

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Sunday Bee, one year, \$2.00; Saturday Bee, one year, \$1.50; Daily Bee (without Sunday), one year, \$1.00; Daily Bee and Sunday, one year, \$1.50.

DELIVERED BY CARRIER: Evening Bee (without Sunday), per mo., 50c; Evening Bee (with Sunday), per month, 60c; Daily Bee (including Sunday), per mo., 50c; Daily Bee (without Sunday), per month, 40c.

Address all communications to the Omaha office in delivery to City Circulation Department.

OFFICES: Omaha—The Bee Building, 20th and F. Sts.; Lincoln—36 Little Building; Chicago—158 Marquette Building; Kansas City—Holliday Building; New York—24 West Thirty-third St.; Washington—722 Wisconsin St., N. W.

CORRESPONDENCE: Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed Omaha office, Editorial Department.

REMITTANCES: Remit by draft, express or postal order, payable to the Bee Publishing Company.

ADVERTISING: Only direct orders received in payment of advertising contracts.

POSTAGE: Postage paid at Omaha, Neb., under special post office permit.

RECEIVED: Received for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on March 19, 1918.

PRINTED: Printed at the Omaha office of The Bee Publishing Company.

MANAGER: D. W. Williams.

EDITOR: Victor Rosewater.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Robert Hunter.

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ADVERTISING SALES: D. W. Williams.

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The Mexican Truce.

It is to be hoped the truce entered into between the Mexican federals and rebels will lead quickly to permanent peace, but this is not the time to become over-sanguine about it. Madero seems to have vindicated one of his unfavorable impressions formed of him as a war strategist, for it can now scarcely be doubted that his reiterated threats to take Juarez "within twenty-four hours" were part of a scheme to bring the government to time. Yet the point raised by Senora Madero that her husband would be in a better position to treat with the government in control of Juarez than perched upon some of its surrounding hills is not to be dismissed without consideration. The wisdom of his position from a strategic point is yet to be determined.

It is remarkable how felicitous General Diaz is in his expressions of anxiety for peace without coming to terms with the enemy. What puzzles the outside world is the question how a permanent settlement can have been so long delayed when the government stands ready to concede all that Diaz is accredited with promising. The reports say that President Diaz has sent for General Reyes, who is in Paris, to return at once and aid in the restoration of peace and order and that Senor Reyes asserts that he will leave Paris within a fortnight. The armistice just made is only for five days, but of course it is subject to renewal or continuation. But it is quite likely that normal conditions in Mexico are some distance in the future yet.

The more the war is viewed, with its terrible train of losses in life and property on one hand and on the other the apparent readiness of the government to treat for peace, the more must the conviction force itself upon the mind that with but a little dispassionate statesmanship the conflict might have been avoided and the problems worked out by peaceable methods.

More Vote-Buying Disclosures.

Wise county, West Virginia, and Jersey county, New Jersey, seem to have joined the vote-buying brigade led with such eclat by Adams county, Ohio, and Vermillion county, Illinois, to say nothing of several counties in southern Delaware. A judge from the bench in a West Virginia county recently declared that he had the best of reasons for believing that no fewer than 800 votes were bought and sold at the last election and a special legislative committee in New Jersey reports that it has evidence of the illegal disposition of from 1,000 to 2,000 in Jersey county. Six hundred witnesses have been heard from.

This traffic in votes augurs the most disconcerting outlook for those who wish to maintain the integrity of the ballot and the government. It must be suppressed before it will have entrenched itself so securely as to become a national menace. The voter must be made to see and feel the enormity of his offense, but the vote-buyer cannot be overlooked in the effort to bring to justice the violator of law. Eager as a man might be to sell his vote, he could not sell it were there none to buy it.

Public officials whose duties oblige them to protect the people in their right to a fair election should not shirk the responsibilities, no matter how near home performance of it might come. We may enact all the purity-of-election laws that our statute books will contain, but without fearless officials they will be of little effect.

Case of the Apaches.

A few Apache Indian survivors of Mescalero who have for the last twenty-five years remained prisoners of war, now seek complete release from this nominal restraint and probably will get it. In the meantime, however, they have received from a beneficent paternal government much more than is usually accorded prisoners of war. The government has never lost sight of the fact that, though nominally prisoners, the Indians were yet its wards and as such were entitled to the beneficent influences of a white man's government.

So they have been admitted to very generous benefactions. They have been educated not only in book learning, but in the rudiments and details of farming and they have been given valuable land and live stock for their own independent enrichment. And reports show that they have improved all these opportunities. They have prospered under the paternal direction of the government until today their per capita wealth amounts to \$1,700, a very tidy sum indeed. They have great areas of fertile soil, immense herds of cattle and, better still, they have the knowledge and the love of agriculture, constraining them to take of their own choosing the ways of peace and industry as opposed to those of war and indolence.

No doubt those tribesmen of old Geronimo feel that they have been the most fortunate prisoners of war that ever fell into the enemy's power. Where they would have been had not their great chieftains surrendered or been captured is a matter far too uncertain to contemplate. They have probably lost nothing, but have gained much by having been for this quarter of a century the prisoners as well as the wards of a government good enough to give them a square deal and great enough to afford them superior opportunities of development. Of course, the government has nothing now to fear from

NEBRASKA PRESS COMMENT.

Norfolk News: Over \$500 rural delivery carriers make a daily round at an annual expense to the government of more than \$400,000. It seems a strange thing that they can't be used to handle parcels as well.

Blue Springs Sentinel: The value of farm lands in Nebraska is given by census authorities as \$1,315,877,000. That is quite an array of figures and don't you wish you owned a half section of it? It's mighty good stuff.

Plattsmouth Journal: The new president of the Missouri Pacific Railroad company, G. Bush has a great opportunity to rehabilitate the road, not only physically but spiritually—to re-quip it, not alone with rails and rolling stock, but with popular good will.

Falls City Journal: The Anti-Saloon league claims to have defeated seventeen candidates for the legislature and one for congress. The name of the congressman is not specified, but it was undoubtedly during the campaign that Frank Harrison and his brand of preachers were against Billy Hayward. Hayward discovered after election that the base ball fans were less numerous than the combined strength of the benevolent and anti-saloon forces which went to McGuire—each for its own reason.

Central City Nonpareil: If it is ever wise to offend the constitution, Governor Aldrich has ample justification for the slight he put upon that sacred document when he appointed Representative P. C. Johnson to be chaplain of the penitentiary. Rev. Mr. Johnson filled that responsible post with credit for several terms and introduced many reforms during his incumbency that lifted the management of that institution to a higher level. His service as a member of the board during the last session was marked by a broad view of the state's needs and his culture, courtesy and unflinching good humor made him popular with both "wets" and "drys."

Falls City Journal: The telegraphic news reports Senator Hitchcock as falling near one of the public buildings in Washington by a sudden attack of vertigo. Some how or other the democrats are unfortunates keeping the senators they send from this state on their feet after getting them to Washington. When William Bill Allen was elected his legs sometimes ailed him so that he had to be carried to the state capitol. On occasions, but nobody would have accused him of having water on the brain or vertigo, except from something extra that he found in his stomach.

The republican senators have been able to keep their legs, but it was a difficulty in keeping from trying to straddle every political fence they meet in their wobbling course.

BURY THE MAINE.

Deep Water Grave Most Suitable Place for Wreck, Philadelphia Bulletin.

Anticipating the successful raising of the hulk of the Maine in Havana harbor, some patriotic societies are now planning a petition to congress asking that the wreck be taken back to the United States and established as a national monument. It is understood that it is the purpose of the administration, after the remains of the crew have been taken from the ship and opportunity has been afforded for determining the cause of the disaster, to sink the wreck in deep water outside the harbor, or otherwise destroy it.

Public opinion should sustain the administration in that purpose. Preservation of the wreck can serve little good. It would not be a memorial of heroism or bravery or devotion to a cause for which men lay down their lives. It could not, except by reckless distortion, be a memorial of national altruism and love for humanity to which as a people we like to ascribe our intervention in the Cuban situation. Its actual service, in the truest meaning of history, would be to commemorate a colossal blunder which cost the lives of about 800 men and which will remain thus whether the wreck of the Maine shall be found to have been due to an internal or external explosion, or to have been accidental or plotted by either Spain or Cuba.

Our relations with Spain and Cuba now are cordial, and there is little reason for reopening old sores, and less for perpetuating them. And if there is any reason for further memorializing the cause for which United States troops fought and died, whether on land or sea, something more appropriate than this old hulk should be chosen.

In naming the three members of the new commission to codify the statute law of Nebraska Governor Aldrich has made his selections without giving representation to the bar of Omaha and Douglas county, which handles at least a fourth of the litigation of the state and whose numbers and caliber cannot be minimized. We do not know what influence brought the governor to his decision to ignore the bar of this district in this connection, but we believe he would have made a better distribution of the places.

Before Governor Aldrich listens to talk about instituting more ostentatious proceedings against Omaha's city officials he will do well to wait for the cost bills in the outer proceedings instituted by Governor Shallenberger against Chief of Police Donahue. It may be a question whether the state could get its money's worth. And then, too, there is a grand jury already called right here in Omaha before which anyone with a complaint may present all the evidence he has.

One of the gentlemen said to have contributed \$10,000 to the Lorimer jackpot violently denounces all newspapers and newspaper men, saying they are not fit to "live on this earth." That ought to give Lorimer a clean bill without going further.

Those poor Apaches who have been prisoners of war for twenty-five years have done a good deal better than some freemen white folks, mighty few of whom have accumulated a per capita wealth of \$1,700.

A Satisfying Situation.

Indianaapolis News: Reports from Washington indicate that Mr. Taft is a good deal better able to stand alone than the republican senators and representatives are to stand together.

Shrewd Game of War.

Philadelphia Record: Insurrecto Madero has a double purpose in doing his fighting where if he is whipped he can readily escape to neutral territory, or if he can manage to bring on a shoot up of a Yankee observation camp he can create a pretext for intervention.

Down to Sharp Teeth.

Pittsburg Dispatch: Ex-Senator Aldrich's famous statement that a good business man could save \$300,000,000 a year in the government expenditures, bobs up again in provoking the reflection that one item of the retrenchment might be the abolition of the same stock monetary commission, of which he is chairman.

ARMY GOSSIP.

Matters of Interest on and Back of the Firing Line Gleaned from the Army and Navy Register.

Brigadier General James Allen, chief signal officer of the army, expects to have from twenty to thirty line officers detailed this year for training in aeroplanes in connection with the aeroplanes which will be acquired in accordance with the recent appropriation of \$12,000 for that purpose, and about four of which machines will be operated at College Park, Md. Only those officers who apply for the detail will be assigned to the course. Already a number of applications have been received, and undoubtedly a number of others will be filed at the War department before long.

A number of candidates for appointment as acting dental surgeons have become ineligible by a narrow margin of age. In one case the candidate reached the age of 27 years on April 1st and while he had passed the physical examination and had been notified that he should present himself for the professional examination, it has been held that he is not eligible to appointment as an acting dental surgeon because the law authorizing the army dental corps provides that the original appointments as dental surgeons shall be acting dental surgeons and that appointments as acting dental surgeons must be citizens between 21 and 27 years of age. The War department has no discretion in the matter, the law being specific in the matter of the age limit.

Field company I of the signal corps commanded by Captain Carl F. Hartman of that corps, has been assigned to duty with the independent cavalry brigade in Texas under command of Brigadier General Walter H. Schuyler and consisting of the Ninth and Eleventh regiments of cavalry. The company will be used in connection with reconnaissance and other work of the brigade with a view of determining the efficiency of the present personnel and equipment in maintaining communication between advancing cavalry columns and between the columns and the rear. Field companies A and D of the signal corps under command of Major George O. Squier, chief signal officer of the maneuver division. This battalion has been engaged in working out tactical problems with the maneuver division. Field company B of the signal corps under command of Captain Henry W. Stamford is attached to the provisional brigade of troops at San Diego, Cal.

The status, duty and designation of army officers, who are carried on the register as "additional" by virtue of the legislation which corrected the inequalities of former regimental promotion, are still under consideration by the War department. It was proposed to carry the surplus colonels, for instance, on the list as "unassigned," which term would apply impartially to those promoted to the grade in the regular way to fill vacancies and those who were promoted and became extra officers in accordance with the law of March 2. Officers who are not in command of regiments, it has been proposed, should be recorded as "unassigned." There has been some objection to this arrangement, it being pointed out, for one thing, that the term is likely to convey the erroneous impression, of possible injustice to an officer, of lack of useful employment. It has been urged that all the officers, including the additional, be assigned to regiments, either to fill vacancies existing in the commands, or that they might be on detached service from the regiment—or to duty with the regiment.

Something ought to be done to fill the existing vacancies in the position of cadet at the United States Military Academy. Every year a large number of vacancies are caused by the fact that the representatives and senators who have appointments to make fall to nominate, or the nominated cadets fail to pass the entrance examination to be held, beginning on May 2. It is a serious matter for the army when so many vacancies continue at West Point. It means a shortage of officers. Following is a list of the cadetships which are unprovided with candidates for the coming examination: Arkansas, Second and Seventh congressional districts. Illinois, Fifteenth congressional district. Iowa, Ninth congressional district. Kansas, Third congressional district. Louisiana, Third congressional district. Mississippi, Senator Percy; First, Third, Fourth and Eighth congressional districts. Missouri, Twelfth congressional district. Nebraska, First and Sixth congressional districts. New York, Third, Ninth and Thirty-fifth congressional districts. Pennsylvania, Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighty-first congressional districts. South Carolina, Third congressional district. South Dakota, Senator Crawford. Utah, Senator Smoot. Wisconsin, Senator La Follette.

PLAYING THE GAME.

Political Schemes of Democrats in Congress, New York Sun.

If there is fear in any quarter that the democrats will revise all the protection out of the woolen or any other schedule of the Payne law, it is groundless. Nothing could be more comical than the report that "democrats from wool growing states view with alarm the proposal that the second rates shall be cut to the bone in some instances and in others be wiped out altogether." The Hon. Champ Clark and the Hon. Oscar Underwood have no such sinister designs upon the tariff. Revenue must be raised for the support of the government; the democratic party is a good protectionist party, although sometimes called "free trade" by republican orators; and sufficient duties must be spared to avoid a deficit.

It should be understood that the democratic leaders will do nothing to spoil the chance of electing a president, and that they will leave nothing undone to promote the success of their party in the election next year. So far it has been smooth sailing. It is easy to introduce reform bills and speed them on their way by the majority vote in the house of representatives. The Canadian reciprocity bill and the farmers' free list bill are amply prepared and launched; even a bill amending schedule K might be steered through the house; but getting them passed by the senate, there's the rub! Already the democrats in the house plume themselves upon their reform measures, and it is true they have shown unwonted activity and method as well as shrewd tactical skill. The truth is that thus far they have been playing their trump, of which they hold a good hand, but the trouble will come when they try to strike with the other cards. As regards general tariff revision, said the democrats reciprocally with Canada, they will have to reckon with recalcitrants in their own household, as well as with the senate; and it is no part of their plan to cut deep into the protective principle, much less endeavor to reverse it.

Their policy is transparent. They are

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ANTICIPATION.

When weary, lame and footsore I wait a home-bound car; I oft observe how selfish my fellow creatures are. Who sail by in an auto With that stony-staring habit— It seems a sin—but wait till you win That Apperson "Jack Rabbit."

POLITICAL FORMERS.

Wall Street Journal: Lorimer's coat of whitewash is wearing through at the elbows. Louisville Courier Journal: It may amuse Uncle Joe Cannon to set up a blackboard and act schoolmaster to the house, but he might remember that there are some pretty big boys in school able to lick the teacher.

Houston Post: "Nature evens all things." says some stump in Boston who claims to be a scientist. How can he say anything so absurd when Senator Kern has whiskers all over his face and Ollie James hasn't a hair on his head?

Boston Transcript: The Lorimer scandal is touching the epigrammatic state in Illinois. Ex-Senator Hopkins testified that when he was approached with a suggestion that he could secure ten democratic votes "if the right thing were done," he answered that he was "a candidate for the United States senate, not for the penitentiary."

Pittsburg Dispatch: Governor Harmon and Governor Wilson are both bulking large for the democratic nomination in 1912. It is a little early for presidential booms, but either will be a good leader for progressive democracy, the more laudable because his nomination would spell defeat for the scheme of the "interests" to capture the democratic party to defeat Taft.

FLOATING SMILES.

She—I will have no smoking in this house. Do you understand? He—Yes. Please extend this prohibition to the stove—Baltimore American.

Doctor—You are considerably under weight. What have you been doing? Patient—Nothing. But I'm a retired grocer, doc.—Puck.

"Did you hear what the fat woman said to the specialist?" "What?" "He told her not to hant and she told him not to hanter."—Indianapolis News.

"I have a very effective way of leading up to a spring gown." "How do you work it?" "I begin by talking to my husband about a trip to Europe. Eventually he is glad to contribute."—Washington Herald.

"How often do the seventeen year locusts visit you?" the traveler asked mindfully. "About every five or six years," the westerner answered with a yawn.