

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION
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Table with 3 columns: Issue number, Copies, Total. Rows 1 through 16.

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GEO. B. TSCHUCK, Treasurer.
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of December, 1909.
M. P. WALKER, Notary Public.

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

Congressional investigation files are swarming to the sugar bowl.

That bridal shower that burned up must have had a pretty dry reign.

Tests have already begun to determine whether the Christmas tree is inflammable. It is.

Princeton astronomers want it distinctly understood that Halley's is not the only comet within reach.

If Canada rebuilds the Wolland canal as proposed, it will go against the grain of the Erie waterway.

If there is anything in affluence, the Peking mission is well favored, with Calhoun of Chicago for China.

Mr. Roosevelt was never able to satisfy the erudite editor of the Omaha double-ender, so how can Mr. Taft hope to?

The president's ensign as commander-in-chief of the army is to be made larger. In symmetry with his avoirdupois?

With a greater area than last year, and a vastly improved condition, winter wheat gives precocious promise of a bumper 1910.

In the interests of the public, the word compromise may very properly be given a show in the deliberations of the railroad wage disputants.

A Nebraska man will govern Porto Rico for the next four years. Nebraskans have the habit of getting to the front, no matter where they are.

Dr. Fletcher says that five years hence sickness will not be considered respectable. Anyone who is really ill doesn't care what other people think.

The case of the Frenchman who fell to his death when his strap exploded adds to the conviction that gasoline is no more infallible aloft than on terra firma.

The Belgians do not like the world's comment on Congo affairs. Well, the world does not like Belgium's conduct of Congo affairs. So, honors are easy. And in the meantime Leopold may well feel sick.

The price of wheat in western Nebraska has risen owing to the cold weather, also the price of coal in Omaha. All of which shows that the storm was not without its advantages to somebody.

Having gotten a taste of political blood, the British lion is now licking his lips over tariff reform. When that campaign is well under way, the budget episode will seem like a practiced skitman.

The supreme court pointedly calls attention to the fact that Ig Dunn is debarred from practice in all the courts of the state. This may have no effect immediately, but the bet that Ig will apologize is still open.

Yelp has restored the primitive man as a model for the students, showing his great muscular development, but the college youth are not likely to be thus diverted from worship of their own modern gridiron giants.

The purchase of the Wayne Normal school was finally accomplished for less than 70 per cent of the amount appropriated by the legislature for the purpose. This establishes a precedent in Nebraska which ought to be kept in mind by every state board.

Women and Farm Life.

White Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture was singing the song of the farmer's joy over his banner year of production and profit, the club women of the west were considering the condition of the farmers' wives, with the resultant announcement that for every member of the family the slogan "Back to the farm" has everything to commend it.

In the early days of the west it was a common remark of eastern women that they pitied their western sisters, whom they pictured as going insane by wholesale because of their dreary isolation and monotonous existence. But today the tables are reversed, and the eastern dweller in cramped city quarters is learning to look with envy upon the prosperity and contentment of the farmer's wife in the west.

Truth is, the day of drudgery on the farm is past. The development of agricultural resources has amazed the nation, and the farmer with his automobile and leisure to enjoy it is a living reality as well as a stock joke for the newspapers. In all the progression the wife has shared, just as she shared the hardships in the pioneer days. Now she has commonly as much help in her home duties as has the average city woman, she has the same comforts of modern conveniences, and if she has not neighbors crowding her at every turn of her elbow, she has a broader outlook upon the world and can hold social intercourse with her chosen friends over the telephone, or by means of her motor car can join an agreeable gathering as readily as though at the very center of population. Rural delivery is another human touch with her kind, and she has her own clubs and similar interests, as readily accessible and as entertaining and edifying as any in the land.

Altogether, the time for wasting pity on the poor farmer's wife is past, except in those isolated cases where the failure to rise above old conditions must be attributed to individual failure to respond to those influences which have made home life in the west so independent and happy for the farmer and his wife and family.

The Nation's Finances.

There is evident in the annual report of the secretary of the treasury a co-operation with the announced policy of the administration for close economy and for a more concerted consideration of the system of estimates and appropriations which in this country takes the place of the budget that perplexes European nations. It must be evident to the observer of Washington events that the government is well on its way toward a final form of reorganization of its fiscal responsibilities, evolving a scientific method of appropriations which shall be a marked gain over the haphazard mode of the past.

The new idea gives every assurance that the treasury will hereafter be wisely administered as a unit, not only as regards the passing of appropriations by congress, but also as concerns the routine of the department, where it is apparent that the application of more modern business customs will simplify the work and eliminate antiquated and roundabout red-tape procedure.

It is clear that progress is being made in the dealings of the controller of the currency with the national banks, and that directors have been stimulated to a livelier and more detailed sense of their active responsibilities. The secretary announces a radical improvement in the ruling that examiners hereafter must be identified with the service, having no political or financial affiliation. The year has undoubtedly witnessed a considerable strengthening of the banking interests.

Secretary MacVeagh is very precise in his interpretation of the corporation tax, and he makes clear that the treasury expects to collect 1 per cent of the actual net profits of each taxable corporation from all its sources of revenues. Banking and currency reform he finds to be still a matter for the future to determine, and he argues convincingly for an ultimate form of adjustable currency and trustworthy surplus reserves, "two absolutely essential features of any banking system upon which the finances and the commerce of this great nation can securely rest." His attitude against any makeshift legislation may be construed as part of the administration's policy of deferring all action until a rational, harmonious agreement for the cure of existing evils shall have been reached.

Civil Service Pensions.

The subject of civil service pensions cannot much longer be evaded, yet there will be some hesitancy on the part of congress to fasten another pension system upon the country at a time when the military pension list is being increased by the recent old age legislation and by the never-ceasing importunities for the augmenting of old allowances.

Secretary MacVeagh points-out that we are the only nation that has no general legal retiring pension for employees of the civil service, except as pertains to the judiciary, while large universities and industrial corporations of the country have taken strides along this very line. He finds that the public service is blocked in many instances by the unwillingness of the officials in charge to throw out worthy men and women who have given the best of their lives to the work of the government, so that, he argues, we are practically paying pensions under a system that is very imperfect and wholly unsatisfactory in form.

President Taft likewise contends that a system of pensions for old em-

ployees and the substitution thereof of younger and more energetic servants promotes both economy and efficiency of administration. Secretary and president are in accord on the necessity for some method of superannuation, and it may be that their united recommendation will result in the presentation of a form of pension bill representing their views for consideration at the current session of congress.

Extending Our Influence Abroad.

The proposal to raise the United States minister to China to the rank of ambassador with the accession of Mr. Calhoun to that office, has to recommend it the fact that with the increased dignity of the post its incumbent would have fuller opportunity for developing our relations not only with the Chinese empire, but throughout the far east.

There can be no doubt that our neglect of business opportunities in the field beyond the open door has been due chiefly to the lack of understanding in commercial circles of just how vast those opportunities were, and it may well be that in thus honoring our representative to Peking we will impress upon our own people the tremendous importance of the post, and awaken the mercantile interests to the fuller significance of the open door.

To the world at large, such elevation of the minister would serve as notification that we are not to be laggard in any respect in the matter of international diplomacy as affecting affairs in that part of the world, and immediate strengthening of our prestige would undoubtedly follow.

Republicans and Reform.

The report of the Nebraska Railway commission to the governor is a summing up of accomplishments that the citizens of the state will do well to review in detail. Without question it is as remarkable a showing as was ever made by a body similarly constituted.

Less than three years ago this body went into office under a title that was immediately questioned in the courts, and was sustained in all particulars. Laws for its guidance and operation were passed at the time the body was organized, and in the short time that has elapsed since its formation it has achieved more in the way of beneficial reform as regards railroad rates and service than had ever been done in all the history of the state.

The enforcement of the Sibley law against the express companies in itself is a sufficient triumph for the railway commission, but this is only one of its many victories for the people. It is still engaged in securing reforms in service that will be for the good of the public. One point should not be overlooked. This board was constituted by a republican legislature. Its membership has been republican from the beginning, and the laws it has been called upon to enforce were enacted by republicans and approved by a republican governor. The only bit of legislation for which the democrats are in any wise responsible is the cute little bill by which the anti-pass law was juggled so as to make it more difficult to prosecute its violators. The republicans of Nebraska can well stand on the record they have made in dealing with the common carrier question.

The passing of the old market house will be regretted by none. It has stood in the middle of the street for many years, a monument to a blunder made by the city council, and the sooner it is removed the better. But its removal does not finally dispose of the question of a public market. This will again force itself to the front, and the wisecracks of the present council might perform something like real service by undertaking a solution of the problem.

What Labor Unions are Doing for Their Members.

Philadelphia Public Ledger. Dr. Frank Julian Warno, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and long engaged in lawyer and industrial questions, takes up in the current number of the Metropolitan Magazine in the course of his study of "The Conquest of Poverty," the particular part played by the labor unions. He takes the general position that the dominant and primary causes of poverty are not individual or social defects of character, but a system of forces over which the individual victim usually has no control. And he makes the claim that it is chiefly to the labor unions that credit is due for the prevention of poverty by the removal of its cause—that is, the regulation of factory management, the provision of safety appliances and the general enforcement of better sanitary conditions.

From this Dr. Warno is led to a consideration of the movement for a change in the American law and practice concerning the employers' liability for accidents to workers and he says that the brunt of the struggle for the prevention of industrial accidents is being borne by the labor unions. In this connection he gives the following table, not as a complete showing of the work of labor organizations, but as a suggestion of what is being done:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Rows include Federated Unions-Death benefits, Sick benefits, Unemployed benefits, etc.

The Douglas county farm hand who has finally come into his reward as the result of the death of his mistress is an exemplar, cheerful to contemplate, of the old-time servant who lived to aid his master rather than for personal profit. The bread is so rare that an occasional specimen ought to be carefully preserved.

If the consolidation of the Bellevue and Hastings schools will result in the strengthening of the new institution, the work will have been well done. Omaha people will not say good-bye to Bellevue college without regret, but will wish the consolidated school at Hastings god-speed and all success.

There seems to be a failure to get together on a basis of military aeronautics. At the time when we are bewailing our lagging behind France that country laments its failure to follow Germany's lead. The matter of relative values in balloon fleets appears to be very much in the air.

George Crocker has left a fund of nearly \$2,000,000 to combat cancer, of which both he and his wife died. If any one of the manifold efforts of the millionaires to conquer malignant diseases prove successful, the fortunes will not have been spent in vain.

If Bernard Shaw is as hopelessly wrong about affairs in his own country as he shows himself to be in his latest diatribe concerning America, he

ought to emerge from his London burrow and get acquainted. His decision not to visit the United States leaves him profoundly ignorant of things he pretends to know, but if he can stand it, he is welcome to stay away.

Feeding the Conscience. Brooklyn Eagle. Customs receipts from liner passengers have doubled. Closer inspection, not keener conscience is the explanation.

An Experiment Worth Watching. Baltimore American. Evidently the British electorate are going to discipline the House of Lords. It may come in handy for our own uses some day.

Goodness Rubbed In. New York World. Apparently the government in teaching Nicaragua to be good is to borrow from Hudibras.

And prove its doctrine orthodox. By Andrew Blyden and Knox.

Supplies the Proof. Kansas City Times. Sugar Trust officials declare they were ignorant of the dishonest weighing practices of their subordinates and prove it by concealing or destroying all of the records bearing on the matter.

Enthusiastic Assistance. Chicago Record-Herald. It is reported from Washington that President Taft believes Cannon and Aldrich will assist him in his endeavors to carry out the Roosevelt policies. If he means to carry the Roosevelt policies out in a stretcher he may rely upon the enthusiastic aid of the gentlemen who run the two branches of congress.

Economy in the Concrete. Springfield Republican. Between them, Secretary Dickinson and Meyer have cut the army and navy estimates for the ensuing fiscal year \$20,000,000 below the estimates for the preceding year. No better news could be sent east and west across the two oceans. Japan has already reduced military expenditure; the great powers of Europe would like to, for their budget crises are revealing the horrors of armed peace.

NEW MINISTER TO CHINA.

W. J. Calhoun a Man of Diplomatic St. Louis Republic.

The new minister to China—who, by the way, is not an ambassador, certain ought-to-be-informed newspapers to the contrary notwithstanding—will hail from Chicago and his name will begin with C. There, however, the resemblance to Minister Crane ends; for William J. Calhoun is a lawyer, and he has had diplomatic experience.

Mr. Calhoun went as special envoy to Venezuela at the time when the harbor of La Guaira was full of warships and the situation extremely unstable. He made exhaustive investigations and turned in to the State department a report wherein the Chinese at least of roads and sandbars were so admirably charted that the United States has been able to steer safely ever since, with the Monroe doctrine in tow. Before this achievement he visited Cuba as special agent of the government.

The corporation lawyer of the present day is more than half business man and diplomat, and Calhoun is no exception. The Chinese mission affords a superb opportunity for the display of diplomatic and executive qualities of the first order. We earnestly hope that President Taft has hit on the right man.

CONQUEST OF POVERTY.

What Labor Unions are Doing for Their Members. Philadelphia Public Ledger.

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Washington Life

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

The demand for a change of the date of the inauguration of president and vice president from March 4 to a day promising more agreeable Washington weather develops more than the languid interest excited yesterday. The experience of the multitude in the abominable weather of the last occasion—weather so disagreeable as to compel abandonment of outdoor exercises—brought home to public officials the oft-repeated truth that a later date should be chosen, both for public health and general convenience. How the change may be effected is a question which one of the house committees will consider and report at this session. Several pending measures fix various dates in April and May. Representative Gaines of West Virginia, chairman of the committee, says he proposes to go into this subject thoroughly. "Involving as it does a change in the vast and complicated machinery of the government with a lengthening of the term of one president and a general readjusting of dates, there should be no haste in dealing with the subject," he said.

Chairman Gaines said the committee would hold as many hearings as may be necessary to reach a full understanding of the subject, and determine what should be done.

The anteroom of President Taft's new offices affords an entertaining and varied spectacle these days, especially when the hand shakers call in to see their senator or representative. They come from everywhere, and by their appearance and their actions demonstrate anew that, though God made man in His own image, "He hath sought out many inventions." All sorts and conditions of people come to the White House while congress is in session to make many and curious requests. An astounding number of them come to beg the president or members of the cabinet to make speeches in various parts of the country. Anything from the annual meeting of a state bar association to the celebration of a harvest home festival brings a delegation to Washington looking for a "big gun" to make the speech of the day. Not one-tenth of these requests can be granted. The president and the delegations that come to him that if the cabinet officers accepted one-third of the invitations they have to speak, the government business would be sadly neglected.

For the first time in over forty years the Postoffice department is considering the printing of postage stamps with another design than the display of the features of some national hero in the form of a medalion. The dozen or more designs submitted for the new 10-cent stamp, which is to be used in lieu of the 10-cent on the registered letters, show the spread eagle of the national coat of arms, with the Stars and Stripes adorning his breast. The postmaster general has deferred passing on the design for a few days, but the change is likely.

A senator came into the cloak room in a rather nervous condition. He stood silent for some minutes—thoughtfully smoking—relates the National Magazine. It was supposed that some problem of legislation lay heavy on his mind, until he broke the silence, without even a prelude: "I have been bothered with rats, and it makes me nervous because I have been reading so much about the bubonic plague. We had six cats in the house, but suddenly five left, leaving a lonesome tabby. I tried a ball of yarn on him. Every time he jumped after that ball, he struck wide of the mark. Then I caught him, looked under, and behold, the cat was cross-eyed!"

"What puzzles me now is to decide whether or not there is an aristocracy of cat life into which a crooked-eyed cat cannot coope. He was evidently an outcast and a pariah with his kind, for he carefully kept his corner all the time the other cats were around. Now the rats are left with the cats, and what I want to know is whether there is not some feeling of caste among rats as well as cats in refusing to associate with a cross-eyed cat. No bubonic plague, gentlemen, with cross-eyed cats available. It's in the old Hindu Hoodoo book."

This is a story about John Eversman, right hand man for Representative McKinley of Illinois, and playful as a pup with a bone. L. White Busbey, secretary to Speaker Cannon and dignified as a blind owl, and Asher Hines, legislative clerk of the house, and neither playful nor dignified to an extreme. They were riding uptown from the capitol on a street car when, with one accord, they all lifted up their voices and each insisted on paying the fares of his companions.

"No," said Eversman, who is the playful guy of the group; "we'll match to see who pays." They flipped up coins and each coin fell heads up. By this time the conductor was getting red in the face.

"Well," said Eversman, "whoever has the coin bearing the earliest date must pay." The three coins, upon examination, proved to bear each one the date 1892. At this moment the conductor walked away from them and spoke to a man in a low tone. Mr. Busbey's dignity began to feel sore and Eversman was laughing greatly. Hines looked puzzled.

By the time the car had reached the Postoffice department these three high browed employees of a beneficent government had decided that each must pay his own fare. Eversman was the first to hand the conductor a nickel, but the collector of fares refused to take it.

"Your fare's been paid," he said gruffly. "Who paid it?" asked the three in chorus. "That gentleman over in the corner," said the conductor, turning away. The gentleman he had pointed out was a total stranger to the three, and he was laughing hysterically. For a few moments the three jokers sat in embarrassed silence. Eversman, who likes to do the jokes on other people, sat with his face looking like a thousand-dollar funeral. Finally Busbey, who is dignified and pays his debts, went over to the misfitful stranger and said: "May I ask why you, a stranger, paid our fares?"

"Why?" replied the stranger; "it was evident that somebody had to pay, and I didn't want to see the conductor throw you off."

Bossing the Scraggops.

Baltimore American. A certain sponsorship for the good order of its Latin neighbors rests upon this country; by no means a blanket responsibility, but only as regards the duties implied by the Monroe doctrine. The chastising of Zelaya is solely in line with the obligations that the Washington authorities cannot and would not seek to evade. There is no reason for cold chills to run down the spines of other so-called small republics, as this country has no ulterior designs. Its one sincere purpose is to further the ends of self-government in the countries to the south and to cultivate terms of close confidence.

DR. PRICE'S CREAM Baking Powder. The Official Tests show Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder to be most efficient in strength, of highest purity and healthfulness. NO ALUM No Lime Phosphates. Avoid Baking Powders made from alum. They may raise the cake, but alum is deleterious and no one can eat food mixed with it without injury to health.

PERSONAL NOTES. President Taft's message is not regarded as 'hot stuff' by the screamers. To appreciate what the pole hunters got up north add forty lower degrees to the weather now on tap. The famed 'rocky road to Dublin' is a smooth highway compared with the road to economy, as mapped out in Washington. The Sioux City Tribune is handing Off Inspector Mullen of Nebraska packages of hot bricks designed to keep him warm during the present frost. Billboard decorators in Chicago consider the move to restrict their operations by law as a cruel assault on art and an attack on the policy of conserving the picturesque. An attempt to boost the treasury of a Chicago church by disposing of real estates at so much per, brought such a rush of business that the parents were obliged to kidnap the girls to save their faces. Soft coal producers in the Pittsburgh district have effected a merger in the interest of economy in production and distribution. Consumers were apprised of the 'happy news' by a raise of 25 cents a ton.

GET BUSY. W. J. Lampton in New York World. Get the hop For the Christmas shop, And don't stop Till you've got your crop Of Christmas things all in, And your tin, To the cent. Is spent On a sentiment That's good all through, But which makes you swear If you stand it off Till the very air Is filled with the rush And the jam and the crush And the pull and the haul And the punch and the maul And the rum and the jump And the shove and the thump Of a million buyers Who wait and wait, Then all crowd in, So they won't be late; A million buyers Who sweep and sweep Who come and fro, A million buyers crowding through A million others Just like you. Say, That's no way To get a boy For the Christmas shop. Is it? Wow! Do it NOW!

THE VEIL A Romance of Tunis By ETHEL STEFANA STEVENS. "A pleasanter and more interesting book than the 'The Garden of Allah'." "A tale full of the spell of exotic strangeness." "It shows us the sort of life that lies beneath the veil which Mohammedanism has for centuries insisted on flinging over its womankind." "Unquestionably, this is one of the big books of the season." -FREDERICK TABER COOPER, in THE BOOKMAN. Price \$1.50. Publishers FREDERICK A. STOKES COMPANY New York.