

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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GEO. B. TESCHUCK, Treasurer

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 10th day of December, 1909.

Notary Public

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

After the pluck hat, man is capable of anything.

And now the third of the fatal basket ball is heard in the land.

The copper miner has the appearance of being submerged.

The question promptly arises, What is the need for a bakers' combine?

If the aeroplane cannot be made stable otherwise, why not gyroscop it?

And in the meantime, so far as any American heiress is concerned, no lord need apply.

Keep in mind the zero spells for the ice man when he talks about no crop next summer.

New York puts up with the six-day bicycle race, but Butte cannot stand for the Marathon walk.

Gaynor may be making up his own slate, but it looks as though Murphy were supplying the pencil.

Leave it to a referendum vote of the ultimate consumer and there will be no general railroad strike.

The polling of the wool crop in Kentucky may be only another excuse for the activities of the Night Riders.

The iron box concerning the Cook trophies at Copenhagen forms a welcome relief for the old brass tube.

The ship of state launched by the last democratic legislature in Oklahoma seems to have run on a hefty snag.

With his constantly recurring law suits, Bond must be almost as much of a nuisance to Anna as before the divorce.

While the women are decorating the waterways, let them not overlook the opportunity for beautifying the canal boat maid.

Does the county attorney prosecute for and in the name of the people, or for and in the name of the Dahman Democracy?

Zelaya seems to be as competent a suppressor of truth among his followers as was Castro. The end is likely to be identical.

Governor Hughes has appointed a mountain climber to the supreme court bench, but no Polar claimant has yet landed the ermine.

If Zelaya thinks Mr. Knox doesn't mean it, let him read back in the files about that Atlantic City scrap in which a Pittsburg rowdy was routed.

Congo natives who have suffered from the Belgians' tyranny may now draw lessons from the spectacle of Leopold confronting the King of tyrants.

The South Omaha Commercial club has for its slogan, "Kill the knocker." If they will only succeed in doing that, what a service they will render the public.

The young woman missing from Kansas City has been located not very far from the Nebraska state capital. She was looking for quiet, and knew where to find it.

The courts have decided that the neighborhood of J. P. Moran is not "residential," evidently considering that if he really wished to make it so he could readily buy it up.

Our Vast Resources.

The National Monetary commission may be considered to have rendered a marked service to the country in compiling so completely the united bank resources of the country, for its method of taking account of stock is more striking in its results than any tabulations hitherto shown in the census reports.

For the first time the American citizen is able to grasp the immensity of the resources of the various banking institutions of the nation, exceeding twenty-one billions of dollars, and covering actual deposits of fourteen billions at a given date. The individual share in this vast investment is \$213 per capita in the entire United States and its island possessions, and it should be a matter of state pride that Nebraska's per capita exceeds this average.

The significance of the commission's report must come home to the thoughtful citizen as demonstrating the urgent need for devising some permanent method of administering and safeguarding this tremendous capital. It is the greatest object lesson yet offered in the campaign of education that the commission devised to lead to currency reform. Such a fiscal giant should not be left at the mercy of such flings of misfortune as in the past have crippled it, and it must be evident to all that the best method for bulwarking the banking interests ought to be discovered with as much speed as is consistent with safety.

Canada and Annexation.

While the liberals are having their own troubles in England, those in Canada seem to be having everything their own way, for they have just demonstrated strength enough to indicate a complete change of plan in the matter of naval enterprise. It is now evident that the Laurier government has sufficient votes to put through its proposals for the construction of a fleet of cruisers and torpedo-boats and for the subsidizing of shipyards and drydocks. But these, it appears, are to be used exclusively for the dominion's interests, and will not be a contribution to Great Britain as originally proposed.

Sir Charles Tupper, former premier, may be held partly responsible for the triumph of the Laurier policy, for at the last moment he came forth with a recommendation that Canada's warships should be its own, and not a part of the imperial navy, coupled with the warning that it was time for the Dominion to recognize the danger lurking across the borders, that of annexation, his conservative spirit seeming to have stirred over the fear that the United States contemplate forcible seizure of the country to the north.

This is the second time within a few weeks that a distinguished Canadian has set up this cry of "Wolff!" and one cannot but marvel at the fright that the bugaboo seems to inspire at Ottawa. Sir Charles Tupper may be right in his claim that the fixed policy of all parties in the United States is for annexation, but on this side of the border that at present is not what one might term a dominant issue, and if there is any general desire on the part of the American people to present the Dominion territory to Uncle Sam, it will be as some future Christmas gift, not this season. We might want to marry Miss Canada, when she grows up, but we have no intention of doing any kidnapping, Sir Charles!

The Public's Share of Guilt.

While pointing a finger of scorn at the sugar ring, let us pause for a moment and see what the cold-blooded government thinks of some of the other offenders. The voice is that of the secretary of the treasury, and he minces no words in summarizing his views of the general evils underlying the customs house disclosures.

The influence of local politics comes in for its share of denunciation, as promoting that "laxity and low tone which prepare and furnish inviting soil for dishonesty and fraud." The secretary is undoubtedly right in his conclusion that "unless the service can be reformed from the payment of political debts and exactions, and from meeting the supposed exigencies of political organizations, big and little, it will be impossible to have an honest service for any length of time."

But offensive partisanship in the customs is not so clearly shown by the secretary as is the general public's share of guilt in the demoralization of the service. Mr. McVeagh makes it clear that the widespread disposition of returning American travelers to evade the payment of customs duties has greatly helped to create the conditions which have become intolerable. "Those Americans who travel abroad," he says, "belong to the sections of people which most readily create public sentiment and are most responsible for it; and the fact that in so many instances these travelers are willing to defraud the government out of considerable or even small sums, creates an atmosphere on the docks that strongly tends to affect the morale of the entire customs service. And when to this is added the frequent willingness upon the part of these responsible citizens specifically to corrupt the government's men, then the demoralization is further accentuated."

In other words, the secretary of the treasury convicts the American people at large of being a nation of sluggards. The virus of this trait has been in man's blood from the day of the first excise law. How tolerant of its existence the race has been, the American himself does not realize until he is confronted by the discovery of such an amazing development of it, and then he realizes that any form of smuggling,

on lesser scale as well as on greater, is a fraud against the government and against the citizen who pays his honest dues.

Will it Be a Whitewash?

The Board of County Commissioners has had before it for several days the results of an investigation of a scandal at the county hospital. The stories told the board were most circumstantial, and contain direct charges of not only scandalous, but criminal, conduct on the part of some of the county employees. After hearing all the testimony the board took the matter under advisement.

Just what there was to give deliberate consideration may be summed up in one of two propositions. Either the witnesses lied or they told the truth. As the employe most seriously accused is reported to have confessed in detail the crime charged against him, it would seem that in his case, at least, there was very little to deliberate over.

The county attorney declines to go out of his way to take cognizance of the conditions developed by the investigation. Is the matter to be hushed up, or will the authorities go to the bottom of it, even if it should result in the removal of a democratic pap-sucker from his position at the public trough?

Wireless Development.

While there is criticism that we lag behind other nations in the matter of military aeronautics, it is evident that we are up with the procession in that more useful service, wireless telegraphy. It must be a matter of satisfaction to the citizen who favors cultivation of the latest scientific equipment for the defensive service of the nation, that the navy is about to embark on one of the greatest of tests to demonstrate the possibilities of wireless development.

What the navy is striving for is an absolutely reliable system that will transmit messages for at least 1,000 miles under any and all conditions, and for 3,000 miles under favorable conditions. Two vessels, the scout cruisers, Birmingham and Salem, are already equipped with apparatus designed to accomplish these results, and if they demonstrate the trustworthiness of the plan, then all the ships of the navy are likely to be equipped with similar devices.

The two fleet vessels are to make what will be practically a tour of the world, exchanging messages constantly at a distance of at least 1,000 miles from each other, in all waters, in all climates and weathers. They are also expected to maintain communication with shore points 3,000 miles distant. The program is such an ambitious one that the results will not be known till late next year, by which time the Navy department hopes to be able to demonstrate to the world that it has uttered the last word in wireless efficiency as applied to men-of-war.

No proof was required to support the proposition that Nebraska badly needs a new state capitol building, but this will not lessen the regret that valuable books in the state law library have been irreparably damaged by reason of the insecurity of the room in which they are stored. To provide proper housing for state officers and records is a most imperative duty and cannot be much longer evaded.

Parisians are likely to frown severely on the violation of the code in Bolivia, where one dueling senator killed the other. On the same date two famous Frenchmen aimed their pistols at each other, exchanged kisses and honor was satisfied. Oh, no, a Parisian could not live in Bolivia.

What a pleasant picture of co-operative housekeeping is afforded by the governor of Kansas throwing his kitchen open to his neighbors during the cold spell! Natural gas may cease to flow, but sunflower Stubb's milk of human kindness goes on forever.

Even during the stress and discomfort of the weather ma's unaccountable behavior, Omaha citizens can find some grains of consolation in reading reports from Kansas City and other neighboring communities. It is not as bad as that in Omaha.

The New York Board of Education has barred foot ball from the public schools of that city, notwithstanding the plea of the game's supporters that the rules are to be reformed. The board evidently wants to see the reformation first.

Of course, James J. Hill knows that Nebraska is not always covered with snow, and besides, he has encountered cold weather before. But the warmth of the welcome he receives in Omaha will more than offset the frigid climatic conditions.

The gentle spirit of levity has broken loose again among our co-eds in the east, where a girl who rooted for the wrong team was painted red and thoroughly led, thereby demonstrating the admirable qualities of her hazers.

The fact that yellow is to be substituted for white in the signal service of some of the railroads does not alter the standing of the yellow journals. In the newspaper world white will continue to be the signal for safety.

Omaha is closing the year at an industrial and commercial pace far ahead of its fastest former year. The increase in every line of activity prove that the growth of the city has just begun.

THE MESSAGE IN THE WEST.

Law's Delays.

THE MESSAGE IN THE WEST. THE STURGEON part of the message is that in which he deals with the needless delays, appeals and costs of legal procedure in the United States. It is here that he knows his ground, and he talks with absolute assurance. And it is here that he can do a real service to the country, for if justice was swift and certain, where it should be cheap and speedy, it is with us.

Clear, Compact and Complete.

As a report on "the state of the union" President Taft's first message to congress is clear, compact and complete. As an outline of the administration program it is incomplete, several of the most important items, including the "paramount issue," having been left for future presentation in special messages.

A Contrast.

Nothing better mark the contrast between the present administration and that immediately preceding than a comparison of today's message with the representative Roosevelt communications to congress. The difference in temper as well as in substance is strikingly apparent. But it is a difference for which the country was fully prepared.

Remarkable for Omissions.

The president's message is remarkable for its omissions rather than for its contents. It is so neutral in tone and so large a part of it is given to the recital of unimportant, noncontroversial or quasi-controversial diplomatic questions that it reads rather like an English speech from the throne than the message to which our ears are accustomed.

Sound, Viable Document.

In characterizing the message as a whole we should say that it was a sound, viable document. The views expressed in it are clearly set forth in a frank and straightforward manner, and for the most part they will be endorsed by the great body of the people. But he who is searching for highly sensational passages will have his labor for his pains.

Reminder of Platform Pledges.

A portion of the message that will attract wide attention is that in which the president reminds the republican congress of the Chicago platform's pledge for a law forbidding, except in emergencies, the issue by the federal courts of injunctions, temporary or permanent, without notice to the parties against whom the injunction is sought. Litigants, especially the leaders of labor organizations, will await with solicitude the action of congress on this recommendation.

CUTTING DOWN EXPENSES.

Extravagant Estimates Pared Down to Actual Needs.

That the estimates of the cost of conducting the business of the government are more than \$100,000,000 less than the appropriations made for the same purpose last year is an evidence that president Taft intends to keep his promise of economy. It has been the established custom heretofore for each department of government to ask congress for more money than was really needed. The expectation was that the amount asked would not be appropriated, and, therefore, each department gave itself some room to be cut down. A more unbusinesslike method could scarcely be devised. A surer way to promote extravagance would be difficult to find. Congress could place no reliance upon the estimates, which were always misleading.

Under President Taft's direction the different departments have furnished congress with a statement of their actual needs, and the amounts, instead of being padded are cut down. It is said, to the lowest figures consistent with efficient administration. This is a sensible and proper method. It shows that the president is in earnest in his desire to safeguard the public purse. This practical method of saving money will be more effective than pages of admonition in annual messages. It will now be for congress to do its part of this good work and keep within the estimates.

Undoing a Combination.

The Rock Island combination is an aggravated example of the same kind of thing, which the state of New Jersey has inflicted upon the country for the propagation of trusts and combinations in restraint of trade. The more such as these can be undone and defeated in the purpose for which they were created the sooner can we get to the solid ground of genuine investment and honest corporate management.

How the Trouble Started.

Congressman Fowler of New Jersey declares that "unless the republican party rid of Aldrichism and Cannonism, the people will get rid of the republican party." It is only a few months since Cannon dropped Fowler from a much-prized committee chairmanship, a circumstance which may have whetted the edge of the Jerseyman's criticism and clouded his prophetic vision.

Good Word in Season.

We can speak a good word for the pay-as-you-enter car. In the first place, you don't have a conductor walking all over your feet and crowding you off your balance so that he can grab a transfer from the man who got on by the way of the front door, and your thoughts aren't interrupted now and then by a naughty woman insisting that "you got my fair half an hour ago."

Another Fight Ahead.

The first sentence in Mr. Bryan's Commoner this week is: "The people have another fight ahead." They have many another, but the one a Commoner has in mind is the central bank issue. For the present, there are no signs that the central bank question threatens our liberties, and Mr. Aldrich must be disappointed in the small conflagration it has caused.

Australia Knows.

While many people are grumbling about the number of immigrants we are getting, Australia has sent an agent to New York to see if it cannot lure some of them away from us. And Australia knows!

Cleavage Banked with Whiskers.

An Omaha judge has decided that a barber is not a professional man. Doubtless that judge wears full whiskers and has his wife curl his hair, otherwise he would not dare talk that way.

A State of Preparedness.

Mr. Taft may have to rub the dust off the "stick" before he gets the national incorporation act through congress.

Poor Old Jackass

Some Breezy Remarks on the Water Wagon, and the Regular Driver

Charleston News and Courier (dem.). The poor old democratic jackass has had a hard time of it for the last thirteen years. Instead of ploughing the furrows straight the driver has been going in and out, cutting fancy curves, going deep sometimes and ploughing the air on occasion so that the poor beast has been so confused that he has lost all idea of proportion. The political crop which has followed this novel farming has been the saddest that the eye of man ever gazed on. Remarkably arable lands have been as barren as the rock farms of New England, and the plants that in the beginning bloomed hopefully, have withered before they had time to put out fruit. Diversity of crops does no good. The general ruin has been all embracing.

However, the jackass has been told to take new courage, that the farmer has a new idea, as the opportunist always has. Mr. Bryan has discovered a new paramount issue, and it is prohibition. He has studied the statistical tables, he has wept over the tales of wrong and misery which the intemperance have presented to his view. He has seen the waves of fanaticism sweeping from one end of the country to the other. In the repeated victories of the "dry" he espied the silver lining of the cloud and he has been quick to take advantage of it. He has visions of an immense water wagon, himself on the front seat, moving with irresistible force to Washington. He has dreamed of Carrie Nation, as the representative of Kansas, delivering philippic in the capitol of the nation. He sees himself dragging the patient jackass, who is bawling the water wagon, and bothkins himself to summon Minnematoc back from the Goldfield brewery to assist in the glorious work.

It is well that the peerless one has escaped appointment to the supreme court, else how could he again save the country? It is unfortunate that the "Incarnation of Disaster" has espoused a cause which has heretofore given evidence of popular support. On the heels of the announcement from Lincoln of the new paramount issue, the voters of Alabama gathered themselves together and administered such a blow to it as never before have they administered to anything. Is it possible that Mr. Bryan is a hoodlum when we all thought him a Billikin? Is he the antithesis of the swastika? Have his repeated sacrifices to strange gods availed nothing? Has he withered the power of the Pontius of the democratic household? Is the jackass, which was so cleverly guided in the brave old days, now tantalized into uselessness by repeated injections of bitter and unpalatable medicine?

The platitudinal Nebraskan writes knowingly, calling to the attention of the public many things which they have had the honor to know for years. "The saloon 'is next-to-kin to the brothel and the gambling hall; it is the rendezvous for the criminal element and the willing tool of the corrupt politicians." So is the great "Mystery of 1909" explained. Without this "corrupt tool" the democracy would have marched in triumphant splendor from bleak Nebraska to hospitable Washington and "The Boy Orator of the Platte" would have shared his domicile with the monosyllabic fair Indian. The saloon robs the nation of a president and makes a protective tariff possible. "A drunkard robs his wife and children, and he may finally make his family and himself a charge upon society, has society no right to protect itself? It has. It has a right to protect itself from the drunkard, from tuberculosis, from idiots and from demagogues. 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