

THE DAILY BEE. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETORS. E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

Sworn Statement of Circulation.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Circulation figures. Rows include Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Averages.

In society as in church, preparations are in progress for the joyous Easter-tide. With gambling only a misdemeanor in Missouri now, poor old St. Louis may experience a boom.

The Salvation Army is becoming a nuisance. Mayor Boyd should order the police to suppress it.

The season for racyulous of the "ring-tailed peeler variety," as youthful Bill Nye has said, is upon us.

Since the inter-state commerce law has gone into effect, a Milwaukee milkman has been fined ten dollars for adulterating his milk.

POSTMASTER GENERAL VILAS denies that he is a candidate for vice president. It appears rather early to commence denying presidential campaign jokes.

THE TOWN-LOT boom has made star-gazing an unprofitable business in St. Joseph, Mo. Accordingly Prof. Proctor will go to Florida and divide his time between astronomy and alligators.

Mrs. GENERAL LOGAN, it is reported, will soon publish a novel on Washington society. If a true picture is presented, several "great conspiracies" will doubtless be portrayed within its pages.

P. T. BARNUM, the great showman, who for years has been an earnest prohibitionist, comes out for high license against prohibition. This is one of Mr. Barnum's hobbies that is not a humbug.

This seems to have been a good year for appropriation fiends. The Illinois legislature was asked to appropriate a half million dollars more than ever known before in the history of the state.

THE anthracite coal pool came to an end April 1, and hereafter, until winter, it will be every coal corporation for itself. The next thing we hear of Omaha's street cars will adopt stoves for the summer months.

AFTER all, Mr. Cleveland has done very well. Of the great army of presidential postmasters in this country, all but 5 percent of those who have been changed. And yet the democrats are wondering "what are we here for?"

ANOTHER terrible death from rabies is recorded—this time at Chicago. There are several mad-stones in that city, and they always receive longer write-ups in the press than the bitten men whom the mad-stones do not save.

As illegal voter at Sacramento, California, has been sent to prison for one year. It is safe to venture the prediction that a few such examples will make the "purity of the ballot" an existing fact, instead of a boasted sham.

THE publisher who paid the late Henry Ward Beecher in advance for the life of Christ that was never written will lose his money. No preparation was made to refund it. The moral to this transaction teaches a good business principle. Get what you pay for.

Stick a Pin Here. A village editor has furnished the newspaper combine at Omaha and Lincoln another mare's nest. He has made the astounding discovery that the circulation of the BEE, as computed by its published receipts from subscription, do not tally with the claim of over 14,000 daily and 30,000 weekly circulation. The Lincoln member of the combine goes so far as to assert that the BEE only claims to have received \$50,000 in subscriptions during the last year, which indicates that it has about 4,200 daily and 4,000 weekly subscribers who pay.

The figures of the village calculator are no less startling. If it is really true that less than one-third of our daily and one-seventh of our weekly patrons have paid their subscription for the last year, the BEE is indeed in a terrible condition.

The figures published by us were copied from the annual balance sheet of the BEE Publishing company, and are correct to the best of our knowledge and belief. These figures do not, however, include the least discredited our statements of circulation.

For the year ending February 1, 1887, the total receipts from daily subscribers were \$41,298.48, and from weekly subscribers, \$33,632.51, or a total from subscriptions of \$114,930.99, which is \$611,930.99 more than we are credited with by the Lincoln lightning calculator.

As a matter of fact the raw paper paper consumed by the BEE last year aggregates over \$50,000. These figures quoted are exactly as they appeared in our issue of March 14, 1887. They represent the net receipts from subscription after deducting commissions to agents.

The city circulation at Omaha, Lincoln and Council Bluffs are leased at rates that enable the lessees to pay their own carriers and collectors and stand all losses. The lessee of our Omaha circulation pays for an average of over 5,700 dailies, which he circulates in Omaha by carrier delivery. There are at least 125 local agents in Iowa and Nebraska who purchase papers for local patrons at the dealer's rates.

The village donkey has gone to work and figured out that 14,000 dailies for 365 days, would make 5,110,000 papers a year, which at 2 cents each should yield about \$102,000. Our exhibit of receipts makes the amount only about 12 cents for each paper, therefore, our sworn statement of circulation must be a fraud.

The trouble with these calculators is that they purposely misquote our figures and misrepresent the facts. In the first place the BEE only commenced the publication of a Sunday edition on the first day of August, 1886, which reduces the number of publication days for the year ending February 1, 1887, to 339. In the next place, the BEE does not claim that the circulation for the year quoted has averaged 14,000. On the contrary, on the 1st of February, 1886, the total circulation of the daily was only quoted at a fraction over 10,000, and the aggregate for the entire year was about 12,000. The \$611,298.48 shown over \$5 a year for every paper turned off the press, including the exchange list and exclusive of all expenses of handling, delivery and commissions.

Now let some member of the combine compare its subscription receipts from its own balance sheet and verify it with sworn statements of circulation for the last year.

Present Status of Civil Service Reform. The subject of civil service reform possesses an interest for two important reasons. One is, that both of the political parties have made it one of the chief issues in national politics, where it seems likely to remain if organized effort to keep it there can accomplish that object. The other reason is, that the administration, having made this reform a cardinal part of its policy, will be tried before the people largely with reference to its reform record.

A special committee of the national civil service reform league has just completed one elaborate report. Inasmuch as the reformed state and municipal system has been introduced in only two states, New York and Massachusetts, the report deals almost entirely with the national aspect of the subject. The reformers composing the committee were careful to say that they entered upon their task with the feeling that it was no part of their duty "to extol the administration nor to accuse it nor to apologize for it, but to take a reckoning." Interest in the result wholly in the character of the report. This is not altogether favorable to the administration. There are indications, despite the professed complete impartiality of the committee, that it was disposed to find excuses for the president, and it seems that it has done in this respect rather more than the facts justify. The effect, however, instead of extenuating the shortcomings of the administration, is rather to increase the damaging force of the facts which the committee was compelled to see and acknowledge.

The report credits the president with having done well as to the department at Washington, notwithstanding his mistake in appointing, as the heads of those departments, men who were not in full sympathy with the reform policy. During the first fifteen months of the administration the removals in the department service were only 61 percent. But when the committee extends its inquiry to the country outside of the national capital it does not find the results so satisfactory. It discovers that, very generally, the president has not shown adequate care to appoint only such men as were known to be friendly to the reform policy, and what is worse, the avowed hostility or indifference of officials to the cause of reform has not been made a reason for their removal. It is granted that a fair excuse might be found for appointing a man not favorable to reform, that can certainly be none for retaining him in office after his hostility to the policy had been unmistakably shown. The president has done this, after conclusive evidence was presented to him, and has justly subjected himself to a suspicion of insincerity.

The committee concluded, from the facts, that "the course of the administration in regard to appointments, removals and suspensions has been irregular, inconsistent, and sometimes inexplicable." The justice of this judgment cannot be successfully questioned. The report very plainly implies, also, that the reformers who prepared it are not sanguine that the reform their champion is likely to receive any further advancement from

this administration. They do not say that they evidently believe, that Mr. Cleveland has determined to hedge. They admit that "the administration stands at the parting of the ways," and clearly deprecate an apprehension that the path he will choose is the one leading to a complete partisan change in the public service. The drift in this direction has been plainly seen for some time by people whose perceptions are not impaired by that, in this country, at least, is an essentially false thing. The simple fact is that Mr. Cleveland has been learning practical politics.

Our Water Supply.

In 1881 a franchise was granted to the city waterworks company to establish and operate a system of water works in Omaha. Under this franchise a contract was made with the city to supply Omaha with clear and pure water for domestic use and fire protection. The Missouri river was designated as the source of the water supply, which was to be clarified in settling basins and distributed through water mains by gravitation from an eight-million gallon reservoir. Direct pressure was only to be used in emergencies—for putting out fires.

That the company has not strictly fulfilled its obligation is notorious. The BEE has time and again pointed out the dangerous defects of the system and urged the waterworks company to connect its works with the reservoir by a double main, so as to be in condition to keep up a continuous clear water supply from the reservoir, and avoid the danger of cutting off the reservoir supply in case of a break in its single line of pipe.

But the clamor raised by local papers for action by the council looking to a forfeiture of the charter, is senseless and ill-advised. It is proper enough to stir up the waterworks company by expressing the prevailing disgust with its service, but it is utterly impractical to talk about repealing its franchise or cancelling its contract.

Comparison of the Omaha water supply with that of Council Bluffs is simply out of question. The Council Bluffs waterworks were planned for a city of 30,000 to 40,000 people. They are more than ample for all present demands. The water supply of Council Bluffs has plenty of time to clarify in the settling basins and the reservoir exceeds in capacity the most extensive demand for both domestic use and fire protection. Hence the water supply for Council Bluffs can be kept perfectly clear.

The Omaha water works were planned and constructed for a city of 40,000 to 50,000 population but the demand by this time, is equal to that of any other city, of 100,000 population. The contract with the city called for twenty miles of water mains, but within less than five years from the completion of the works, we have forty-six miles of water mains. It is utterly impossible with the present settling basins and reservoir facilities to supply Omaha year in and year out with clear water. Water pumped directly from the river is of course hardly fit for use. When the BEE referred to the direct pressure nuisance last fall the managers of the waterworks called attention to the fact that the rapid growth of the city would compel a removal of the works several miles up the river. This change of base could not be made until the city charter was amended to authorize the condemning of land, at the new location for basins and reservoir. Machinery with capacity to operate works for supplying a city of 150,000 population is to be substituted for the pumps and engines now in use and the entire system will have to be reconstructed on an extensive plan.

In view of these costly proposed improvements we regard it as unreasonable for the council to require the company to make any further outlay at its works. All the council ought to do in the premises is to insist that the company shall take prompt steps for the relocation of its works and their completion at the earliest possible time.

Allen Land Owners. The Nebraska legislature, which adjourned last week, first of all offered its attention to the needs and behests of corporations. As a mere blind, it gave its old hours to a little work for the people. Of course, there were laws to be passed which the people demanded, and which the corporations already on the ground did not oppose. To such light tasks the corruptionists applied themselves occasionally, rather for the sake of believing that of helping the masses. For the public interests they cared nothing.

Thus they passed a law forbidding to aliens the ownership of land in Nebraska. So far, good. Such a law would be a departure of advantage if it should compel land ownership by actual settlers, or at least by American citizens.

But does the law effect any such thing? While a foreigner may not own land, what is to prevent him from buying stock in any American corporation, and what is to prevent that corporation from owning all the land it can grab or buy?

A land-owner, when he is a man, dies in America, his sections are divided into quarter-sections, and his quarter-sections into forty, that his four sons may start alike. By that means the forefathers expected to prevent entail. But a corporation lives forever, and has no sons. Its corporate powers are immortal. In its eternity of youth all other things, including the rights of the people, pass away.

The railroads of Nebraska are corporations. They may own all the land they see fit to acquire. And the lords of England may own the stock of these corporations. What use is there in passing a law against individuals that does not reach corporations? How will the law, for which the Nebraska legislature takes so much credit, prevent the formation of syndicates of aliens, who, organized as American corporations, may own a piece of land as wide as the state and as long as the Platte river. Of what virtue is a law that prevents Sir Morton Frewen from buying land in Nebraska, when this same Sir Morton Frewen may, if he choose, organize the Bay State Cattle company and buy any amount of land beginning with 10,000 acres?

We all know the wickedness of the foreign ownership. The county of Livingston, in Illinois, on a line half way between Chicago and Springfield, is already under the sway of an Irish landlord, Scully, who, without let or hindrance, evicts farmers, controls local elections, and imposes out-thrust leases on his thousands of tenants. What is to pre-

vent a repetition of this mocking of human rights in Nebraska, notwithstanding the virtue the late legislators assumed, though they had it not? It is safe to say that the misrepresentatives of the people, who were, soul and body, controlled by railway monopoly, would never have passed an alien land-owners bill if such a statute would by any means have traversed the interests of any corporation with a lobby at the capital.

Whatever may be the consequences to the projected national drill in Washington next month, by reason of the refusal of white military companies in the south to participate if organizations of colored men shall be allowed to take part, the managers should adhere to their original purpose of admitting the colored militiamen. It may be that the companies from other southern states will show the good sense not to dishonor their manhood and their military character by acquiescing in the objection made by the Alabama companies, in which case the absence of the disreputable sons of the "restful commonwealth" will not in the least degree interfere with the success of the event. But should every southern company make the alternative of its participation in the drill contingent upon refusing entrance to colored companies, it were better that the enterprise be abandoned than to make such a concession. If the managers of the drill yield to the least extent to this southern demand, it will be the duty of every northern company entered to withdraw. Such instances as this of race narrowness and hostility serve to show that there is still a great deal to be done in the "new south" before it shall have advanced to a position abreast with the age.

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LEGISLATING FOR LABOR.

What a Frenchman is Doing for Worthy Wage Workers. CAPITALISTS AND CONSUMERS.

Unions to be Made Obligatory—Benefits Therefrom—"Syndical Chambers"—Choice of Piece and Day Work.

Grise, France, March 18th.—[Correspondence of the BEE.]—The operatives of the foundries of the Faillite, or "Social Palace," in this city, which I founded, and of which I am the manager, are soon to send a petition to our legislative body, the purpose of which may prove interesting to both workingmen and employers in the United States, where I understand similar evils obtain to those under which we are at present suffering in France.

Our employers have of late commenced a most disastrous competition among themselves, by means of cutting down wages. Some among them began by reasoning to themselves in this way: "I employ, say, 500 men. If I reduce the daily wages by one franc, that saves me daily 500 francs. With these savings I could easily compete with the other establishments in my line, and make handsome profits into the bargain." Said, done! Their competitors, to save themselves, had to cut wages down lower still, and the consequence is that in many factories wages have been reduced by as much as two or three francs a day. Now, I say, and our workmen with me, that since the law protects the resources and property of the employer, it should equally protect the resources of the operative, that is to say—his wages. For that purpose it would be required to give the workers a right over the rate of wages, analogous to that which the employer has over the manufactured products. It would be requisite that the employer should no longer be able to speculate on a reduction of wages. We insist that

if ever necessary, should not be left to the arbitrary will of the employers, and that the workers are now justified in paying lower wages than their competitors in trade; we insist that a lowering of wages should never take place, except after a serious examination of the whole economic field; and we even go so far as to say, that it should never be resorted to except with the consent of the operatives. These are the reasons that lead us to demand that trades unions should have the right to decide, in the last instance, how many hours shall constitute a working day and what should be average wages. It is an economic fallacy that cheapness is the summum bonum. It is precisely cheapness which causes the misery of the working classes, as well as the ruin of the manufacturers and the stoppage of our industries. The present crisis is a result of a want of equilibrium between production and consumption, and the want of equilibrium again is caused by the fact that the mass of the workers are unable to buy what they want.

We have here in France a law, passed in 1881, legalizing trade unions, but it is useless, because it depends entirely on the employers whether the workmen shall or shall not organize themselves under it. Indeed in most factories the employers have discharged workmen for it impossible to get work elsewhere. The objection often made that

FOREIGN COMPETITION necessitates low wages does not apply to our industry at Grise. Our products have no foreign competition to fear; if our wages were higher there would not be one single stove less sold, rather more of them. And as to other industries, we are sure that if once wages were regulated within our country, a great step would be taken towards settling the wage question internationally, as now questions of customs duties are settled.

THE LAW'S EFFECT. When thus the institution of Unions of workers and of employers, as well as of "Syndical Chambers" to settle the questions of labor enumerated in the law, on the demand of the unions, has become obligatory, employers can no longer act arbitrarily in regard to their employees. Let us suppose that an employer had to use a common phrase, "I took the town averages wage, established by the 'Syndical Chamber, be \$1 a day, then an establishment which employed 100 workers of all kinds would have to pay its staff of workers \$100 daily; another that occupied 1,000 persons would pay \$1,000. The president and secretary of the union in each establishment would not pay a sum, equal to the average wages multiplied by the number in his employ, he would be compelled to pay the difference, if any, to those entitled to the establishments of the same industry would thus be placed on the same footing. In this way would be abolished the competition now made by lowering wages; CONSUMPTION WOULD INCREASE and production be regulated; all causes for strikes abolished. Competition would be changed into emulation as to who could make the best products and wares. But in order to do away with the antagonism of interests between employers and employees, as well in the deliberations of the 'syndical Chamber, as in the factory, it should be well understood, that the rules as to the average wage and normal working day be strictly followed both by employers and employees; that, nevertheless, the employers have perfect freedom to choose the work of their work, to say during what hours work

shall be done, and distribute wages as they think fit and proper; that all that is required of them is to amount in wages proportioned to the number they employ, and be satisfied with the number of working hours determined upon, while otherwise they have perfect freedom of action; that the 'syndical Chamber' should have power to punish employers for violation of the rules, compel them to pay the amounts they respectively owe, and appoint committees from among themselves for that purpose; that the chambers interfere only in arbitration, and that all establishments be treated alike.

Such a law, we are assured, would have other most happy results besides the direct ones I have enumerated. Among other things it would, under the condition of the whole working class and it would enable us to make statistics of all production and consumption which would be of incalculable value to our chiefs of industry and commerce, and it would put an end to our periodical crises. Our proposition, in fact, would be the beginning of the solution of the social problem. GODIN.

SEWARD STREET CHURCH.

Important Easter Services—A New Building Promised.

There will be special services at the Seward Street M. E. church on Easter. The church will be appropriately decorated. The pastor, Rev. C. W. Savidge, has prepared a special sermon, and some fine music may be expected from the choir under the direction of Mr. Meyers, late of Kansas City, but now with the choir of this church. The Seward Street church choir now consists of the following well-known singers: Mr. Meyers, basso; Mr. F. A. Coleman, basso; Mrs. J. E. Newman, soprano; Mrs. C. R. Basarum, Miss Jewel McCune and Miss Katie Sabel, altos; Messrs. J. J. Jones and William McCune, tenors, and a choir, soprano. A cordial invitation is extended to all who can come and enjoy the services on next Sunday. Seats free and all are welcome.

The trustees of Seward Street M. E. church last evening a committee of four was appointed by the board to consult as to the feasibility of tearing down the present building and erecting a larger one. It is understood that the trustees will have a meeting on the 10th inst. to discuss the matter. The church is crowded to overflowing each Sunday and the trustees see the necessity of providing more room for the people.

WILL BE RESULT.

The Barker Brothers Let Contracts on Their Building.

The Barker Brothers have made preparations to have their burned block on the southwest corner of Fifteenth and Farnam rebuilt and that without delay. The contract for tearing down the granite walls which have been allowed to stand since the disastrous fire, has been let to the contractor who is now working on the Paxton block granite work. He has been delayed in getting steam power for his new derrick, but will commence work in a very few days.

The contracts for the brick, iron, wood and cornice work, will be let shortly. The element of wood will enter very sparsely into the construction of the building. The girders will be for the most iron, while the framework of the bay window will be of cast iron. The material, instead of wood, as before, George Barker says that the iron contract will be, in fact, three or four times what it was before, so that the structure which is to be one of six stories, will be nearly fire proof. The architects, Mendelssohn & Lowrie, have the plans all prepared. It is hoped to have it completed by fall or winter.

TRAMWAY NEWS.

The Council Bluffs and Omaha Bridge Company—Notes.

A meeting of the stockholders of the Omaha and Council Bluffs Bridge company, which was to have been held Monday afternoon, was postponed to next Saturday, on account of the absence of Mr. J. F. Stuart, who is in Chicago. Mr. Frank Murphy, one of the directors, said the bids on the structure will be called for within the next ten days, and work will be commenced as soon as possible this spring. The estimated cost of the neighborhood of \$600,000 and the chances are that it will start from the foot of Farnam.

Dr. Mercer stated yesterday that his order for the right