

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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Entered at Omaha postoffice as a second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

Daily (Including Sunday), per week, 12c

Monthly (Including Sunday), per month, \$3.50

Quarterly (Including Sunday), per quarter, \$10.00

Yearly (Including Sunday), per year, \$35.00

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Secretary Shaw and Japan.

The public declaration of Former Secretary Leslie M. Shaw "that war between the United States and Japan is inevitable" is eliciting much expression of surprise and disappointment from the Japanese press.

The people of the island kingdom naturally feel hurt that this attitude should be continually taken by those high in the esteem of the American people.

To them the speech of Mr. Shaw comes at a very inappropriate time, especially when the people of Yokohama are so royally entertaining the 700 American tourists.

A very arrogant spirit characterized the Japanese people in all of their transactions immediately following the war with Russia. They apparently believed the world was before them for possession, a part at a time, and as a consequence made themselves unpopular with their neighbors and all who came in contact with them.

It looked for a time as though America might have to help bring them to their senses. But since that war paganism Japan has found itself financially crippled and her people are sweating under the heaviest burden of taxation ever known.

As a nation Japan is at least more friendly disposed to the United States than to any other country. Her people constantly imitate Americans and require their school children to study "the American language" and read American literature.

American visitors to that country are cordially treated in that country and words of hostility voiced by Secretary Shaw, General Bell and Captain Hobson are noted there with regret and disappointment.

The Japanese people are not foolish, no matter how aggressive they may be. They realize that Russia never forgets a defeat and never lets slip a chance for retribution.

They also realize that a war with America might involve Canada, India and other English possessions of power and resource.

They realize that China is waking up and that the great nations of Europe have possessions and interests in the Pacific which they will protect at all hazards.

They also realize the tremendous resources of America and will hardly invite armed conflict with the United States without the greatest provocation.

Colonel Gordon's Farewell.

The farewell address of United States Senator James Gordon is well named by Chauncey M. Depew, "a farewell unique." Colonel Gordon, although taking his leave of the senate after a too brief sojourn among the members of that body, seemed to be exceptionally good-natured.

He had attained the height of his ambition, even realizing the accomplishment of the prophecy made by his mother, that "if he were a good little boy he would some day sit in the chair of the big man at Washington." Yet some might question his past career on the basis of what used to happen to the good little boy in the Sunday school book and what Mark Twain says are the qualifications of national legislators.

Colonel Gordon is a humorist who is not ashamed of his accomplishment. With all the genial hospitality of a southern gentleman he invited Senator Heyburn to Mississippi to spend a few weeks, supposedly to get over his belittled attitude toward General Lee. He loves the negro, too, and has written two poems to prove it. He also admired John D. Rockefeller and feels sorry for the oily magnate.

There is no apparent worry in Colonel Gordon's heart because he happened to be a confederate soldier. He "fought, bled and skeddaddled frequently." The spirit of a southern gentleman fairly shines through his past life, for while he was capturing General Shafter he very thoughtfully allowed himself to be shot at five times by that gentleman—and very accurately missed. The poor marksmanship of the general doubtless enters largely into the friendly recollection of Mr. Gordon.

The genial, whole-souled spirit of the southern senator cannot but call forth a kindly attitude from the north. The war has been over for several years, if Father Time has been running accurately, and the southern ivy and the northern evergreen have united in a grapevine twist, so to speak. The spirits of the two sections have become so merged that a northerner has been permitted to run his pipe line across a southern plantation, while the "darkies" chant a soulful paean to the glories of the snow-bound north—or words to that effect—Senator Heyburn to the contrary notwithstanding.

Would Tax Impair State Credit?

Would an income tax impair state credit? Senator Brown of Nebraska in a speech recently delivered in the United States senate argues not, and substantiates his argument well by citations of England, Austria, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Italy, which have income taxes and where the national debts per capita are many times greater than such debt is in America. The reason why this tax does not impair the countries mentioned in borrowing is "the safety of the investment makes it desirable" under all circumstances.

The position taken by Senator Brown is that there is no basis in reason for the argument that the tax will impair credit. "The burden of government should rest on those who are best qualified to take it and no exception should be made." Our state bonds, like those in foreign countries, are in demand because of their safety as investments. A financial

crash is not going to affect their value even though the commercial affairs of the country are involved in a general revolution and "for the income tax, to be used in a national defense would be a protector of the state's credit."

Senator Brown emphasizes the attested fact that the credit of the state is good so long as the credit of the nation is good. In times of revolution or international war the interests of state and nation become one. "But if emergency should come, the republic should be clothed with full and ample authority to lay a just share of the burden upon the income of the whole country." With the possibility of this resource open to the government, though the credit of private individuals might be affected by the fitful winds of finance which blow, the state would be doubly secure.

The credit of the borrower furthermore is never impaired by a tax upon the man who loans the money. The only manner in which such credit can be impaired is by increasing the burden of taxation upon the borrower, and this applies to state and individual alike. To be sure, taxing the income of the lender might raise the rate of interest, but in Mr. Brown's judgment "it would not be appreciable." Even the lender would be slow to demand the increase if it lessened the possibility of a safe investment of his capital elsewhere.

Lenders, both great and small, are looking for business investments and they will continue to do so just so long as the burdens to be borne by the borrower do not impair his ability to meet the interest and pay the principal when due.

"Co-Operation."

The appointment of Mr. Grant makes no change in the political situation in the county board. He is a regular republican and will align himself with Commissioner Trainor as did Mr. Scott, while Commissioners Eckard and Bedford, democrats, with the cooperation of Chairman Bruning, republican, will continue to constitute the majority or questions of general policy.—World-Herald.

This announcement on the part of the democratic organ must indeed be interesting to Douglas county republicans. With three republicans out of five on the county board, why should any one of them "co-operate" with two democrats and constitute the working majority when such co-operation means handing over to the democrats the decision on questions of general policy.

Commissioner Bruning tried to excuse his democratic alliance at the outset by representing that personal antagonisms made it impossible for him to work with the late Commissioner Kennard, and using this as a pretext tied up with the democrats to put on the payroll notorious crooks and grafters who should not hold public office either as democrats or republicans. The scandal at the County hospital is one of the consequences of Mr. Bruning's "co-operation" with the democrats by which he helped them to supplant a competent republican superintendent with an incompetent democratic superintendent.

Mr. Bruning talks about running for re-election. Is he going to run as a republican or as a democrat? If he is going to run as a republican why should he continue to "co-operate" with the democrats and give the democrats control of county affairs? If he wants to run as a republican, it would be a good idea for him to begin to act like a republican right now.

The selection of John Grant for the second time to fill the vacancy in the county board will command general approval for the judgment of the three county officers upon whom the appointment devolved. Mr. Grant is an old soldier, a long-time resident of this county, a business man in good standing and a consistent republican. Not only that, but when he was nominated a year ago to succeed the late Commissioner Kennard his selection was ratified, first by the republicans of the district nominating him at the primaries, and second by the people of the county voting for him at the election. Mr. Grant will make a useful and efficient member of the county board.

Our Birthday Book

February 26, 1910.

William F. Cody, our own "Buffalo Bill," is today 64 years old. Colonel Cody was born in Scott county, Iowa, and was a government scout and guide during the civil war and later in the Indian wars. He located at North Platte and was elected to the Nebraska legislature in 1872. More recently he has been at the head of Cody's Wild West show, and has shown before more people than any other Nebraska man, not excluding our distinguished political colonel.

Rev. Charles M. Sheldon was born February 26, 1857, at Wellsville, N. Y. He is a Congregational clergyman at Topeka, Kansas, and is most widely known as the author of "In His Steps."

Thomas W. Lawson, capitalist and stock broker who has been playing copper against the "system," was born February 26, 1867, at Charlestown, Mass. "Tom" Lawson's picturesque writings have been widely circulated in advertise ments in Everybody's magazine which his contributions made famous.

Horace H. Lutton, the newly appointed justice of the United States supreme court, is 66. He is a native of Kentucky and was judge of the United States circuit court of the same circuit in which President Taft was a district judge of Great Britain. The formula is contained in this resolution: "That the extremely high price of raw hides makes it absolutely necessary for tanners to obtain further advances on the finished leather; therefore, this conference, while not attempting to regulate prices, urges upon the members the desirability of using every effort to bring about a reduction in the price of hides, and to sell no leather at prices which would admit of replacement without loss."

Economy Smothered with Words.

The first witness in the Ballinger investigation filled 1,000 printed pages with his testimony. There's much talk about cutting down the cost of running the government. Has anybody thought of economizing by putting the stenographers and typists on equal salary with congressmen?

In Other Lands

Side Lights on What is Transpiring Among the Near and Far Nations of the Earth.

Political demonstrations in German cities are directed at entrenched privilege and are typical of the democratic spirit which seeks to do the obstructive legislative power of the hereditary peers of Great Britain. In both cases the privileged classes tenaciously cling to all the power they possess, but often exercised in a manner needlessly offensive to public sentiment. When the German empire was founded in 1871, Bismarck's system of gerrymandered national districts designed to give reluctant states the best of the deal, was adopted, and has since remained in force. The growth and shifting of population since the union has given numerous districts undue representation in proportion to population, while others are inadequately represented. Suffrage, though nominally on the manhood basis, in reality is divided into three classes, the first two having votes in proportion to taxes paid and the third embraces the nonproperty-holding multitude. Under this system the land owners in an election in Schleswig cast 3,251,000 votes and elected but forty-three members of the Reichstag, less than one-eighth, while the conservatives, or land owners, with 1,124,000 votes, won eighty seats. The single vote of Herr Krupp, at Essen, balances half the vote of the entire class of voters in Schleswig. Efforts to reform the system and abolish the classes have heretofore been fruitless. In Germany, as in Great Britain, property and divine right are close allies, and neither yields to democracy without a struggle. Promises of reform in Germany by the democracy have excited something substantial from the ministry. The measure formulated by the chancellor proposes a modification of the voting power of the first class, leaving the second and third classes practically unchanged, and creating a fourth voting class composed of army and navy officers. This would merely reduce the power of the first class and vest it in another class more closely allied with the government. As one socialist leader expressed it, "We asked for bread and are given a stone," and the popular branch which followed, with some disappointment over the government's scant concessions to the popular will.

Defective Seed Corn.

St. Louis Republic.

The discovery by a commercial organization in Omaha that 27 per cent of the seed corn submitted to it for test will germinate calls for some missionary work in the selection and testing of seed corn by the Agricultural College and Experiment station of Nebraska. Every northern corn grower knows, or ought to know, that weeded seed corn will not germinate, and that the frosted grain should be rejected in selecting seed. Nebraska should go to Iowa Agricultural college for valuable information of all kinds about seed corn.

RAILROAD PENSION SYSTEM.

Prophecy of Extension to Every Line in the Country.

Boston Transcript.

The extent to which the railroad pension system is now in effect is perhaps hardly realized by the general public, and it seems to carry a prophecy that in the not distant future this will be a feature of the service on every line in the country. According to the latest estimates obtainable there are 574,229 railroad employees in the United States in line for pensions, or about 40 per cent of the whole number. Forty per cent of the employees have had no official systems, and there are now twenty-one of the larger companies having pension departments in operation. These represent all sections of the country. The plans vary somewhat, but the more common basis is 1 per cent of the average salary for each year immediately preceding retirement, multiplied by the number of years of service. In no case do the employees contribute, the companies bearing all the expense. The age of retirement on four roads is 65 years; on the others it is 70 years. The length of service required for eligibility varies from ten to thirty years, the average being twenty. This inducement to a continuous service will doubtless be worth all it costs to the companies.

With our advancing civilization the pension idea is gaining headway everywhere. It is only a question of time when the government will have established a pension roll for its civil employees. Under such a reform system will break down of its own weight. States and municipalities are moving in this direction, as well as the great business corporations. The adherence of the latter to the plan shows that it is essentially business-like in character. It is a humane and a just thing, and the years of life is very unevenly distributed, and employers, whether public or private, will in the future be likely to take that into account to an increasing degree.

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A Massachusetts postmaster who died a few days ago held office since his appointment by President Hildreth. The wonderful strength of his grip was due to the meagreness of the salary.

Dr. Charles A. Raymond, the new president of Union university, has started a movement to erect at Union a suitable memorial to John Howard Payne, author of "Home, Sweet Home."

Colonel Ira C. Copley of Aurora is the first to raise the banner of republican insurgency in the congressional campaign in Illinois. The colonel is against Uncle Joe Cannon and antagonism, and in favor of Roosevelt policies.

Governor Hadley of Missouri lends official weight to the charge, well attested, that Senator Stone defeated Governor Folk at the senatorial primaries two years ago by the padded votes of the tough wards of St. Louis. A little knock like that won't cause a creek in Senator Bill's gushers.

The first test vote of rival party strength in the British House of Commons, precipitated on the issue of protection and free trade, sustained the ministerial program of land taxes and free trade by a majority of thirty-one votes. The majority represents the combined liberal and laborite vote, the Irish nationalists abstaining from voting in accordance with the decision of a members of the cabinet helping no party in the ministry on issues unrelated to home rule. For the moment the ministry is secure, having beaten down the Chamberlain tariff reform question, and cleared the decks for the major issue of the budget and the veto of the House of Lords. A plan of action on the latter and most vital issue, one on which the liberal allies can unite, is under consideration. Urgency is required to remove the disappointment felt in radical circles over the chasm between Premier Asquith's platform pledges and his ability to perform. In his Albert Hall speech he declared that the liberals would not submit to the emasculating of ministerial measures by the House of Lords, and asserted that he and his associates would not take office without "guarantees" of the retention of the House of Laborites and nationalists assumed that the "guarantees" mentioned by the prime minister had royal sanction. This belief was dissipated by the unusual qualifying phrase in the king's speech, "in the opinion of my advisers," and Mr. Asquith's subsequent admissions. There is no reason to doubt that the issue of "amending or ending" the lords will be pressed forward vigorously on lines satisfactory to the progressiveness. Not only is the life of the liberal party depends on breaking down the dominant Tory power entrenched in the House of Lords.

Shortly after the British expedition, two years ago, over-ran the sacred precincts of the city of Lhasa, the Dalai Lama solemnly vowed to propitiate the offended Buddha or perish in the attempt. At the head of 1,000 of the faithful he began a hike to Peking, living off the natives on his way, causing more lamentation than reverence among those whose stores were raided. In six months the procession reached the Chinese capital, heedless of many suggestions that their room was preferable to their company. The nature of the bargain struck at Peking now appears to have been one-sided. The Dalai Lama, it appears, did not ask or seek a return visit, but the Chinese deemed a call necessary as a matter of courtesy. The presence of 2,000 Chinese soldiers in Tibet, and the flight of the Dalai Lama into India, suggests that the bones of the lamaseries is not a Chinese favorite, or else neglected to pay for the commissaries assimilated on the way to Peking. One fact of much significance is visible—China is in Tibet reasserting neglected suzerainty and reminding aignoring land grabbers of the American people have revolted, and that the China of today has acquired sufficient nerve to dispense with international tonics.

Railroad expansion in Asia is notable if not as extensive and strenuous as in the new world. Trains now run to within a few miles of Mecca, and the British are talking of building a line to Lhasa, in Tibet. A road through Mesopotamia, with a branch to what Sir William Willcocks calls the site of the Garden of Eden, has been surveyed, and German engineers are now planning a line designed to open the whole of Asia Minor to commerce. In the far east there is similar activity among the railroad engineers. The Russians announce that they will soon begin double-tracking the 7,000 miles of the great Trans-Siberian railway, and the Chinese are planning half a dozen trunk lines through their populous provinces. Altogether, the world is embarked upon an unprecedented campaign of exploration and development.

Just what constitutes a price-making combine is an open question in England and one for grand jury investigation in the United States. A specimen of what may be done and is being done is shown by a circular addressed to members by the Texas association of Great Britain. The formula is contained in this resolution: "That the extremely high price of raw hides makes it absolutely necessary for tanners to obtain further advances on the finished leather; therefore, this conference, while not attempting to regulate prices, urges upon the members the desirability of using every effort to bring about a reduction in the price of hides, and to sell no leather at prices which would admit of replacement without loss."

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PERSONAL NOTES. LAUGHING GAS. Abdul Hamid is said to be in a precarious situation, which is not surprising. There is no other sort of situation an ex-absolute monarch could be in. A Massachusetts postmaster who died a few days ago held office since his appointment by President Hildreth. The wonderful strength of his grip was due to the meagreness of the salary. Dr. Charles A. Raymond, the new president of Union university, has started a movement to erect at Union a suitable memorial to John Howard Payne, author of "Home, Sweet Home." Colonel Ira C. Copley of Aurora is the first to raise the banner of republican insurgency in the congressional campaign in Illinois. The colonel is against Uncle Joe Cannon and antagonism, and in favor of Roosevelt policies. Governor Hadley of Missouri lends official weight to the charge, well attested, that Senator Stone defeated Governor Folk at the senatorial primaries two years ago by the padded votes of the tough wards of St. Louis. 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