

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Monday to Friday, one year, \$3.00.

Saturday, one year, \$3.50.

Daily Bee (without Sunday), one year, \$3.00.

Daily Bee and Sunday, one year, \$4.00.

DELIVERED BY CARRIER.

Evening Bee (without Sunday), per week, 5c.

Evening Bee (with Sunday), per week, 10c.

Daily Bee (including Sunday), per week, 15c.

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Tolstoi.

Count Leo Tolstoi was not the first prophet who withdrew to the wilderness to meet his God face to face, but since ancient times have men of influence done this. Tolstoi's strange behavior strikes the world as so remarkable because he was a man of world-power. He influenced the lives of others who could never think of doing what he did.

But for the man who taught that "the longer man lives, the more plainly does he see that weariness, satiety, toil and sufferings become ever greater and greater and enjoyments ever less and less," such a tragic death seems but the logical sequence of his life. Ex-communicated by his church, renounced in a measure by his country, loved, but not followed in the vagaries of his philosophy by his devoted wife and children, this strange old man must have felt himself ostracized already.

Perforce, the question is raised as to Tolstoi's sanity in the last weeks and months of his life. If he were insane when he left the faithful wife of his youth and the devoted daughter and chose a career of rigorous solitude, then he must have been insane for years before, for his end is but the consummation of his life and teachings. And of these we cannot judge by ordinary standards or comparisons. His form of socialism and universal humanity, his ideals of the Christian religion are alike the products of a remarkable mind, influenced by the semi-oriental temperament that forbids common judgment. The world may have its own ideas as to the ultimate value of such a life and philosophy as he consumes itself in disappointed hopes and the melancholy zeal of its own dogmas, but can it ever rightly estimate the practical worth of such an influence? For proof that the man in his later years was anomalous to this age, one has but to read the story of oriental customs, when by "lonely contemplation led" philosophers of old did just what Tolstoi did at the last. So that we see his type of teaching fit better into the groove of the past than the present. The trend of modern thought could not give much more than patronizing pity to such impracticable dogmatism.

Another Haskell Exhibition.

In the court's decision that Guthrie shall continue as the capital of Oklahoma the people of that state are again humiliated by the exhibition of their governor, Charles N. Haskell. He made this his fight and soon after firing the first gun seized his coat and hat and hastened to Oklahoma City, setting up executive headquarters in a hotel in that city and declaring it to be the state capital.

Thoughtful citizens of the state were chagrined at his precipitate action, but he banked his all on winning the fight. Then the case went to the courts and the result is, as was expected by everyone who had taken a rational view of the situation, Guthrie is held to be the state capital.

Under the law all the other state officers who followed Haskell to Oklahoma City are obliged to return to Guthrie and stay there until the people, acting upon legislative initiative, decide to remove their capital. But as for Haskell, he may stay in Oklahoma City or go out to his ranch or anywhere he pleases. Strangely enough, the law, no more than the people, seems to care what he does. He will be in office only a little more than a month longer, and Oklahoma, apparently, has resigned itself to tolerate him for that short time. It could get used to him, perhaps, if it had to, but his term will expire in January and it will not be called on to do that.

He has been a source of embarrassment to the state throughout his official career and, but for a fortunate combination of circumstances, in which that celebrated "statute of limitations" played a kindly part for him, he might not now be involved one way or the other in this state capital controversy. The young state of Oklahoma deserves to succeed because of the gigantic obstacle thrown across its path at the very outset in the person of its first governor.

After Lost Oil Land.

The president has directed the attorney general to institute an investigation to determine whether 5,000 acres of valuable oil land in California was known to contain oil when patented to the Southern Pacific. The order is the result of several conferences by the president, attorney general and secretary of the interior. It is found that the land was known to contain the oil at that time, suit will be begun by the government to recover it. If this suit should be won by the government undoubtedly it would be followed by similar action relating to other valuable phosphate, mineral and oil lands throughout the west.

This particular oil land lies chiefly in Kern and Fresno counties, where the greatest production of petroleum oil is in progress and it is where the great gushers are now pouring forth their amazing wealth. Most of this land, particularly in Kern county,

looked like a barren waste before the oil wells were sunk and whole communities sprang into existence. Men wondered what nature intended it for and it was sold at the cheapest possible figure, where sold at all, but when oil was discovered in such abundance the tracts ceased to have a land value and when the railroad sought to rebuy much of what it had sold, holders laughed at it. Millions have been made out of this land in a decade and the taxable wealth of California has increased by many millions.

Whether it can be determined that this land, patented many years ago, was then known to contain these hidden treasures is a serious question, but if so it will more effectually than ever establish the wisdom and worth of the Taft system of conservation. Putting the principle into effect, the government certainly will proceed to other land similarly situated and bring back to the public domain resources of inestimable value. The disposition of the oil and mining industries that would follow as a consequence of such a revolution would be another matter of serious importance, but if this land was fraudulently or even erroneously patented, certainly the government would have a right to its possession.

More High Finance.

The tangled skein of the water work's mix-up into which Omaha has been precipitated by the costly compulsory purchase law and the mismanagement of the Water board seems to be almost unending and new knots come to light every little while.

It is now disclosed that the water company has been paying, and is continuing to pay, taxes amounting to about \$75,000 a year on its assessed valuation, which money under the ruling of the United States court is to be reimbursed by the city and added to the purchase price.

On a rough division at least one-third of these taxes go to the state, county and school district and two-thirds to the city's general fund. Four years have elapsed since the appraisal's award, which is to be the date of the purchase, and in that time the water company will have paid \$300,000 in taxes, of which at least \$100,000 has gone to state, county and school governments and \$200,000 to current city expenses.

If this amount is to be added to the purchase price and paid back out of the proceeds of a bond sale we will have the beautiful spectacle of the city of Omaha donating \$100,000 to the state, county and school treasuries, which it would be under no compulsion to pay on a city-owned plant, and converting this into bonds, together with \$200,000 of its own outlay for ordinary running expenses.

So far as we know the highest of high finance does not present anything that is quite a counterpart to this.

It is consoling to find that Mr. Bryan's native modesty has not consumed him. He has at last admitted that the recent democratic victory was due to "fourteen years of education" carried on by the democracy under his guidance. From 1896 to 1910 is just fourteen years; that is from the Chicago to the Grand Island conventions.

Our enterprising contemporary prints a portrait of "Fiddling Bob" Taylor as the governor-elect of Tennessee. This is on a par with the exploit of the Chicago Examiner printing portraits of Mayor "Jim" and Claude Porter as the governors-elect of Nebraska and Iowa, respectively. Guess again.

We have not heard anything lately from the Omaha Real Estate exchange about "the city beautiful." Let us take down the canvas streamers, telegraph pole posters, street curb signs and other disfiguring nuisances that we do not have to tolerate.

This tale of the \$100,000 bribe offered to a New York law-maker is decidedly inopportune on the eve of convening legislatures in Nebraska and other states. Its tendency must inevitably be to raise the cost of living for legislative lobbyists.

A St. Louis reformer proposes to pension every man over the age limit whose wages were \$600 or less at the rate of \$300 a year and says the government should do it, though it cost \$5,000,000,000. Sure, why be a tightwad?

Candidates in the late election are still telling how much they spent to win out or to be beaten. Wonder if the treasurer of the German-American alliance is going to file a truthful statement as required by law?

Mr. Roger C. Sullivan and Mr. Charles F. Murphy and Mr. Tom Taggart have been at French Lick Springs long enough to have a whole new democratic party completed.

Governor Haskell of Oklahoma has successfully pleaded the statute of limitations in his land fraud cases. The statute of limitations seems to be becoming quite a favorite.

Greatness in Retirement. Washington Herald.

When Gladstone was defeated at the polls he retired to Hawarden and chopped down trees. The Sage of Oyster Bay confines himself to "sawing wood."

Confusing Sounds. Denver Republican.

Into one ear comes the cry of hard times and the complaint that the cost of living has increased until the working man cannot earn enough to support his family; into the other steals a whisper to the effect that the accumulations in the savings

banks of the country have increased to \$4,000,000,000. Does that mean that figures are a qualified candidate for the Anarchist club.

Omit the Hot Air. Chicago News.

New that the people are going down again perhaps the people are to manufacture the package food will feel that they can return to the homelier custom of giving as much for our money as they pretend to give.

"Johnny, Get Your Gun." Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A foreign foe at last prepares to invade our fatherland! "Death! What we endure it! Let us prepare for the worst and send down a corporal and half a dozen regulars to guard our menaced frontier.

Perfidious Assumption. Denver Republican.

Possibly those Mexicans who are threatening to invade the United States have concluded that since the country went democratic it doesn't care what happens to it.

Premature Classification. Collier's Weekly.

Those who hunch Jim Jeffries, the Chicago Cubs, and Theodore Roosevelt omit important differences. Jeffries will never again come back, the Cubs may, and the Colonel, thank you, is at present, feeling very fit.

Thrills for Grateful Heavens. Philadelphia Record.

The out-turn of the farms this year, according to the figures of the Agricultural department, is 9 per cent above the average of the five last prosperous years. This is a short-cut that should make the whole country cheerful and make everybody ready to celebrate Thanksgiving day with grateful hearts.

A Democratic Peril. Springfield Republican.

A New Jersey democrat was so astounded at his election that he became deranged and killed himself. We were so overwhelmed by the glory of our triumph that for awhile we thought we would drop dead out of congress. The result of the election makes reappointment a ticklish proposition. Republicans are in a dilemma. If the issue goes over to the next congress the democratic majority will do the job to its own taste. Should the present congress put it through several new democratic state legislatures might undertake state apportionment, and having very limited experience in that line, would shame the natives with an inartistic job of districting. To escape the perils of the first and the shame of the other the plan of partial escape is to defer action as late as possible in the session. The Washington correspondent of the Boston Transcript, discussing the subject at large, says: "The constitution provides that representatives shall be apportioned among the several states 'according to their respective numbers,' and the only restriction is that the number shall not exceed one for every 30,000, and that each state shall have at least one representative. The ratio of inhabitants to representatives, with the membership of the house, has progressed as shown in the following table. Included in the membership totals are the representatives allotted to new states admitted after the various apportionments had been made, as, for example, five members from the new state of Oklahoma:

Table with columns: Year, Members, Ratio. Rows include 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910.

It will be seen that although the house has been enlarged from 135 members in 1830 to 391 members in 1910, the number of inhabitants represented by each legislator has increased enormously—from 23,000 to 142,000. The house is too large for effective debate, yet it is improbable that a proposition for reducing its size would meet favor. Even if the house is kept at the 400 mark, the number of inhabitants represented by each legislator will reach 250,000.

Some seven years ago congress awarded to L. Amato, the artist, a prize of \$5,000 for the design declared by a distinguished board of judges to be the most meritorious of the designs for the new capitol. The doors have now been completed and cast in bronze and are to be placed on public view in the Corcoran gallery of art.

It is seventy-two years since the first capitol doors were placed at the eastern portal of the capitol. They were by Rogers and are known as the Columbus doors. Afterward the Crawford bronze doors, on which were designs depicting scenes in the history of the republic, were placed at the senate and house entrances. The doors designed by Amato, a citizen of Washington, D. C., represent the apotheosis of America and contain designs which bring the history of the nation down to the present time.

The panel representing the transept of the doors shows an allegorical figure representing America seated in a chariot and drawn by lions, typifying strength, led by a child, symbolizing the superiority of the United States. Following the allegorical figure are figures representing a scholar, architecture, literature, painting, music, sculpture, mining, commerce and industry. On one side of the transept is a statue representing Thomas Jefferson, and on the other side another representing Benjamin Franklin. There is a medallion at each corner, and those represent Peabody, the educator-philanthropist; Emerson, the sage, philosopher and thinker; Horace Mann, the educator; and John Haynes, the eminent philanthropist.

Below the transeps are eight splendid panels in relief, four on each side. On these panels are depicted allegorical representations of jurisprudence, science, art, mining, agriculture, electricity, engineering, naval architecture and commerce. On the other side are statues of famous Americans, and others are depicted on the corner medallions.

Typical scenes are chosen for the panels representing Iron and Electricity. Here are shown the well-known Peter Cooper and H. A. Rowland, one on either side of the panel. There are medallions of Baldwin, the locomotive builder, and Edison, the "wizard" investigator in the realm of electricity.

The laying of railroad tracks, with a great bridge in the background, forms the subject of the panel devoted to Engineering. Among the great engineers chosen as typical among those who have accomplished the engineering marvels of the past century are James A. Eads, General Thomas L. Casey, the army engineer; Roebuck, builder of the Brooklyn bridge; and Stevens of transcontinental railroad fame.

Washington is wondering whether the new dignities of the speakership, which now seem certain to fall to Representative Champ Clark of Missouri, will be sufficiently burdensome to keep that statesman from riding down Pennsylvania avenue behind a team of mules, as he promised the house he would do some day.

During the debate in the house last spring over the appropriation of \$2500 for the maintenance of an automobile for Speaker Cannon, Mr. Cannon announced a willingness to make use of this truly democratic method of transportation. He appointed motor cars and all such plutocratic fripperies for the representatives of the plain people.

Very Latest Thing in Oregon

Senator Jonathan Bourne, Jr., will have incentive at the next session to deliver an upwardly revised version of his interesting speech of last session on devices promotive of popular rule as known to and practiced by the enlightened Oregonians.

Oregon, as we learned from that former speech, is a state which not only limits to a moderate maximum the amount of money a candidate may legally devote for campaign expenses, but decrees a sort of public ownership and operation of campaign funds. The state, in fact, undertakes to spend the candidate's money for him, or at least part of it. Oregon also has public ownership and operation of campaign literature and other curious things.

Further devices of the sort were included among the thirty-two referendum measures on which the state voted last week. One of these new devices which was approved by a goodly majority is especially interesting. It extends the principle of the direct nomination system to the choice of party delegates to national conventions.

In the future Oregonians of all sorts will have the privilege of expressing in a direct vote their choice of a presidential candidate in advance of the nomination. They will also have the privilege of electing their national convention delegates in the same way. Such delegates will, of course, be obligated to vote in convention for the

Washington Life

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

Congressional reappointment promises to be one of the liveliest political issues coming up for settlement during the abort session of congress. The result of the election makes reappointment a ticklish proposition. Republicans are in a dilemma. If the issue goes over to the next congress the democratic majority will do the job to its own taste. Should the present congress put it through several new democratic state legislatures might undertake state apportionment, and having very limited experience in that line, would shame the natives with an inartistic job of districting.

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Washington wants to know if he is still of the same mind. "Washington wants to know if he is still of the same mind."

Amusing Bunch of "Mourner" Among New York Editors. Hartford (Conn.) Courant (rep.).

Exciting New York editors and misgung editors, struck the loud timbre in celebration of the (alleged) fact that it's all up with Theodore Roosevelt. Some of them were for reading the burial service and consigning the remains to the silent tomb right away.

They'd be wiser to go slower. Tuesday, the 21st, was not one of the colonel's lucky days; he is not going to remember it with pleasure. The defeat of Harry Stimson in New York, was, no doubt, a great personal disappointment and chagrin to him; and catalogue them. But the silent tomb can wait—'as Tom Reed said empire could—and it will have to. We do not at this moment think of another American of Colonel Roosevelt's years who has a better "expectancy," or is less likely to submit to premature interment. All the present probabilities are that he will be "stayed and kicking" in politics—very much alive and very energetically kicking for long years to come. The democratic and 'mugwump brethren may as well take their vicissitudes in that now as later.

PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT.

The state of Washington, having admitted women to the suffrage, is likely, for the sake of the women, to prohibit the smoking of tobacco in polling places.

John B. McLean, after living in Washington for nine years, has just moved back to Ohio. The Ohio legislature is soon to elect a United States senator of Mr. McLean's political persuasion.

Miss Jennie Wade, who was killed while baking bread for the union soldiers on the battlefield of Gettysburg, has had a monument erected to her on the spot by the Women's Relief Corps of Iowa.

Miss Dorothy Whitney has taken a great interest in the poor children of New York and is surprised that so many of them have had teeth. She and a representative of the Children's league have offered to equip a dental room in certain schools if dentists can be found who will give their services.

Five persons are under the care of surgeons in Bloomfield, N. J., as the result of a single puff of cigar smoke from the lips of a careless youth. The smoker, standing on a boulevard curb, blew the smoke into the face of a spirited horse, which bolted with its wagon. The five occupants were spilled out and all badly hurt.

PASSING PLEASANTIES.

"Those game hunters ought not to expect any success." "Why not?" "Aren't they on a wild goose chase?" "Baltimore American."

"What shall we say of Senator Smugg?" "Don't say he was always faithful to his trust." "And shall we mention the name of his trust?" "Edison announces that he shall soon have storage batteries that will supply heat for our houses."