State Treasurer Brian has \$500,000 of state funds in hand, of which only \$5,000 are cash drawer items. That looks better.

All of the railroads centering here have put in attractive excursion rates for the Corn show. The latching is out to the whole world. Down in Lincoln a man has been fined \$25 and costs for failing to report a case of diphtheria. A few object lessons like this would be salutary in Omaha.

What's this, so many Chicago people asleep in the daytime that the street noises must be silenced? Thought Chicago used to boast it was always wide-awake. Putting a meter on telephone service would surely be resented by subscribers, unless the company can devise a graduated scale on short, common and long.

From the government's threat to investigate the speculative manipulation of the cotton market it is evidently believed that there is a cotton evil besides the weevil. Popularity of the cemeteries for animals is likely to spread. Nearly every man knows of some family pet in the neighborhood which he would like to see buried.

Now that it is no longer illegal, the rolling of a cigarette by a South Dakota boy will not be half the fun it was when he had to dodge a policeman for such a dare-devil crime. It now develops that an Iowa man whose heart had always been supposed to be in the right place has his heart on the wrong side, which is right. The case is somewhat confusing.

It turns out that it was a World-Herald reporter who made the motion for the Public Library board "to swallow the nasty dose," as the editor of that paper puts it. Get together.

No Sugar Scapegoat.

The reported refusal of a leaser official of the sugar combine to submit to being made a scapegoat for his superiors, has a welcome sound, for it indicates that out of the mouths of the offenders on the rack the full truth may come at last. No one has any desire that any scapegoat shall bear alone the scars of chastisement; what is wanted is absolute discovery and punishment of all the rascals, low and high. If a superintendent aided in frauds under orders, it may not reveal a very lofty integrity on his part, for he could have refused to obey such orders, lost his job, and exposed the whole crooked deal, but since he did follow instructions, making a clean breast of it all should bring some good out of evil. The public is in no mood to sympathize with any cloaking attempt; it wants the brand applied equally upon all in the ring.

So far as any governmental connection with the sugar frauds has been disclosed, there is no evidence of highup collusion, though there is a suggestion of official error of judgment. Mr. Gage, former secretary of the treasury, now admits that rumors of fraud came to him and that he dismissed them by passing them up to Mr. Havemeyer, believing that as an honorable business man that functionary would ferret out and put a stop to bribery and thievery, if any existed. It is naturally to be expected of any public official that he would be alert to investigate such reports for himself, rather than trust alone to the one person most interested financially.

A thorough exposure and prosecution of the sugar thieves is in prospect and no half way business will suffice.

Special Session Talk.

Special session talk again emanates from Lincoln, where some of the democratic politicians are said to be bringing pressure on Governor Shallenberger to call the legislature together once more. Just what reason there is now for a special session of the Nebraska legislature that has not existed for months is not apparent.

It is hinted that the democratic wire-pullers would like to have the legislature enact a initiative and referendum law, but the initiative and referendum was up at the regular session and was beaten then, and nothing has since occurred to show that there is any greater demand or that it would have any different fate.

The last democratic state platform called on the governor to convene the legislature at once to ratify the income tax amendment to the federal constitution in order that Mr. Bryan's home state might be first on record in favor of this proposal because of his advocacy of it. Inasmuch as other states have already acted Nebraska cannot, in the nature of things, be first on the list of ratifying states, and since it takes thirty-six and it will be at least two years before that number can possibly act, urgency for ratification by Nebraska has passed, if it ever existed.

One other possible justification urged for a special session is the deposit guaranty law which Governor Shallenberger, himself, talked during the early part of the recent campaign. But when the decision came down invalidating that law on constitutional grounds, he publicly declared that the legislative action on this subject in advance of the final decision would be uncalled for and ineffective.

Some other laws passed by the late democratic legislature have, it is true, fallen by the wayside, but they have been, almost invariably, partisan measures passed for the benefit of democratic pie-biters for whose dilemma no tears are shed. If the democratic politicians merely want the legislature brought together to mix some more political medicine it is within their privilege to beseege the governor, but the general popular demand for another dose of the kind administered to Nebraska last winter has yet to develop.

Our Crops and Our Foods.

In characterizing 1909 as the most prosperous year in American agriculture, Secretary Wilson depicts the farmer not only as a more successful champion than ever in defying drought and other crop enemies, but also as a more able general in commanding prices. It has long been a favorite plea of the consumer that he would not so much mind the increased cost of living if he felt that the original producer were reaping the benefit. This cry may come home to roost, for Mr. Wilson produces statistics to show that in the upward movement of prices since 1896 the products of the farm have fared better than any other large class of commodities.

To this there is one exception, which will touch the public on a sore point. In unfed beef cattle the farm price has barely begun to rise above the price level of ten to twelve years ago, yet the secretary's personally conducted investigation into the prices of meats shows the retail dealers charging an average of 35 per cent above wholesale prices, and in many cases the retailer's margin goes above 50 per cent. The retailer, who hitherto has pleaded immunity, confronts a substantial indictment in the Wilson report.

Aside from its interesting and valuable records of the banner year, the department demonstrates its usefulness in the review of beneficial work done for the public in the pure food and drug crusade and in the propagation of advanced ideas for more intelligent and intensive soil cultivation. The nation's prosperity is based in so great a measure on that of the farmer,

that every citizen will welcome this exhibit manifesting the agriculturist's gains.

The Switchmen's Strike.

In the strike of the railroad switchmen, does it appear that the public has been taken sufficiently into account? An unbiased observer is apt to conclude, from all the evidence at hand up-to-date, that both sides have permitted themselves to reach the point of exasperation prematurely, which is not conducive to sane settlement of controversies. And the resultant strike was precipitated just at a time when the railroads ought to have their full facilities in operation to accommodate the holiday travel and to handle the traffic of the busy season's trade.

As is usual in all such cases, the public is the buffer between the disputants. And as such it has a right to have its voice heard. That voice is undoubtedly for arbitration of difficulties affecting common carriers. The roads and the men were not so extremely far apart when the strike was called and it would seem that they might yet get together for rational adjustment in the interests of both themselves and the public. Strikes are costly, and arbitration is always in order.

The Rejected Budget.

One thing that must forcibly impress the American spectator of the British budget fight is the dispassionate deliberation of the chief contestants. It had been popularly cried that revolution would follow the rejection of the budget by the lords, yet they calmly proceeded with their announced program, and after a series of debates that were masterly in their exhibition of dignity and statesmanship, stood unflinchingly for their original declaration of rights, and sent the whole subject back to the people.

This fine display of courage cannot but have had a sobering effect on the thought of the Briton, who will now have some weeks of opportunity for consideration of the question on its merits before casting his ballot. The campaign is sure to be one of the liveliest in the history of England, but the eager supporters of the popular budget are confronted by a dauntless opposition which at the most crucial point in the contest has shown that if it goes down to defeat it will at least die game.

If the Situation Were Reversed.

The insistence of the defeated anti-saloon candidates for police board places on a recount of the ballots in a fake election contest, throws a light on the peculiar motives and methods behind the whole proceeding. There is no question but that out of some 16,000 votes in the last city election, the contestants received only 3,000 and that the people of Omaha distinctly said that they wanted their successful competitors.

The only contention which the defeated crowd has to offer is that all the straight party ballots should be thrown out in order to disfranchise the majority and let the minority rule. The intention of the voter who marked his ballot for a party ticket or for a group can not be gainsaid. The point at issue, therefore, if there is any point at issue, turns on purely a legal technicality which, as a matter of law, can not be affected by another count of the ballots, which can show only what every one concedes.

In the interval it should be remembered that both the anti-saloonists and the liquor dealers joined hands last winter demanding of the legislature that the police board in Omaha be made elective, each side evidently persuading themselves that they would win at the election. If the anti-saloonists had won and the defeated candidates, representing the more liberal vote, had started contest proceedings to overturn a clear majority of more than two to one, just imagine the hue and cry that would now be piercing the skies.

By addressing a personal correspondent Mr. Pinchot has given the public another statement of his views on conservation. Coming so close upon the annual report of Secretary Ballinger, and containing almost identical suggestions as those of the head of the interior department, Mr. Pinchot's letter adds little to what has gone before, but shows that both officials still claim to be striving to accomplish the same general result, and that they can pull together if they only will. Out of all the weary disputations, it is to be hoped that congress will find a speedy way of evolving the necessary legislation that shall silence further dispute along these lines.

That story of adaption of the card index system to a pastor's prayers sounds like a modern development of the ancient heathen custom of written petitions to heaven such as returned missionaries used to exhibit before Sunday schools. Change in customs appears not to be confined to worldly matters. Governor Shallenberger has gone to Chicago to look after his interests as a candidate for director of the National Slorthern Breeders' association. It is to be noted that our democratic governor has no hesitation in turning the rudder of the ship of state over to the republican lieutenant governor.

The local democratic organ complains because the proposed electric street lighting contract was not submitted to the city law department before it went to the council. Ordinarily the complaint would be good,

but the contract was presented this time by one of the democratic councilmen who evidently thought he knew more law than the democratic city attorney.

The Mexican congress in session in the City of Mexico has just expelled a member found guilty of misappropriating funds in his custody as guardian. This is "barbarous Mexico." Ever hear of any member of our congress, or of one of our state legislatures, being expelled for such a cause?

Governor Haskell of Oklahoma wants a boycott on the railroads resisting collection of the gross revenue tax recently imposed in that state. Nebraska brought the railroads to time when they resisted payment of taxes by another and more effective method.

Germany manifests the satisfaction of a thrifty parent in its announcement that its colonial possessions are growing nearer the point of paying their own way. These sons far from home usually have less compunction about drawing on the old folks at home.

Attempting to settle the ancient controversy over Mrs. O'Leary's cow by the assertion that Chicago's fire was caused by spontaneous combustion of green hay, is only opening up a still more difficult moot point wherever the tall grass grows.

The fact that Duke Karl of Bavaria devoted his time and his fortune to administering hospitals for the poor is an encouraging sign that the generic origin of the nobleman is not altogether lost in occasional cases.

The prize fight promoters make more fuss over their preliminaries, and raise more technical questions, than if the subject at stake were an international treaty. But that's the most important part of the fight.

Our old friend, Ig. Dunn, has not yet apologized. Would any one but the city of Omaha employ an attorney under a disbarment preventing him from doing any law business in the courts?

A Parallel. Indianapolis News. There is about as much chance for the insurgents in the senate to limit Aldrich's power, or for the insurgents in the house to limit Cannon as there is for the English liberals to put the budget through the country.

Baseless Surprise. St. Paul Dispatch. New England appears to be very much surprised that the west did not jump on Senator Aldrich and beat him up instead of showing him every courtesy. The west has never been known as "the enemy's House of Lords."

Political Pipe Dreams. Cleveland Leader. The British liberals grow more confident as the general election comes nearer, and the opposition becomes less sure of overturning the government. Much like this country, where the democrats are always electing the president two or three years in advance and failing to do it when the time comes.

Reasoning Around a Circle. New York Sun. The "insurgents" are to be "wiped off the map" at the election next year, according to ex-representative Lacey of Iowa. The insurgents in congress that Mr. Lacey found comfortable were taken from him by a democrat and is now occupied by a new republican. Perhaps Mr. Lacey regards this as a "stand pat" triumph.

TRADE COERCION. What Happened to Merchant Who Threatened Customer in Germany. Pittsburg Dispatch. In Germany the director of a combination was found guilty of trade coercion by threatening a customer with refusal to sell him goods if he should buy similar goods from parties not belonging to the syndicate. He has in consequence been sent to a term in prison.

Germany has been cited as an example in favor of the combination plan as developed in this country. But the fact is that the "kartelle" of that country are very limited both in duration and power as compared with our trusts and holding companies. The further fact appears in this case that their operations are closely watched, with sharp penalties for any infringement on the freedom of trade. Imagine an official of the Standard Oil company or the sugar trust sent to prison for threatening to blacklist a retailer if he should buy of an independent!

The very just principle is laid down here that the boycott or blacklist is equally objectionable to the law, whether instituted by the combination or a trade union. The individual has the right to buy or not to buy, and to sell or not to sell. But when the refusal to buy or sell is the concerted effort of a combination of individuals to restrict the liberty of those in whom it is aimed it comes within the scope of the law.

RETURN OF THE TIDE.

Marked Rise in the Influx of Immigrants. Philadelphia Press. Exactly twice as many immigrants have come to America during eleven months of this year as arrived in the corresponding period of last year. The tide of people coming to this country again largely exceeds in volume the stream that is flowing away from it.

One of the astounding incidents occurring recently in the United States was the great exodus of foreigners in 1908. Not only did immigrants stop coming here, but tens of thousands already landed here, returned to Europe. The sea reason for this third as many came as in either of the preceding two years, while the army who went away greatly outnumbered the arrivals.

That was the first time on record when America lost population through the channel of emigration. The sea reason for this freeing up of the tide of incoming laborers was the chill that had paralyzed our industries. They didn't come because there was no work to do, while at the same time thousands fled because of the closed mills and the dead industries.

But now things are different. America's quickened trade appeals with its old-time force to the European hordes who seek higher wages, better homes and more comforts. In one month last year only \$200 came, but in October nearly \$5,000 arrived. There could be no better proof that this is the land of plenty than the oncoming of the hosts of workers from over the Atlantic.

Washington Life

Short Sketches of Incidents and Episodes that Mark the Progress of Events at the National Capital.

If there ever was wit or point to the gaud that an elective officeholder's presence in church in Washington forecast his return to private life, reality has blunted both. The marked regularity in attendance of this class of government officials is regarded as a convincing proof of progress toward the higher life. Doubters and cynics may scoff at the increasing procession moving toward the churches and suggest that the motive because piety may be restricted to the seventh day, but when an officeholder boasts the price of pews in one church to \$100, the fact is to be accepted as substantial proof of a religious uplift in circles too often regarded as hopeless. The price pew is in the fashionable St. John's Episcopal church, across Lafayette Square from the White House.

A comparison with the prices of swell church pews in New York leaves the Washington figure on the back stretch. The costliest pews in the metropolis, and probably in America, are in Temple Emanuel, Fifth avenue and Forty-third street, which bring \$5,000 a year. A pew in the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church has been sold for \$5,000.

While the White House may not contribute to the ranks of debutantes for some years to come, says a Washington magazine, the debut of Miss Helen being deferred, good times are expected by the younger set at the White House during the coming season. The Taft children have a way of taking care of themselves and getting plenty of fun without neglecting their studies, and Miss Taft is not a whit behind her brothers in this respect. With her father's keen sense of humor, and a thoroughly well read and a lover of books, Miss Helen is always ready for fun, and in her trips home to the White House she has shown a marked delight in society. It is prophesied that when she does appear she will be a social attraction, and society reporters predict that the "three Miss Tafts" will be conspicuous figures in the social circle next season.

During the republican convention in Chicago last year one of the most enthusiastic auditors in the Taft box was Miss Louise Taft, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Taft, and many who were present will recall the enthusiastic "rooster" who wore a hat with red roses.

The third member of the trio of cousins, so named Louise, is the daughter of Mr. Charles Taft of Cincinnati; the two cousins bearing the same name are distinguished as Miss Louise of Cincinnati and Miss Louise of New York. The former is one of the greatest heiresses of Ohio, but there is no indication that the distinction has in any way spoiled her. She is a dark, slight little lady, with simple, unaffected manners. The three Taft girls are fine types of American young women. Miss Louise of New York is younger than her cousin Louise; she is tall and well proportioned, with flashing dark eyes, and has the air of a young woman brought up in a great metropolis.

There is a strong probability that hundreds of thousands, and possibly millions of dollars, may be subtracted in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1911, from the sums now paid to the railroads of the United States for transportation of the mails. The general Hitchcock is determined to wipe out the fine types of American young women. Miss Louise of New York is younger than her cousin Louise; she is tall and well proportioned, with flashing dark eyes, and has the air of a young woman brought up in a great metropolis.

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It was announced by President Taft early in his administration that every effort would be made while he was in the White House to effect economies in government expenditures. As a result, the estimates for appropriations for the army, the navy and other departments have been cut to the bone, and the indications are that no extraordinary expenditures will be authorized at the coming session of congress.

In accordance with the retrenchment policy of the administration, the postmaster general is now trying to ascertain whether it is true, as alleged, that the postal service pays more for the traffic it originates than would be charged if the railroads were doing the business with a private corporation. He will make a report to congress on the authority of a law passed in 1875, his call upon the various railroads for statements as to the exact cost per mile for mail transportation, and he expects to have this information in hand at an early date.

The postoffice now pays to the railroads of the country approximately \$45,000,000 a year. This expenditure, postal officials say, may be reduced materially without doing an injustice to the railroads or impairing the efficiency of the service. It is understood that the railroads take the position that their charges for transporting the mails are reasonable, and yield only a fair profit, not more, in fact, so they declare that comes from other forms of traffic. A statement has just been issued in behalf of the postmaster general, setting forth in detail his purpose in calling for the data in question.

The great railroad of the country, according to advices received in Washington, will make vigorous protests to the postmaster general against any reduction in mail pay. Their experts are now preparing the reports to be submitted to the postal service. If the postmaster general should urge congress to authority to reduce the mail rates the railroads have given notice they will fight the matter to the finish in the house and senate.

Someone has taken Vice President Sherman's gavel from him and used to keep LaFollette and Beveridge and Cummins in order during the tariff debate last summer. The usual crowd of sightseers was in the senate chamber a few days ago and the gavel lay on the vice president's desk. At the close of the day it could not be found. Every effort will be made to recover it. The gavel was of mahogany, taken from the doors of the old congressional library, in the capitol building. The wood came from Honduras in 1824.

What Happened to the Judges. Philadelphia Record. In the fable the monkey ate up the cheese while he was pretending to divide it equally between two cats, and the fable does not relate that anything happened to him. But two former judges of the court of common pleas in Ohio have been disbarred because under their judicial administration absolutely the whole of an estate of \$100,000 was eaten up in costs of litigation and attorneys' fees.

DR. PRICE'S CREAM Baking Powder. Made from Pure Grape Cream of Tartar. Surpasses every other leavening agent in making healthy, delicious food. NO ALUM. READ THE LABEL. Buy only baking powder whose label indicates cream of tartar.

PERSONAL NOTES. Whittled to a Point. A New York chauffeur whose machine was going in an eccentric fashion was found to be suffering from an epileptic fit. The others of his class, however, have no such excuse. The tax roll of Boston foots up \$137,942.27, a gain of \$2,000,000 over last year. The record shows 629 cows in the city, 15,500 horses, 42,000 dwelling houses and 183,579 persons assessed for poll tax only. Pittsburgh ship girls saved their masculinity by a threat to strike. While no masculine man can conceive a reason why rats should be worn, almost any mind can grasp the fact that the wearing of them is the wearer's business. Shortly after the obituary appeared and the preacher had pronounced the eulogy, an extra wife and an extra group of children appeared at the funeral of a New York politician and somewhat jarred the solemnity of the occasion. The cause of the disturbance was not disturbed. Captain Charles E. Shillaber, who is building a canal from Tampico to Tuxpan for the Mexican government, is 70 years old. He was a sailor twenty-three years and his great-grandfather, William Shillaber, was on the Bon Homme Richard with Paul Jones when he captured the Serapis in the English Channel after a desperate fight. "Cuba—the most beautiful spot in all creation and the most fertile island in the world," are the keynotes of the boom edition of the Havana Post. A collection of pictures of urban and rural scenes supports the enthusiasm of the Post's word painters, presenting a combination of glowing attractions calculated to draw tourists when the north snows blow and frost bites the outside. The Post is up to date in handling printer's ink and fashioning a lure that only scarcity of the wherewith can resist. Sugar-Coated Expectations. St. Louis Republic. What President Taft shall have to say in his annual message about the men higher up in the Sugar trust is awaited with expectancy. It is not believed, however, that he can do justice to the \$30,000,000 which, it is estimated, they have annexed from the government by bribing custom house weighers. The Way to Make Sure. San Francisco Chronicle. The Standard Oil corporation was once dissolved in Ohio. Then it reincorporated in New Jersey and is ready to try some other place. The only way Uncle Sam can make sure of getting rid of it is to take up his residence for a year in Reno.

THE VEIL A Romance of Tunis By ETHEL STEFANA STEVENS. The triumph of Miss Stevens, like that of the author of "The Garden of Allah," is in the portrayal of Arab life in Northern Africa. THE VEIL is a story which tingles with mystery and throbs with passion. The central figure is a beautiful dancing woman and political spy, who can chatter French and has a liking for Parisian luxuries, but remains at heart a daughter of the Arab race. Across her path comes a handsome young Sicilian of venturesome disposition, who quickly finds himself in a maze of intrigue and in the thrall of a romantic attachment. Both become involved in the plots of a crafty Mohammedan prophet, a man of great learning and personal charm. "A pleasanter and more interesting book than 'The Garden of Allah' Unquestionably this is one of the big books of the season."—Frederick Tabor Cooper, in The Bookman. Cloth, 12 mo, \$1.50. Publishers FREDERICK A. STOKES COMPANY New York. "THE VEIL" and all other late books of merit on sale at BENNETT'S Omaha's Biggest and Busiest Christmas Book Store.