

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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Table with 3 columns: Date, Circulation, Total. Rows for days 1 through 30, and a final Total row showing 1,892,850 returned copies and 1,843,000 net total.

Noted. G. B. TESCHUCK, Treasurer. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of December, 1909.

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

Cupid is almost as busy as Santa Claus. The battleship Utah ought to take well to salt water.

The mantle of St. Nicholas seems to have fallen on Estrada in Nicaragua. If you don't do it right away you will never have a chance. Christmas is at hand.

Can the great whisky fire along the Ohio be classed as part of the dry wave? Rear Admiral Schley evidently desires it known that there is fight in the old man yet.

Pity any Christmas stocking which is as nearly empty as that of Oklahoma's bank guaranty. One idol remains unshattered, the president having given his official approval of Santa Claus.

While he admits that his condition is grave, Menelik insists that the grave is not for him—not yet. Among the comet careers of 1909 note the Palladino, whose name has vanished from the news.

The list of killed and wounded shows that as a real fighter the Nicaraguan is not to be despised. In making the last dash for the Christmas tree, don't overlook the gundrops for Santa's Esquimaux.

King Albert's promise of humanity and progress sounds well in Belgium; now let him teach his people just what those strange words mean. And those doctors, bunched into a bogus insurance order, never diagnosed the case even when the chief symptom was the promoter's name, Napoleon.

Napoleon Hicks proves himself worthy of the name, but it is doubtful if any of his "medical examiners" will ever parade very prominently their "esculapian" certificates. Too bad Michigan didn't know till after the season was over that its foot ball captain was not a student. Has it become necessary to revise the moral as well as the physical rules?

In the meantime, the question as to what might be developed if the records of the Interior department were searched far enough back has not been answered by the World-Herald. "Uncle Joe" Cannon will be more than ever a bad man now since his land has been taken by condemnation to aid a Douglas county drainage project. It seems like he never could get in right.

That reported Christmas gift of a \$750,000 rope of pearls from a multi-millionaire to his wife loses much of its allurement since the discovery of ninety imitations in the famous Astor necklace. If the screw of a humble collier can rip open the hull of a battleship like the Georgia, flood its compartments and lay it up for repairs, may not the collier be rated in war time as an aggressive auxiliary?

Ever since Worcester, Mass., ceased being the largest dry town in the world strange reports of wondrous sights have been coming from there. Is it over-indulgence or the quality that produces this condition?

Home Stretch for the Canal.

Congressman Tawney's reinsurance on the part of the committee on appropriations, recently returned from Panama, that the canal will be open for traffic five years from the coming New Year's day, brings home to the American people with startling force a realization of the tremendous strides that the work has taken under the direction of Colonel Goethals. The vast enterprise is at last on the home stretch; the triumph is in sight.

With a view to accelerating the work and fulfilling this promise a bill has been introduced in congress to centralize the authority more definitely in the hands of the president by the abolition of the canal commission. The fact that this bill is fathered by the congressmen who have just inspected the zone makes it apparent that in the judgment of practical men, as well as experts, the continuance of a commission but hampers the efficient engineer.

There is nothing radical in the bill. It merely holds the president responsible for the government of the canal, which is no new power for him except for the provision that he shall administer affairs at the Isthmus through such persons as he may appoint instead of through the commission whose usefulness appears to have become exhausted.

The people are eager to see the canal finished. If officialism is found to be clogging the machinery the bill now before congress will undoubtedly enable that body to clear away the red tape and give Colonel Goethals, in whose ability everyone has the fullest confidence, free opportunity to complete the job within the time limit now set.

Alaskan Coal Fields.

It was gold that led to the opening up of Alaska, but it appears from the annual report of Governor Hoggatt that coal is the mineral now to be exploited if the country is to fulfill its destiny. Vast beds of high-grade fuel are known to underlie stretches of the territory, and the governor's faith in those deposits is so great that he makes them the chief topic of his final document to the government, upon which he urges immediate action with the zeal of an enthusiast.

Superior coal of native production is assuredly the necessity of the country; not only would the opening of these mines solve problems in Alaska itself, but the fuel would find a ready market in the northwest tier of states and would be of advantage to our Pacific fleet.

Before the mines can be properly developed, however, there is much to be done by the government in clearing up titles, eliminating alleged frauds in patents and providing proper regulation for such workings as are to be assigned. Many changes of trickery have been made in connection with the location of coal lands. Disposal of those should be accomplished as rapidly as possible, so that the departments may expedite legitimate promotion. The coal is there, the present generation feels the need of it and mining should be begun just as soon as the government can arrange satisfactory safeguards against corporate greed in those regions. This is a resource which the people would like to see served as well as conserved.

Schley's Proposal to Peary.

Rear Admiral Schley is plainly actuated solely by a sense of justice in proposing that Peary submit his claims of Polar discovery to the same learned body that declared Cook's proofs insufficient, for the admiral has faith that both men reached the pole, and he has been through the mazes of a bitter controversy himself and knows how easy it is for injustice to be rendered.

As the Polar case stands, the Peary proofs have been authenticated solely by Americans who were friendly to Peary in advance, while the Cook claims have been rejected by men who are believed by many to be the world's greatest experts on Arctic affairs. The fact that Denmark had acclaimed Cook's heroism made no difference to the Copenhagen judges; they discarded the evidence on its face value, thereby manifesting the most rigid integrity.

Now let the same dispassionate critics pass upon the Peary claims. Admiral Schley already has shown by his clear statement that the claims of Cook are no more absurd than those of Peary on their face. It will be interesting to have Copenhagen's official judgment and if Peary refuses to accept the Schley challenge we shall know what to think of his attitude.

Rise of General Wood.

Whatever may be said against the value of the Rough Riders in the Spanish-American war, it must be admitted that they gave to the country one of its most interesting and popular presidential administrations, and now the country is about to realize another of their picturesque fruits, the accession of General Leonard Wood to the office of chief-of-staff, head of the army.

The contest against General Wood's appointment by President McKinley to be a brigadier general of regulars is sufficiently fresh in the public mind to recall the charge of the opposition that he was "only a doctor." But if we go back to 1886 we find the young surgeon doing a soldier's part in the campaigns against the vicious warfare of the hostile Indians in Arizona and New Mexico. At his own request he commanded a detachment of infantry which had been deprived of its commanding officer, and he was commended in general orders for heroism. As a member of Lawton's expedition

against the Apaches under Geronimo a medal of honor was awarded to him by the government for riding seventy miles in one night through the territory infested with redskins and working thirty miles the following day to deliver vital dispatches. So that his courage and ability were established before Roosevelt had him made colonel of Rough Riders, and before he manifested his ability as a fighter and as a leader in the Cuban campaign.

His subsequent rise was rapid, from colonel to brigadier general of volunteers for bravery in the field, military and later civil governor of Santiago, then military governor of Cuba. After his appointment as brigadier general in the regular army, his activities were transferred to Philippine affairs. Of late he has commanded the Department of the East.

His remarkable rise, based on merit recognized by progressive men of the nation, is an incentive to American youth, for it demonstrates that the possibilities for a boy are just as great today as ever they were. The swift marches of individual character in the pages of our history show no more striking example than this promotion of a Harvard medical student from Indian campaigns to the head of the military profession in the United States.

When Fanning Goes to Egypt.

The forty centuries that looked down on Egypt's pyramids on Napoleon's army of invasion saw a wondrous sight, but nothing to compare with that which is promised the forty-one centuries that will look down from the pyramids on Colonel Fanning when he invades the sacred soil of Amenhotep and Ptah. Full panoplied in all the gorgeous splendor of his dress parade glory, Colonel Fanning proposes to mount to the highest pinnacle of the loftiest pyramid and thereon plant the banner of Dahlgren Democracy triumphant. This will be either the beginning or the closing of another epoch for Egypt. In the days of old Rameses we can picture Colonel Fanning being received at the gates of Thebes or Memphis by the mighty monarch's most valiant and noble warriors. Not one of the shepherd kings but would have stripped himself for the purpose of doing honor to this ambassador from the dual courts of Ashtun I and James the Only. Fancy dwells lovingly on the thought of Cleopatra, her sensuous beauty unadorned amid the luxury of her splendid barge, all gilt and ivory, lying in wait near the Pharos of Alexandria, that she might greet the distinguished guest from far-away Nebraska. And so on through all the ages one may conjure up with little stretch of the imagination the welcome that would have been extended to Colonel Fanning by any of that long line of rulers who brought Egypt down from the darkness that preceded civilization's dawn through all its lost magnificence to the present day. But, alas! The only king of Egypt Colonel Fanning ever met was Pharaoh.

A mysterious movement is reported among the Japanese, based on official statements of the governor of Kansu-chakka, serving to renew in St. Petersburg the fear that Japan is arming to seize Korea. If the mikado is fostering such a move in defiance of the treaty of peace with his ancient enemy he has chosen an opportune moment, for Russia's bureaus are at loggerheads, the minister of war sulking over the attitude of the minister of foreign affairs, who is living up to his motto of "healthy optimism" concerning the Japanese. In the meantime Japanese military supplies are being concentrated, and Berlin is filling rush orders for quinine and medicated bandages. "Healthy optimism" and cabinet dissensions were the staple conditions at St. Petersburg preliminary to Nippon's previous swoop. Can it be that history in this case will repeat itself?

RECURRENT FOOLISHNESS.

The question of a rate is entitled to due consideration, there is a wide difference between promoting a 6-year-old circuit judge to the supreme court and naming a 6-year-old lawyer, engaged in private practice, Judge Lorton has been on the bench for sixteen years and he already knows his trade. He has been dealing with the same old cases and the same constitutional questions that will come before him as an associate justice of the supreme court.

There is much to be said in favor of selecting supreme court justices from the judges of the inferior federal courts, and Judge Lorton's appointment has the additional merit of having been made by a non-partisan or political considerations of any sort, whatsoever.

Railroad Threats of Boosting Freight.

The talk in certain railroad quarters of the necessity of an advance in freight rates is doubtless mainly inspired by the wish to prejudice demands for increases of railroad wages. Yet in some degree it reflects the attitude during the depression which took the form of a dogma that some specific for inefficient business is to increase the charges to the patrons who have been forced to cut down their patronage.

The question of wages is entirely between the railroads and their employes. It is to be decided by them on their own merits, and not by the state, as has been done in some instances. But even supposing that the railroads are compelled to pay a considerable additional sum in wages, what is their best hope of doing so? It is by rates that will allow their traffic to increase or by higher rates that will necessarily cut off a portion of the traffic.

THE SUGAR VERDICTS.

The government has won not a complete but a substantial victory in the sugar cases. Indeed, its present failure to convict the chief defendant in the trials, while securing verdicts of guilty against the evident instruments of others in the weighing frauds, may in the long run most surely lead to successful prosecution "higher up."

It is impossible at this moment to conjecture that these poor fellows who now await sentence themselves invented or undirected carried out the elaborate system by which scales were manipulated and sugar was regularly smuggled for a long period in vast quantities. It was not their sugar and they had no motive for the crime except that provided for them by some superior. They had no means of carrying out such a conspiracy without elaborate safeguards which they could not provide for themselves.

The distribution of the reward offered for the convicted train robbers promises to take up as much time in the courts as the trial of the principals. This matter should be submitted to arbitration and not be permitted to run up a big bill of expense for the public to settle.

The muckrakers are apt to find that the theft of letters from governmental files is no less reprehensible than some of the offenses they seek to charge against public officials. The muckraker is more than ever the real yellow peril.

Probing a Fool Spot.

The sugar scandal grows worse the deeper goes the probe. Previous exposures of crookedness were all laid at the door of the trust, but now comes the largest of the trust's independent rivals and declares that it has cheated the government out of over half a million of dollars. Pro-

of such stealing cannot go too far and cannot reach too high up. The government prosecutors should not be satisfied until all the guilty are severely punished.

Saving Grace.

"My client is a fool," pleaded an attorney in a New York police court. It appears, however, that in one respect she was wise in her folly. She hired a good lawyer.

Impressive Proof.

Richard Fox, who uncovered the Sugar trust weighing frauds, may receive \$50,000 or more as his share of the reward. This leaves no possible doubt that honesty was Mr. Fox's best policy.

Slight Plains in the Record.

It grieves the esteemed Omaha Bee, in taking a comprehensive view of the year now closing, to find that 1909 is responsible for the introduction of the verb "to peeve" into the language. Otherwise The Bee considers it a fairly successful year.

Aspect of Nonsense.

The venerable John Bigelow says that the "white slave traffic" is partly due to the high protective tariff. "I have heard nonsense compared with that which would be as sensible as a dictionary," was the light remark of the Red Queen when Alice reproved her for a silly utterance.

Boosting Government Bonds.

Secretary MacVeagh's regulation eliminating state, city and railroad bonds as security for government deposits will help the price of the 3 per cent. But two things are needed to restore them to their former position—certainty that a large future issue of government bonds will not be issued, and a basis of bank issues and at an advantage over them, and an increase in interest rates in the money market which will make bank issues more profitable.

He Knows His Business.

While the question of a rate is entitled to due consideration, there is a wide difference between promoting a 6-year-old circuit judge to the supreme court and naming a 6-year-old lawyer, engaged in private practice, Judge Lorton has been on the bench for sixteen years and he already knows his trade. He has been dealing with the same old cases and the same constitutional questions that will come before him as an associate justice of the supreme court.

WOMAN'S WORKING HOURS.

Washington Herald. In the trinity of rights enumerated in the Declaration of Independence life precedes liberty. That it may be the duty of the state to restrict individual liberty for the preservation of life is the proposition enunciated by Louis D. Brandeis of Boston in support of the Illinois statute limiting to ten the working hours of women employees. His task was to demonstrate that such law is essential to health, morals and general welfare. To support this proposition there is adduced an array of medical testimony to prove that there is a definite toxin of fatigue, analogous in chemical and physical nature to other bacterial poisons; that its injection into animals in sufficient quantity will cause death, and that normal fatigue is counteracted by the presence in the human body of a natural anti-toxin, which is not produced fast enough to counteract the poison of abnormal fatigue. Upon this basis is demonstrated the special liability of women to nervous and muscular fatigue by excessively long hours of labor. Hence is proved scientifically the necessity of rest in the interest of life.

This is going much further than to prove that the regulation of hours of labor for women produces moral, social and physical benefits. That is a proposition of importance to the health of the living as well as of future generations. But this demonstration would seem to establish the duty as well as the right of the state, as the guardian of life, to restrict the liberty of the individual. This is an accomplishment of reasoning of wide importance, since in twenty-five states there are now laws specifically limiting the hours of employment for women and children.

BEATING ABOUT THE OIL TANK.

St. Paul Dispatch. One clause in the Standard Oil bill of exceptions will be appreciated by the public. Forming of the New Jersey corporation did not destroy competition, because the concerns they combined were not competing concerns. They were just monopolistic roes under another name.

In Other Lands

SIDE SIGHTS ON WHAT IS TRANSPIRING AMONG THE NEAR AND FAR NATIONS OF THE NORTH.

The University of Copenhagen, which has been the object of unseemly sneers by a section of the American press prior to its decision on Dr. Cook's records, was founded in 1478 under papal authorization granted three years earlier. The wars of the reformation all but destroyed it, but it was revived in 1529 by Christian III on model of Wittenberg. The fire of 1728 which laid Copenhagen low destroyed the university. It was reestablished by Christian VI in 1732, and received its present organization in 1788. Among its famous professors have been Holberg, Oehlenschlaeger, Rask, Malmvig, Oersted and Westergaard. The university is divided into faculties of theology, law and political science, medicine, philosophy and natural sciences and mathematics. Among its fifteen annexed laboratories and kindred institutions, is an astronomical observatory. The number of students is about 2,000. Its income is derived in part from endowment and in part from government subsidy. In 1908, its budget balanced at 928,000 kroner or about \$256,000.

Probably no country in the world has such stringent laws regarding the expenditure of money to influence votes in an election than Great Britain. And they are stringently enforced. A candidate for Parliament and his agents must keep close watch on, and account for, every penny spent. The purchase of a pint of beer for a voter, or the hiring of a vehicle to convey a voter to the poll may mean the loss of a seat. But the party hacks reach the candidate's money in other ways. One of the commonest methods is known as "making a constituency," similar to mendacious congressional fences in this country. "On an average," says an election agent, "a candidate is required to spend \$250 a year, but many members after they have been elected are obliged if they want to keep their seats to distribute twice or thrice that amount."

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POLITICAL DRIFT.

Senator Piles of Washington state, says his one term in the senate has cost him \$200.

Municipal budget makers of Chicago want \$25,000,000 for 1910. This is several millions ahead of previous record and \$16,000,000 more than the estimated income.

The recall novelty in the city charter of Los Angeles does not prove a drag to officials who attend to the city's business. The reform mayor, who succeeded a dishonest one has been re-elected by a large majority. He made good.

Mayor-elect Gaynor of New York proposes to wear a bonnet on which a presidential bee will not roost for a minute. The activities and anxieties of his job are sufficient to divert his mind from the rocky road of party disaster.

The late Mr. Dudley of Indiana and Sandwich Hotel Raikes of New York, achieved political fame in different ways. The first wrote a treatise on the purchasable sale; the latter drafted a law, which translates a sandwich into a drink.

Sheriff George H. Bean of Jackson, Mich., is gathering in too much money from the fee system, and wants a straight, moderate salary instead. This is said to be the first symptom of genuine economy observed in official circles in Michigan.

Senator Money of Mississippi, leader of the democratic minority is the thirteenth member in the south front. All members of the family are quartered on the payroll and draw Uncle Sam's ducats as enthusiastically as a Christmas tree draws a crowd.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean, noting the vocal activities of Judge Peter S. Grosscup, delicately intimates that the judge harps too much on one string, and drafts a petition urging him to restrict his utterance to "judicial dicta," a special brand of hot air esteemed for its wisdom and solemnity.

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Vital Issue Before the Highest Court of Illinois.

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THE NEBRASKA HAS HOODOO!

"Fate is unkind to big battleships."—Extract from Annapolis papers pending inquiry into late collision with the Georgia. A hoodoo on Nebraska! Say, have you ever stood Where her health-giving breezes blow A youth-renewing flood? Hast grasped the hand—the toll-worth hand That made her rich and great. A hoodoo on Nebraska! You do not know that state!

"A native of Nebraska!"—Hurra, then boy! Hurra! You have a birthright all your own, Which you may carry far! The kindly heart, the steadfast eye, The courage not to quail! Stand fast for the Nebraska! She was not launched to fail!

What could you, ship Nebraska, Ask for a faith more sure? Your corn gleams like a golden flood To feed a nation's poor? Your farmer sows in council halls Rise up to honor thee. What fear for the Nebraska? She stands for Liberty!

We of her sister states cling close To that inspiring name, Here we have come weak and worn And health and courage claim. We such honor of honest fame The seas shall honor pay! Three cheers for the Nebraska! Nebraska, U. S. ELLA TRUE CONNER Fairbury, Neb.

Merry Christmas:

with a story, an essay, a scientific article and a poem, all about Christmas

"Just Christmas"

by Newell Dwight Hillis Dr. Lyman Abbott's successor in the pulpit of Plymouth Church Decorations by C. B. Falls

"Was the Star of Bethlehem a Comet?"

by Waldemar Kaempfert

"The Belated Santa Claus"

by Wallace Irwin Drawings by John A. Williams

"The Tool Chest"

by Bruno Lessing Illustrated by Harry Linnell

The Holiday

COSMOPOLITAN IS THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER

15 Cents a Copy—All News-stands

SMILING REMARKS.

What became of that manager who started out a few years ago to elevate the drums?

"He's running an old-fashioned leg show and bawling up his debts."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Deacon Hoopsh (to country editor)—I've a great notion to tell ye to stop my paper! Here, in this week's issue, ye give two columns on the take out a hunter's license—fair and never once say that the church was transformed into a veritable fairy-land.—Puck.

Mr. Figg-Gasser says he kept perfectly cool last night when that burglar got into the house.

Mrs. Figg—So his wife told me. She found him trying to hide in the refrigerator.—Boston Transcript.

"Is there anything which people will really swear off this year?"

"Sure." "What is it?" "Their taxes."—Kansas City Journal.

A certain Topeka girl is chasing a man so hard that there is some talk of compelling her to take out a hunter's license—Topeka Capital.

"Richard," said the letter carrier's wife, "will you walk the floor with my baby while I suppose so," grumbled the man; "but this night male carrying is fierce." "Never mind, dear," was the comforting response, "it's a short route, you know."—Boston Transcript.

She—the educated woman ashamed to admit her age—abound! He—All the same, I never saw one who put her college year after her name.—Puck.

"Do you have any trouble in collecting your bills?" "Not a bit," answered the dentist. "My patients are always relieved when they find that my notices are not reminders of an appointment."—Washington Star.

"Did you ever see a case of the champagne panic which the doctor said the other day often goes with nervous trouble?" "Well, I guess Miss Odette's fear to hang up mistletoe lest some one take advantage of the fact would come as near as anyone would care to get to a causeless panic."—Washington Star.

"What are you going to give Chooper for Christmas?" "A glass front." "No, for his automobile." "No, for his dress shirt, and it looks like a real diamond."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Civilization," remarked the cannibal, "promotes some strange ideas." "To whom do you especially refer?" inquired the missionary. "To those who are regarded with sympathy. Here he is considered very lucky."—Chicago Tribune.

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