

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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swear, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of December, 1909, was as follows:

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GEORGE B. TESCHEK, Treasurer.

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

W. P. WALKER, Notary Public.

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

It looks as if this meat boycott would be nuts for the hen fruit.

Another prosperity straw—a Fremont man swindled out of \$3,000 of real money.

Edgar Howard is shouting for an extra session of the legislature. That ought to settle it.

Incidentally and unintentionally President Taft has given Senator Tillman another boost as a chautauqua lecturer.

The Omaha Ministerial union is figuring on a "go-to-church" campaign. Get up an attractive program and advertise it in The Bee.

Governor Shallenberger should soon relieve the tension by letting us all know whether he is going to call the legislature in special session or not.

The sudden popularity of the gyroscope will hardly displace the petpog when the first warm days come and there is visible enough mud to scratch a ring.

The Eiffel tower, which again figures in the news, used to be one of the wonders of the world, but it has been outclassed more than once by the new skyscrapers.

Dean Williams of the University of Missouri School of Journalism lauds Moses as the first great editor. Well, he never had to handle the congressional reports.

It is to be hoped no serious reports will attend the wounding of Tom Taggart. While not a good marksman, he is always a lively addition to the political hunting parties.

Inventor Edison is said to be solving the problem of the high price of living by a scheme to eliminate some of the middle men. Good. But how is this to help feed the mouths of those who are thus displaced.

A Berlin actress of unfamiliar name to Americans has beaten up her critics with her lists, which goes to show that press agent arts are universal. Also, it may be she is training for a United States tour.

That Pittsburg opinion that the real cause of high prices is whisky makes one wonder if in defining that commodity Mr. Taft did not overlook the opportunity to apply General Sherman's definition of war.

Just because the last and worst wreck has occurred on a Canadian railroad is still no reason why efforts should be relaxed to make travel safer on railroads in this country, whose accident record beats the world.

Emperor William must be getting some satisfaction out of merely watching the British parliamentary elections and learning that his British cousins can work themselves up into a fury over something that does not bear the German label.

Is the World-Herald's belated pronouncement against the proposed extra session of the legislature inspired by a tip from Washington, where its congressman-editor has been confabbing with Governor Shallenberger? If so, there will be no extra session, whether a majority of the democratic members of the legislature petition to be put back on the payroll or not.

Postal Savings Coming.

Advices from Washington, which seem to emanate from authoritative sources, are to the effect that a law providing for the establishment of postal savings banks will be enacted by the present congress, and probably be among the first measures of the legislative program recommended by President Taft to be put through.

There is no question but that postal savings banks are earnestly demanded by the people, although, of course, certain interests are for one reason and another opposed. The chief opposition seems to come from two sections, namely, the national and state banks who look with disfavor upon savings banks in general, and some of the big savings banks who fear that postal savings accounts may reduce the volume of their deposits. Some other opposition is also encountered from those who object to any extension of government functions and regard the addition of the savings bank to the Postoffice department as an unwarranted interference of government in private business.

All these arguments have been thrashed out year after year, while public sentiment favoring the postal savings bank proposition has steadily grown, until to meet it a promise of this legislation was incorporated in the platform on which the presidential candidates of both great political parties were nominated the last time. To be sure, the democratic platform suggests postal savings banks only as a last resort after deposit guaranty shall have failed, but with such a plank in their platform it will be awkward for the democrats to oppose a postal savings bank bill simply because it is part of the program of a republican administration. During the campaign and since his incumbency of the presidential office, Mr. Taft has openly and repeatedly endorsed a postal savings bank project, and the bill, when finally formulated, is sure to have the powerful influence of administration backing which should insure its emergence from congress in a satisfactory form.

Postage on Magazines.

While most of the magazines are entering vigorous protest against that part of the president's message blaming a large part of the postal deficit to the loss incurred by carrying magazines through the mails at less than cost, the New York Herald has been sounding publishers of newspapers and periodicals all over the country for views on this subject. The responses naturally disclose a wide variety of opinions, some endorsing the particular passage in the president's message and others contending that the deficit could be easily wiped out by abolishing the franking privilege or cutting down the compensation of the railroads in their mail carrying contracts. The response made by the editor of The Bee as printed in the Herald is as follows:

The tendency everywhere in postoffice development has been for rates to go down instead of up, and the only question I see is whether the present classification of magazines is properly adjusted. I am prepared to say that magazines should pay the same rates as do newspapers, or should pay more than they now do, as do books. I think the subject should be referred to a commission, on which there should be a representation of practical newspaper and periodical publishers, in addition to representatives of the Postoffice department and of the two houses of congress. It is hardly necessary for us to reinforce further what is here said. The management of the Postoffice department and the maintenance of the equilibrium between its income and outgo is or should be solely a matter of business. If the Postoffice department were run by a private corporation on customary business principles, the rates and classifications would be adjusted to the service according to definitely certified facts. The question of magazine postage is one of classification and must eventually be treated on this basis.

Again the Brutal Truth.

The fight today is not a mere fight over a seat in the house or a boss in the senate, or this policy and that. To fight to the end for the democratic principle requires men who are real democrats—democrats through and through. The fight can never be won under the leadership of men, however honest, who are tainted with the essential fallacies on which the republican party is built—World-Herald.

Again the brutal truth.

So-called insurgent republicans are herewith given a second notice from the local democratic organ, which professes to speak by the card for the Bryan end of the democratic party, that no matter how far they may go in antagonizing President Taft, or opposing his legislative program, they need expect nothing from the democratic side, because only "through and through democrats" are entitled to leadership in the assault on the republican ramparts. According to the World-Herald, insurgent republicans, however honest and sincere, must always occupy the rear seats, while blow-in-the-bottle democrats enjoy the privileges of the front row.

It is becoming plainer and plainer that whatever differences may exist within the republican party they are not to be settled merely by turning the government over to democratic control. The republican party is built upon long-established and oft-vindicated truths, while the democratic party still clings to certain discredited and oft-disproved fallacies. It is good political tactics for the democrats to do all they can to split the different elements of the republicans away from one another so that they may have an easier fight against a divided opposition. But the people who have steadfastly proclaimed a preference for republican principles as against democratic fallacies are, in our judgment, not to be so easily fooled. They will see through the

trick by which the democrats hope to use the insurgents to annul the commission which was voted to President Taft and the republican party to administer the government and strengthen the republican policies inaugurated by McKinley and Roosevelt.

Score One for the Lawyers.

Score one for the lawyers who have made a committee report to the New York State Bar association going to the very core of the evils at the bottom of such cases as the Thaw case. It goes without saying that the prevailing notion everywhere is that were it not for his plethora of money and the strings pulled by his wealthy relatives, Harry Thaw would have met the fate of the ordinary murderer. Instead, however, the employment of successful lawyers commanding big fees and the purchase of expert testimony have enabled the culprit, by establishing a plea of insanity, to escape the usual penalty and have himself sent to the insane asylum instead of to a cell in a murderer's row. The next step was to prove that his sanity had been regained in order to secure release from the insane asylum, and in these efforts again the power of money to hire cunning lawyers and buy experts to testify precisely opposite to what their evidence had previously been has almost succeeded in accomplishing the object. The bar committee report, to which we have referred, reviews this situation and calls attention to the fact that we have referred to, reviews this situation and calls attention to the fact that we have referred to, reviews this situation and calls attention to the fact that we have referred to.

Justice and Crooked Bankers.

Thirty banks convicted of crime in connection with their business are in the Leavenworth prison. The men higher up in the financial world who have offended the laws have not escaped the penalty to the extent they expected.

Can Roosevelt Refuse?

Prof. Jack Johnson advances a stirring plea for Mr. Roosevelt as referee of Prof. Eaton's forthcoming argument with Prof. Taft. An acceptance would involve an immense sharp revision upward of moving picture concessions and things.

A Polite Reminder.

Japan is credited with a determination to insist on the United States that railroads in Manchuria is none of "Uncle Sam's" particular business. This, moreover, will tend to confirm a suspicion more or less rampant in the minds of not a few Americans.

Premature Plea of Innocence.

The sugar trust issued a statement that no executive officer or director of the company had any knowledge of the frauds committed against the government. The secretary of the company, who signed this statement, is now being indicted in Baltimore.

Long-Distance Holdup.

The attempt of the government of Greece to collect a tax of \$2 a year on every Greek resident in this country is at once so preposterous that the protests coming from thousands of them are not surprising. The threat to bar all those who refuse from returning to their country is little short of barbarity. It is an attempt that cannot be enforced. If those who refuse to pay are to be penalized, their remedy is to become American citizens, when passports could hardly be refused them without our government asking why.

That Extra Session.

This prophet enjoys honor in his own country. To meet the wishes of Mr. Bryan, the governor of Nebraska, who is his friend and follower, will call the legislature together in extra session to pass upon the proposition of the initiative and referendum. The proposition is generally popular, but it is no more so than other propositions for which Mr. Bryan stands. Besides, as there are seventeen kinds of democrats, and an increasing variety of republicans, what is a little populism among those groping for the light and right?

LITERARY PURE FOOD LABEL.

Suggestion for Library Managers Worth Consideration. Boston Transcript. All who use libraries are familiar with the index expurgatorius and the "three-starred book" kept in the inferno of the public library. It is recognized that libraries must exercise some sort of censorship over the books which are permitted to go into the hands of readers. Literary poison must be labeled.

Now comes the suggestion from the picture gallery Charles F. Lummis of the Los Angeles public library that librarians should go even further. He has been sound-biting over the books of the country and has found that while they nearly all agree with him, no one is doing what he proposes—that there should be a literary pure food law for readers of other than works of fiction. The reader should be protected against what may properly be denominated "poisonous books." Every librarian recognizes the necessity of knowing that many of the historical works are full of errors. It is also known that the average reader takes for gospel what he finds in a reference book, and consults neither the librarian nor other authorities. Every library should possess Prescott's "Conquest of Mexico" and "Conquest of Peru" even though they should be read for their charm, rather than for reliable information about the civilizations of "lost races." Anybody who has read the works of Lewis H. Morgan or A. F. Bakellier knows that Prescott's picture as a misleading as it is fascinating. Instances of a similar character might be multiplied.

The position taken by Mr. Lummis is that libraries are not merely conservers and distributors of books, but educators, and that education is the dissemination of truth. It is part of the duty of the library to warn its readers from the slanders and superstition of the infallibility of type. The safe way is to warn the reader that the printed book of information is not infallible. The librarian to whom the reader comes will tell him where the other side of the question may be found, where he may derive later or more reliable information, what is the view generally accepted by critics, or what other books treat the subject in a different light. The trouble is that the average reader does not consult the librarian. He takes the book and after reading it returns it with the conviction that it is the law and the gospel, and that the law and the gospel are the same.

The remedy proposed is worthy of consideration. Let the book itself tell the reader these things by a series of labels.

comfortably in the treasury of the Union Pacific.

Referring to what it calls "Aldrichism and Cannonism," Mr. Bryan's Commoner declares, "The foul blight of these mighty evils has fallen upon some who claim to be democrats, as well as on some who claim to be republicans." Who would have thought it?

Officers of the Postal Telegraph company vehemently deny that it is in the big telegraph combine.

Senders of telegraph messages observe, however, that the rate charged by the Postal is still in each case identical with the rate charged by the Western Union.

The Lincoln Star likens the insurgent movement, which it and its friends have started at Lincoln, to the smallpox.

Most people, however, would prefer to avoid the smallpox, or at any rate not to go more than half way to meet it.

The newly appointed chief forester is committed to carry out the Roosevelt conservation policy along the same lines as his immediate predecessor. But it is no part of that policy to write letters to be read on the floor of the senate.

Merciless Massachusetts! Its new law provides jail sentences for reckless and drunken chauffeurs, also for those too youthful or incompetent. What an invasion of the rights commonly tolerated in all growing communities!

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Washington Life

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

Sundry excuses are given to allay the pain experienced in Washington over the action of the house of representatives in recommitting the favorable report on changing the date of presidential inaugurations. In many quarters the action is regarded as shelving the proposition for the session. That's what hurts ceremonial Washington. Another explanation carrying much hope for the town shows up the house judiciary committee in an amusing light. The committee consists of eighteen members, most of whom are heavyweight constitutional lawyers. The draft of the provision changing the date was agreed to unanimously, yet when the house tackled it several rude laymen, unversed in the "science of law," presented a number of situations which the draft did not cover. Therefore it was deemed prudent to give the top and a half of constitutional lawyers time to assimilate and incorporate the ideas of the non-professionals.

"I am just down here running a hash mill for innocent people," was the response of Howard Eaton, one of the proprietors of Eaton's ranch at Wolf, Wyo., to a Washington Post reporter. Eaton is a typical cowboy and plainsman. He is a fitting example of the strenuous life advocated by former President Roosevelt. The latter and Eaton were roommates together in North Dakota many years ago and the two became close friends.

"I am here visiting people and riding grub line. I'm getting so fat that none of my clothes will fit me, except my umbrella, and I'm getting three new ribs put in that to prepare for Washington society. President Taft? No, I have not seen to see him. I am a little out of my pinches. What do I think about Pinchot? I am not up on the fine points of law, but we people from the west believe that Pinchot knows more about conservation and trees than any other man alive." In fact, he knows these questions much better than I do the way into the nearest side door.

Mr. Eaton has been following with deep interest the reports from Africa, telling of the wonderful success of the former president as a nimrod.

"Teddy is the best shot for a near-sighted man I have ever seen. Without his glasses, however, he could not distinguish the Bible from a cocktail, and would be very liable to pick the wrong one, but with the aid of his binoculars he can pull down anything from a mosquito to a bear, if it happens to come within his range."

Mr. Eaton brought down from his ranch some mountain lions and bears, which will be on exhibition at the sportsmen's show at Chicago, to be held March 15. He has supplied animals for nearly all the leading zoological parks throughout the country.

Congressman Gerrit J. Dickema of Michigan, whose candidacy for the speaker'ship filled the national capital with smiles, figures in one talkable incident a few days ago. He was a member of the special committee which investigated the charges against Judge Willey of China, drawn by Representative George E. Waldo of Brooklyn. Roosevelt was furious that charges should have been made against his appointee. When the committee failed to give to Judge Willey a clean bill of health, the wrath of the strident president was increased. Mr. Dickema called at the White House about this time and the president stood in a corner and gave him "a dressing down." Persons who heard what took place say that the president made very little distinction between Dickema and "undesirable citizens."

"Never again," chorused the governors of thirty-one states, "will we choose the national capital as our meeting place." This was the dictum of the special committee, consisting of Governors Hadley of Missouri, Hughes of New York, Ansel of South Carolina, Comer of Alabama, and others of Ohio, selected to choose the next meeting place.

In Washington the rights of the state, the dignity of the gubernatorial office and the prominence of the individual are dwarfed by the dominating federal atmosphere. Hereafter the governors will select one of the state capitals for their meeting place.

"Why is it," complained a foreign diplomat at a dinner recently, "that we find it so difficult to meet the big men of Washington? I have been here for a year and not once have I been present at a social function where the speaker of the house of representatives was a guest."

A clever Washington woman furnishes a solution to this mystery. She says the rigid rules of social precedence operate to prevent diplomats from meeting the big men of congress. The speaker of the house is never considered as a diplomat to precede him at official or social functions. The dean of the diplomatic corps would submit to most anything except being compelled to take a back seat to the speaker of the house. The war is one of long standing and has never been settled. Only a sadly misinformed housewife would make the blunder of inviting to a dinner the speaker and an ambassador. This is one reason why the foreign men rarely get well acquainted with the leaders of the senate and house.

WEATHER BUREAU AND FORESTS

An Assertion as Large as a Prophecy Dissected. Philadelphia Bulletin. A new factor in the conservation dispute, so far as this relates to the preservation of the forests, is furnished by Chief Willis L. Moore of the weather bureau. In an official report Mr. Moore declares that the maintenance or the destruction of vast wooded areas has no appreciable effect in producing either drought or floods. He proclaims his conviction, as the result of inquiries by the government service of which he is the head, that both excessive and deficient periods of rainfall are due to climatic causes having no direct relation to the extent of the country's forests.

These views are at variance with those expressed by most of the forestry experts of the United States. It is only fair to say, however, that the question is one upon which there is by no means a unanimity of scientific opinion. It is entirely possible that enthusiastic champions of forest conservation have been led by their zeal into making assertions in this respect that are not borne out by the facts.

Nevertheless, whatever fallacies may exist in theories regarding the influence of forests over rainfall, it is a matter of practical observation that the moisture in the soil of heavily wooded regions, whether this comes from rain or from the melting of snows, is released much more slowly than in the open, treeless country. In forests there is a dense carpet, partly composed of a strata of decayed leaves and of mosses, which has a tendency to absorb water like a sponge and materially restricts its flood down the hillside. This is susceptible of demonstration, and no pronouncements by the head of the weather bureau can affect it.

WHAT INSURGENCY MEANS.

"If It Means Anything, It Means Lower Prices."

Den Moines Capital (rep.). It is passing strange that political insurgency has its home in the farming states of the middle west. It is strange that the howl does not come up from New England and the east. The products of the farming states are sold to the people of the manufacturing states. The people in the manufacturing states are not insuring.

But in the west, where the farmer is selling his hogs for \$9 a hundred, we are asked to rally our politics under the insurgent banner. The insurgent banner—if it means anything—means lower prices. The farmer of Iowa is selling everything from an egg to a horse at such prices as they never dreamed of before. Yet we are asked to tear everything up. Congressman Tawney of Minnesota relates that in North Dakota a farmer inquired the price of linseed oil. The merchant told him 85 cents per gallon. The farmer bore the name of Johnson, which is a strictly North Dakota name. When told the price of linseed oil, Johnson's head, figuratively, struck the ceiling and he swore he wouldn't buy a nickel's worth of linseed oil at that price. Then Johnson commenced on the Taft administration. When he had subsided the merchant asked him if he didn't sell 3,000 bushels of flaxseed a couple of weeks before at \$15 a bushel, and that if he had it now he could get \$15 per bushel. Johnson admitted that was true. The merchant said the merchant: "Don't you know that linseed oil is made out of flaxseed?" Johnson hesitated a moment and said: "Give me a barrel of linseed oil." He had not stopped to reflect that he could not sell flaxseed for \$15 a bushel without any hope of buying flaxseed at a low price. He had not seen thousands of men who are getting tremendous prices for their own products are dissatisfied when they buy somebody else's product.

In the middle west men have grown rich on the farms. Their acres have advanced in price. In Minnesota and the Dakotas and Nebraska and syndicates have made millions in the purchase and sale of lands on account of the high price of crops. Yet these very people are expected to insure the middle west cheaper farm lands. To many men it would mean bankruptcy.

The course of the insurgents at Washington is a danger signal to business. It is a note of warning for those who borrow with which to make big improvements. It is a notice to those who are contemplating big irrigation projects to suspend operations until the ultimate facts are known.

Going Some.

Philadelphia Record. Gentle readers, it is not calculated to take one's breath away to pick up the daily newspaper and find the sudden announcement that the stockholders of the Missouri Pacific Railroad company have voted to increase on clip the bonded indebtedness of that corporation \$15,000,000. Eleven subsidiary lines are to be added to the proceeds. Surely the M. P. is a going concern.

Shoe Leather Comfort. Boston Globe. It is comforting to have the wholesale shoe dealers tell us that, although the price of shoes is going to be advanced, the new prices will be so adjusted as "to permit the addition to each grade of such value as will compensate the wearer for increased cost." Still there are some who would be willing to get along without the improvements and have the price remain the same.

One Assertion Worth Noting.

St. Louis Republic. At the outset of an inquiry into high prices one fact may be set down for certain. It is that the sustained high prices for wheat, corn and live stock on the hoof are not due to speculative manipulation of the markets. The speculating manipulator makes his money only by running prices away down while he is buying and away up when he is ready to sell.

Pity the Poor Congressman.

Minneapolis Journal. Members of congress are complaining fervently that the new salary of \$7,500 does not go so far as the annual payment of \$5,000 they formerly received from the federal treasury. Twenty dollars a day isn't much when you consider the grocery bill, but large numbers of valuable Americans seem to get through on less.

Same Feeling Elsewhere.

Pittsburgh Dispatch. Those superstitious orientals are probably not the only ones who regard the burning of the sultan's \$1,000,000 residence as an evil omen. The fire insurance companies have much the same sentiment toward such occurrences.

Kaiser's Workroom

A