

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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GEORGE B. TREACHER, Treasurer.

subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 21st day of December, 1909.

W. F. WALKER, Notary Public.

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

With many, the great woman's question is: What shall I get for the next meal.

From Boston's new municipal beanpot, it is safe to say, the pork will not be missing.

While it is true that there is no ice shortage, the price is likely to be as long as ever.

In the light of current warmer controversies, how tame appears that old North pole scrap!

Will the supply of salt hold out when we begin to sprinkle it on the tail of Halley's comet?

For ability to put on the lid, none of those railroad presidents can obtain any credit in Wall street.

"Two men claim dead wife," reads a news heading, but it does not appear that either owned her alive.

When steel rails are proving so brittle, who will blame the occasional fracture of a castron resolution?

The national treasury department is to have an ice-making plant. Nothing to do with cold cash, however.

The right of women to hold office in Nebraska is to be tested in the courts. This will give the suffragettes their inning.

Having acquired the expeditious shopping habit, we may expect the thrifty housewife to buy her mosquito netting early.

With 2,000 new telephones installed in this country each day, it is apparent that the American people are beginning to speak up.

The clearing house record for the first week in January shows a handsome increase for Omaha, which is a most encouraging sign.

Calico islanders are trying to get us to adopt the crawfish as a substitute for the lobster. Would not that be stepping backward?

Remember those Indian-sounding prophecies that it would be a dull session of congress? Since then things have been sharpening up.

Brumbles begin to suspect that the marriage of the new king was not "regular." Still, he may have been following royal precedent.

The penalty for falling to shovel the snow off the sidewalks is to lead one's falling brother to violate his New Year's anti-swearing resolution.

When the city council comes to adopt an ordinance intending to regulate traffic on Omaha's streets it should be remembered that Omaha has outgrown village ways.

Several Japanese statesmen have been convicted of graft, and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, but as the courts generously defer execution of the sentences we may expect some budding crops to follow the grafting.

Americans cannot fail to admire the resourcefulness of Chicago. Legally deprived of the privilege of building its great museum on the lake front, it plans to construct an island just off shore and place the museum there. If it can thus circumvent its lake front opponents, Chicago can float most anything.

International Insincerity.

Reluctance manifested by Russia and Japan to agree to the proposal of Secretary Knox that the Manchurian railways be neutralized, may be regarded as a demonstration of the insincerity of these two nations. For the Knox idea is but the practical application of the theory of the Portsmouth treaty, which stipulated that the commercial neutrality of southern Manchuria should be guaranteed. Why should the signatory powers shrink from specific accomplishment of the Portsmouth intention? Simply because it is easy to find excuses later for evading the responsibilities of the generalities of such a document, when years have passed and there has been in the meantime no definite interpretation of vague provisions.

Secretary Knox has been keenly analyzing the march of Japanese aggression in Manchuria. It must have become apparent to him that the lines being followed were at variance from the treaty promises, or he would hardly have felt warranted in thus plainly calling the attention of our far eastern neighbors to them. The dubious outlook for acceptance of the American memorandum adds to the conviction that both Japan and Russia desire to have as free a scope in the debatable ground as the broadest view of the Portsmouth compact will permit. In this connection it will be recalled that the assassination of Ito was committed at a time when the mikado was calling the reluctant czar to conference over this very matter. Since the tragedy that broke off those semi-hostile negotiations, they have not been resumed.

Whatever the outcome the good faith of the United States has been strikingly shown. In our attitude toward strengthening the world's peace in the region of the difficult open door we have published broadcast our sincerity, for we have asked nothing of Japan and Russia but that which we have agreed openly to support diplomatically, a position identically adopted by Great Britain.

The Issue Joined.

The case between the administration and the anti-administration forces at Washington is now made up, and the issue is squarely joined. The strength of the opposition to President Taft and his policies has reached the high water mark. By the adoption of a resolution by the house to take the appointment of an investigating committee out of the hands of the speaker comes what is claimed as a real triumph for the opposition, made up of so-called "insurgent" republicans and the democrats.

The significance of this vote cannot be looked upon as a serious menace to the Taft policies. The demand for an inquiry into the affairs of the Interior department is as earnest on the part of Mr. Taft as from any of the opposition. The president, as well as every fair-minded citizen of the United States, demands that the fullest investigation be made, and the truth be reached and published abroad. As to whether a portion of the committee charged with this work shall be selected one way or another is a detail that does not vitally affect the outcome. The vote in the house of representatives on Friday was merely a vote of lack of confidence in Speaker Cannon and carries with it no surprise because the opposition to the speaker finds itself momentarily, and unexpectedly, in the majority. The democrats could not be expected to support an administration proposition, while the "insurgent" republicans are pledged to oppose the speaker of the house at all times, so that the only surprise occasioned by the vote was that for the one time the combination found itself with a majority of three on a matter of trivial importance.

As to the Pinchot phase of the controversy, the president adopted the only course open to him. He did what any other executive would do under similar circumstances with an insubordinate official, not only persistent in his contumacy, but finally in open revolt. Nothing was left for the executive but to remove the offender. Mr. Pinchot is, no doubt, actuated by the highest motives, and firmly believes in the rectitude of his conduct. Yet it would have pleased him in a much better position if he had had the good taste to resign when he found he could no longer work with the president to achieve the ends they both so ardently desire. This episode should have little bearing on the main question, yet it will be trumpeted loud and long by the opponents of President Taft. But in the end the truth will be made known and President Taft and his supporters do not fear the truth.

Methods of Muckrakers.

Admission by a publisher and an editor of one of the sensational magazines, when summoned on oath before a grand jury in New York, that they had paid large sums for letters and documents stolen from the district attorney's office, uncovers the methods of the muckrakers sufficiently to enable the public to determine the true worth of their "exposures." The latest disclosures give evidence of official record that indicate how unprincipled the muckraker really can be while professing devotion to high principles.

Fortunately there are criminal statutes under which the men who stole these papers and sold them for publication may be prosecuted. The fact that the particular person under indictment had been trained in the sugar ring, demonstrates him to have been aptly schooled, and the grand jury appears to have found him a worthy disciple. But in getting after the purloiner, the real offender, who bought the stolen property to trade upon it, seems to be protected. The presumption is that the purchasers knew the possessor of such papers had not come by them honestly, in which case they ought to share the opprobrium if not the penalty.

Activity Against Combines.

So diverse are the cases involved, that it is doubtful if the people appreciate all that is being done in legal prosecutions against combines, both on the part of the United States government and as a result of the activity of individual states. Much of the hostility to combinations operating in restraint of trade formerly originated in the west, and it must be encouraging to the advocates of rigid application of the law against illegal monopolies to witness the spread of the contagion to the east, where New York is notably pursuing a policy of prosecution.

The latest anti-trust step in the metropolis, the indictment of the Vantine Paper Board association, comprising 140 prominent manufacturers, promises results, inasmuch as the process of the grand jury is based on convictions already obtained, one of the ringleaders having been heavily fined as a preliminary to the breaking up of the Fiber and Manila association, whose members likewise paid punitive fines. The fact that similar action is projected against the manufacturers of print paper indicates the thoroughness of the official inquiry.

New York has also secured the conviction of the Ice combine, and is in the thick of the fight against the manipulators of a corner in milk, a field of activity that calls for popular approval, and which may be the means of undermining prices throughout the country in cases where they have been unduly inflated, for the New York example is one which pins down the individual offenders, having swept aside the old notion that those acting in the name of corporations cannot be held amenable to the criminal law, and having also made the fines heavy enough to hurt yet practical enough to be collected.

In Washington the federal government has just argued the case against the tobacco combine, concerning which a speedy decision may be expected from the supreme court, and is also advancing toward a final ruling in the matter of Standard Oil. The administration likewise is proceeding against the Tobacco Growers' association, and the president has directed the proper departments to investigate the charges that the steel concerns are operating in violation of the anti-trust law.

Further federal action is probable as a result of the grand jury discovery that the sugar companies, nominally rivals, are really operating under an agreement that governs prices, so that it is possible that the customs investigation will have accomplished a double purpose.

No complaint can properly be lodged, therefore, that there is any lack of activity on the part of the government against the combines. Whatever is possible under existing laws is being attempted, toward the regulation of corporation greed. It is always possible that the government may lose one or more of such prosecutions, but congress now has before it various suggestions for strengthening federal power, and such additional legislation as is necessary is likely to be forthcoming.

Rival opera managers have confessedly been giving grand opera at a loss in New York this winter. The reason is not far to seek. Under the concentration of rivalry in the metropolis and its adjacent cities, there has been generated a competition for stars that has raised the salaries paid singers to heights out of all proportion to their worth as established in operatic centers abroad. New York has made it known that it would prefer one competent presentation of the best in opera, in place of the present unsatisfactory splitting up of forces, and if the interlopers were to get together they could utilize their excess of talent in giving opera to the large cities throughout the country, many of which are ripe for such a project. But to make a success of such a plan, salaries would have to be readjusted and stars would have to understand that they are hired to sing, not to make apologies. The trouble with opera in this country is that the managers and public have humored the whimsicalities of temper, sometimes called temperament, altogether too much.

We have been hearing a good deal of late about the human equation which renders inefficient the safety precautions on railroads, so often, indeed, that one wonders if it is not time to determine the responsibility for some of the disastrous wrecks that have disgraced American railroads this winter. A shining example might be made in the case of the wreck which took the life of Spencer Trask, one of New York's leading bankers and philanthropists. He was the victim of a rear-end collision in broad daylight on a road that boasts of its four tracks and block signals. Definitely fixing the blame might be followed by the establishment of a higher grade of operating efficiency, which seems to be woefully lacking at times.

Hardly has Charles W. Morse begun to serve his sentence than efforts are being made to procure for him a pardon. All talk of pardon at this hour is ill advised and an insult to American justice and institutions. The temper of the public is to see crime in high places punished, as a check to some of the abuses which the power of wealth has attempted. Morse exhausted the resources of the law in every effort to evade the consequences of his taking

Washington Life

Some Interesting Phases and Conditions Observed at the Nation's Capitol.

Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, who is regarded by the elder statesmen as the most disagreeable insurgent who has come out of the west, is joyfully watching the front melt off his senatorial case these days. In fixing up committee assignments last year the gentleman from Wisconsin was given several places in the cold storage committee—assignments reserved for youngsters in the law-making business. One of these was the chairmanship of the census committee, which gets a chunk of business every year or two. It seems to have been overlooked that the committee would have something to do with census appointments this year, and that is why Mr. La Follette is insuring with rude laughter. Bunches of appointments in which senators are interested repose in his hands. He is not likely to become, merely enjoying the scowls of brother senators. To inquire from the census bureau Mr. La Follette has replied suavely, describing himself in terms that have frequently been thrown at him on the floor by the enraged regulars.

When a new and inexperienced senator, he is quoted as replying impudently to the census officials, "and I am not fully familiar with the procedure of the senate. I feel at a loss how to go forward in the matter without the aid of Senator Hale, an experienced member of the committee, who is now being engaged in other committees. Really I am quite a novice, and that explains the delay."

When it is recalled that one of Mr. La Follette's bitterest enemies in the senate is Senator Hale the kind of fun Mr. La Follette is looking for becomes apparent. Mr. Hale and Mr. La Follette had conferred the other day and while it is not known what they said, it was evident that Mr. La Follette held the upper hand. Mr. Hale, who is by general repute the most dignified member of the senate, stood over the younger man, shaking a roll of papers at him. "The more you argue the more pleased Mr. La Follette is to become, and when Mr. Hale walked away, apparently angry, Mr. La Follette leaned back in his seat and laughed heartily at the ceiling.

Even automobiles insure when Uncle Joe is around. Representative Huff of Ohio is the proprietor of a motor car, and when Mr. Huff was standing at his seat and laughed heartily at the ceiling. Even automobiles insure when Uncle Joe is around. Representative Huff of Ohio is the proprietor of a motor car, and when Mr. Huff was standing at his seat and laughed heartily at the ceiling.

Indictments against another trust returned by the federal grand jury under the Sherman law will not convince the democrats that the republican administration is serious in its proposal to eliminate illegal trade combinations, but the indicted officials will need no further awakening on this point.

With Bob Burdette in Hawaii and Mark Twain in Bermuda, and George Ade's lamp hidden under the footlights, what are we going to do for our spring greens from the purring wells of humor?

With society women managing the shirtwaist strike and George Bernard Shaw solving our other problems, all there is left for the people to do is to support their families and pay their bills.

New York papers are commenting on the fact that Boss Murphy got inside of the city hall for the first time in eight years. What Tammany wants is to get the city hall inside Murphy.

Those who seek a permanent investment might place their bets as to which James Gordon Bennett will accomplish first, the abolition of vivisection or the annexation of Canada.

We are hearing a lot lately about all sorts of masterful women, but let not their helmet blind us to the worth of the womanly woman, who continues in the large majority.

"Figures won't lie, but liars will figure," is the only answer apparent to the assertion of a Lincoln newspaper that more freight is handled in that city than in Omaha.

When the mikado's saplings are set out there will be enough cherry trees along the Potomac to test the hatchets of future presidents for a long time to come.

This talk of merging a lot of insurance companies has a suspicious look toward an effort to head off the public supply of calendars and blotters.

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WAGES AND FREIGHT RATES.

Increases in Both Will Not Improve the Situation. Indianapolis News.

One gathers from the tone of the Wall street press that the railroads do not seriously resent the demand they are now facing for an increase in the wages of their employees. It has been announced from time to time that high railroad officials (generally not named) have recognized the justice of the demand in view of the increased cost of living. But it was declared that it would be impossible for the railroads to increase wages unless they could advance freight rates. It has also been shown more or less definitely that while the total increase of freight rates would amount to some \$100,000,000 a year, it would only amount in individual cases to a half cent here and a cent there on the hundred pounds and would not be felt by the shippers.

One of the objections to a wage advance in recent years is that it has generally resulted in a price advance which was considerably greater in total, thus enabling employers to make a profit out of their generosity. While it would be unfair to charge the railroads with deliberately intending this, there is no doubt that it would be well before either wages or freight rates are advanced to have figures showing the total of each under the schedules proposed. If the advance of freight rates amounts in total to more than that of wages it might be better for the general public, and even for the railroad employees themselves, to leave the wages alone, and make a general campaign for lower prices of the necessities of life rather than higher wages. And even if the figures exactly counterbalance, it is difficult to see where any advantage is to be gained. It may safely be assumed that if shippers have a pay more for freight they will charge more for their products and thus the cost of living will get another boost.

During the latter part of 1908 and all of 1909 such reports as have been made public have shown that the railroads did a very profitable, and increasingly profitable business, and at this time there is no indication of slump. Therefore any talk of raising freight rates is not likely to be cheerfully received by the shippers. With the steadily increasing profits of the railroads it would seem to the ordinary shippers that the roads could make wages somewhat higher without increasing freight rates, though the sentiment is growing that there is a general policy for all concerned would be a decrease of prices rather than an increase in wages. One thing is certain, however, and that is that the general situation will not be improved if every increase of wages involves an increase in the price of the necessities of life, which it is evident an increase in freight rates would produce.

NURSES FOR POLICYHOLDERS.

Novel Protective Methods of an Insurance Company.

Louisville Courier-Journal. A New York insurance company which does a large business in industrial policies is trying the experiment of furnishing nurses for such of its policyholders as fall ill. The trial is being made in half a dozen large cities, including New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. The results have been so satisfactory that the company has extended the plan to its other policies. Under the arrangement the policyholder is supplied with a card which is to be sent to the company in case of illness. Upon receiving notification the company sends a nurse to attend to the patient in charge of the case. The officials of the company say that they do not know what the experiment will lead to, as it has not been in progress long enough to decide. They assert, however, that these policyholders are showing marked evidences of approval.

SACRIFICES FOR THE CAUSE.

Development of Flying and its Tragedies.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. Man's boasted mastery of the air is tragically incomplete. Aviation continues the deadliest of sports. The latest death credited to the attempt to traverse the highway of the birds is that of Leon Delagrang, a Frenchman, whose monoplane broke at a point above the clouds, crushing its operator. Delagrang follows a score of other intrepid experimenters whose confidence outstripped their judgment and whose reward was death. These men risk their lives in developing an art whose perfection, if ever reached, would be of incalculable advantage to society. Unlike automobile racers, aviators by pursuing their desperate vocation are promoting the public good. They are engaged in conquering earth's last domain for the benefit of man. The game is worth while, even if death now and then steps in for a hand.

Our Birthday Book

January 10, 1910.

Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews, formerly chancellor of the University of Nebraska, was born January 10, 1844, at Hinsdale, N. H. Dr. Andrews served in the union army during the civil war. He became president of Brown university, at Providence, R. I., and later superintendent of public schools at Chicago, from which position he came to Nebraska to take the headship of our state university. He retired a year ago on account of ill health and has been given a special retirement pension out of the United States treasury. Reed Smoot, Mormon dignitary and United States senator from Utah, is 68 years old. He was one of the floor managers in the senate for the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill. He is a native of Utah, being born in Salt Lake City.

Whither Are We Drifting?

Washington Herald.

What mingled feelings of resentment and relief one feels nowadays when his family physician advises him to cut out turkey, asparagus, quail, on toast, mince pie, and ice cream for a while.

Tama Jim Will Show 'Em.

New York Tribune.

Secretary Wilson says that he is going to show the public how and why it is paying more than it ought for food products. There seems to be a general agreement as to the excess in cost, but everybody concerned in producing and selling food stoutly denies responsibility. The secretary will do the country a great service if he can fix the blame.

Discounted Deadweights.

Boston Globe.

An unshakable marine target from the Brooklyn navy yard was lately received at the Philippines for the winter practice of the Pacific fleet. The target cost \$15,000. Two broadsides from the Charleston sent it to the bottom. If American marksmanship is as effective as this the \$15,000 is no loss.

PERSONAL NOTES.

William A. Murphy, Governor Draper's new private secretary, has been the Boston Globe's state house reporter.

Levi P. Morton at 81 assumes the chairmanship of the board of one of the two largest trust companies in the country. Where is Dr. Osler?

The latest man to attempt suicide because a girl had refused him made the mistake of trying to blow out his brains. Naturally he missed.

Pittsburg seems to be the home of the obscure millionaire. No one so far away as this, probably, had heard of James W. Friend of that city, who died last week, and whose estate is valued at \$18,000,000.

From driver of a bakery wagon at \$10 a week to retired millionaire, is the transition of William McCoy of Chicago, who has just turned over the hotel property that for twenty-five years bore his name to the Victoria Hotel company.

Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Carnegie are both making unprecedented records, but at the end of 1909 Mr. Rockefeller had given away \$181,700,152, as against Mr. Carnegie's \$122,000,000. Together they have distributed in the form of free gifts \$303,700,152.

Mrs. Agnes J. Connell, the only woman in this country who has papers permitting her to navigate a steamer of any class in any ocean, is now running the steamer J. L. Luckenbach from New Orleans to Boston. She is known over all the world, for a steamer is her only home, and she has sailed everywhere with her husband, Captain William J. Connell.

PRESIDENT TAFT'S ATTITUDE.

Factionalism Must Cease for the Public Good.

Minneapolis Journal.

The president makes his attitude toward the insurgents of the house perfectly clear. It is a reasonable attitude. Stripped of all irrelevant detail, it amounts simply to this: The president wants positive action by this congress carrying out republican party pledges. He does not want that action aborted by a factional fight in the house. He wants the struggle between the Cannon machine and the insurgents postponed till the next congress and every effort concentrated now upon carrying out the presidential and party program. He does not seek to punish anyone. He has no quarrel with any congressman for voting against the Payne tariff bill nor any purpose of punishing any insurgent for such a vote.

PASSING PLEASANTRIES.

"Somebody stole a dozen fresh eggs from our house yesterday." They intend holding them for a ransom?—Houston Post.

Love-Of