

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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36. Daily Average, 25,037

37. Total, 761,112

38. Net Total, 761,112

39. Daily Average, 25,037

40. Total, 761,112

41. Net Total, 761,112

42. Daily Average, 25,037

43. Total, 761,112

44. Net Total, 761,112

45. Daily Average, 25,037

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The President's Waterway Policy.

The president hits the nail squarely

on the head in his suggestions to con-

gress as to future rivers and harbors

appropriation. He has affixed his sig-

nature to the bill setting aside \$52,-

000,000 for a miscellaneous lot of

waterway improvements, which has

been characterized "piecemeal" leg-

islation, but he accompanied his ap-

proval with a statement expressing

disfavor with this method of legis-

lation which combines such a variety

of enterprises over such a wide sec-

tion of country. He does not believe

the appropriation is exorbitant for

the work to be done, but rather that

too much has been undertaken to bring

any of it to the successful completion

it should reach. He suggests, there-

fore, that in the future congress should

submit to a commission of experts

the matter of determining what projects

should be prosecuted and appropriate

the money necessary to finish them in

the proper manner.

The president is undoubtedly cor-

rect in assuming that this piecemeal

system will lead to a continuation of

demands for money to finish these

various projects, which are to run

for ten to twenty years before com-

pleted. They are very likely to in-

volve waste and unnecessarily heavier

expenditures of money than if the

more comprehensive system which he

has all along favored and which he

now proposes were followed. To de-

termine definitely just what is to be

done and to set about doing that and

persist in the work until it is speedily

concluded would mean much more for

waterway improvement than this sys-

tem of a little here and a little there

can possibly mean.

A Law that Makes New Homes.

A law enacted by the Sixty-first con-

gress which is of the utmost impor-

tance to the people of this entire coun-

try is that providing for the agricul-

tural entry of the surface of coal land,

while reserving all mineral rights to

the government. Under its provisions

60,000,000 acres of land will be

thrown open to settlement, which

means thousands of new homes in the

great west and a tremendous lifting

of pressure from certain congested

areas of population. This land is

chiefly in Montana and the far north-

west, where the climate and soil are

adapted to robust life and good crops

of grain and fruit, conditions that

invite most appealingly the man with

energy and small means who is look-

ing for a chance to establish a home

and acquire a competency.

This is one of the conservation laws

which the president urged upon con-

gress and one whose benefits it is im-

possible to measure or estimate. Ap-

parent upon its face, however, is that

fact of its far-reaching advantages

which will be available very soon.

This land is not only fertile for agri-

cultural purposes, but is believed to

be prolific of mineral wealth, chiefly

coal, and it is much more desirable

for coal production than the coal land

of Alaska because of its proximity to

the market and the comparative cost

of production. Nor will the present

settlement and farming of the land in

any way hinder its exploitation when

the time comes for coal; rather it

will facilitate it, for it will tend

toward a general settlement of the

country and the establishment of new

towns and communities and shipping

ports.

This act and the one clearly defining

the power of the president to with-

hold from settlement any land for

the conservation of water rights are

two of the most important conservation

measures passed.

Prevention Better Than Cure.

With all due respect to William Krug,

who lost his life as a result of an au-

tomobile "accident," we do not think

the cause of his death is any more

criminal than was that of the domestic

who was so unfortunate as to be "acci-

dentally" killed last year at Sixteenth

and Farnam. The automobile madmen

will go on killing one another and the

public without police interference until

we have one big, grand lynching bee—

Western Laborer.

Correct so far as the culpability for

the killing of a domestic being equal

to the culpability for the killing of a

prominent business man. Prevention

is better than cure, and what is wanted

is not vengeance, but security against

repetition. We do not want any

lynching bees in Omaha, but we do

want automobile drivers and owners

to respect the rights of other people

and to desist from reckless over-

speeding. The thing to do, as already

pointed out by The Bee, is to make

every automobile driver take out a

license subject to limitations of age

and competency and suspend or forfeit

the license for every violation of the

law.

Beyond Heading Off.

Our local democratic contemporary

seems to be laboring under the impres-

sion that it can head off the filing of

the petitions being circulated to put

Mr. Bryan's name on the democratic

primary ballot as candidate for United

States senator. It evidently has an

idea that its preferred candidate would

fare better if Mr. Bryan could merely

turn a deaf ear to this popular upris-

ing and stand by his alleged promise

not to run.

But these petitions are beyond head-

ing off. They must be filed with the

secretary of state in due time, and Mr.

Bryan must by his own act respond, or

refuse to respond, to the demands of

the petitioners. In other words, the

petitioners cannot be smothered or

thrown into the waste basket like Mr.

Bryan's letters to the dollar diners,

without incurring the penalty of the

law. The primary election law of Ne-

braska in its penal provisions declares

among other things which are pro-

claimed to be unlawful:

Any person, who, being in possession

of nomination papers entitled to be

filed under this act, or any act of the legis-

lature, shall willfully fail to file or cause to

be filed at the proper time in the proper

office, shall on conviction, be punished by

imprisonment in the county jail not to ex-

ceed six months, or by a fine not to ex-

ceed five hundred dollars (\$500), or both

such fine and imprisonment, in the dis-

cretion of the court.

Whoever may be in final possession

of the petitions that have been signed

up to put Mr. Bryan's name on the pri-

mary ballot will, therefore, have to file

them before the expiration of the legal

time limit, and Mr. Bryan will have to

say "yes" or "no." The theory of the

law is that anyone who procures sig-

natures to such a petition in the num-

ber required is the trustee of the signers

and legally bound to perfect the nomi-

nation process. This obligation is just

as great if only twenty-five signatures

are attached as if 25,000 are affixed.

A Pike to Fike's Peak.

The pathfinders who blazed the

trail from the middle west to Pike's

peak fifty or sixty years ago could

scarcely have dreamed that a half cen-

tury later their path would be made

into a smooth, shaded boulevard over

which automobiles, vehicles of which

they had no conception, would be glid-

ing from the Missouri river to the sum-

mit of the Rockies. Yet that is an

achievement of twentieth century

progress now in process of realization.

From Kansas City to Pike's peak a