

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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STAFF OF CIRCULATION. George H. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being daily aware that the circulation number of the Bee is one of the most important...

Table with 3 columns: Date, Circulation, and Total. Rows include dates from 1/1 to 1/31 and a total of 56,846.

Net sales, \$20,645. Daily average, \$13,152. Sworn to before me this 31 day of February, 1896.

ELI PERKINS PRAISES OMAHA'S UNION DEPOT as "out of sight." Eli's praise is of the sort that dawns.

In the interval Congressman Mercer is sticking to business in Washington and pushing his various bills forward peg by peg.

The Nebraska state law against prize fighting should be enforced. But the officers to enforce it are the county authorities. It is not necessary for the governor to call out the militia.

The police commission has not enough money to maintain a police force ample to protect life and property, but it has enough money to place favorites on the retired list with a liberal pension for doing nothing.

The death of Congressman Crain of Texas will give the people a chance to see whether the agitation for the reform of the costly congressional funerals has had any appreciable effect upon the authorities in position to apply the remedy.

Compared with the data given in the warden's report of the cost of maintaining the convicts in the state prison, the profits of ex-Contractor Dorgan, with his 40-cents-a-day subsidy from the state, must have been something worth hanging onto.

With Senator Frye as president pro tempore of the senate, Speaker Reed presiding over the house and Congressman Dingley guiding the ways and means committee the state of Maine seems already to have taken everything in sight except the presidency.

If the charter amendments favored by the Douglas delegation in the legislature increasing the pay of each patrolman on the police force by \$10 had become law the police commission would have insisted on having the proceeds of the whole 41-mill levy.

One way of extending the visiting veterans a cordial greeting is to show interest in their meetings, receptions and campfires by attending them. A good representation of prominent local business men should be present at gatherings in which they take part.

If Vice President Stevenson still harbors the idea that he ought to be the heir apparent to the democratic throne he and his friends ought to lose no time in informing William R. Morrison that Illinois cannot have more than one favorite son at a time in the democratic national convention.

Announcements are being made from day to day that the delegates from this southern state or that southern state are for this or that man for the presidency. No one, however, can rely on this information as the basis of his computation. The only authentic announcement of the votes of the southern delegates to the conventions will be recorded on the official ballot.

There is apparently nothing dangerous or even threatening in the Indian pow-wow in progress at the Pine Ridge agency. The Indians contemplate only the peaceable petitioning for redress of alleged grievances. White men have this privilege guaranteed them by the constitution, and there is no reason why anyone should interfere with this meeting of Indians so long as they go quietly about their own business.

There is fair prospect of the early completion of a motor line to Florence. The necessity for such extension has been apparent for years. The destination of the road is to be Forest Lawn cemetery, and funeral trains will be run from the city. This innovation will greatly reduce the cost of funerals, a consideration of the utmost importance at this time. It will also bring into closer communication one of the most beautiful suburban towns in the vicinity of Omaha.

Walter Raleigh Vaughn's bill to pension ex-slaves has bobbed up once more in congress, being introduced this time by Senator Thurston "by request," and with a special disclaimer of responsibility for it. We think the bill could be more conveniently dropped, as Sir Walter Raleigh Vaughn has sold as many negroes with as many copies of his famous \$5 book as can be disposed of. If ex-slaves only continued to be born every day there might be a pecuniary market for that \$5 book.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Today is the eighty-seventh anniversary of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. It will be observed as a legal holiday in the states of New York, New Jersey, Illinois and Washington, while at many banquet tables in many states to Washington the most imposing and the most revered character in American history will be duly honored. It has been proposed to make February 12 a national holiday, and sooner or later this may be done, the only objection to it being that it comes so near the anniversary of Washington's birthday. But in any event the birthday of Abraham Lincoln does not need this recognition in order to insure its observance by his countrymen. Appreciation of the great qualities of Lincoln, admiration of his character, and gratitude for the mighty work he accomplished, grow with the passing years, and there is no danger that so long as the republic stands, or so long as free institutions are cherished, that the memory of the emancipator of a race and the savior of his country will fade from the minds of men or cease to command their affection and reverence.

Great interest has been developed within a few years in the study of the character of Abraham Lincoln, in the investigation of those elements that were so mixed in him as to give him a distinct individuality more marked and unique than that of any other man who was ever prominent or distinguished in American public life. He was a many-sided man, but no side was Lincoln other than an entirely good man. A characteristic which constantly obtruded itself, often to the great annoyance if not disgust of the members of his official household, upon whom the burdens of state rested heavily, was his quaint humor, his readiness to tell a story or to make an application of some funny incident in his experience to the most serious matter. He was much ridiculed and condemned for this, but all now understand that it was by this means Lincoln found relief from a strain greater than was ever imposed upon any other man in our history. No man could be more serious than he and his seriousness was profound and all-engrossing, but his nature could not dwell perpetually under a cloud. It needed some sunshine and this he found in occasional sallies of humor. Lincoln was a man of tender nature. All his instincts were humane and kindly. He was easily moved by an appeal from the humble and helpless. Yet he could be as firm as adamant and immovable as the rock-ribbed hills when firmness was demanded. He could and often did temper justice with mercy, but never with any sacrifice or surrender of right.

Lincoln was an orator whose rank among Americans is, in the opinion of most competent judges, second only to that of Daniel Webster. In the judgment of so capable an authority as Thomas B. Reed there seems to be nothing even in Webster to equal that sublime recognition of the justice of the living God, even in the midst of chastisement, which is contained in Lincoln's second inaugural. "That passage seems to have the power of the bible," says Mr. Reed in an article in the Philadelphia Press, "and the words seem as consecrated as if they had been the words on which our hearts and our fathers' hearts had hung for 2,000 years." While the fame of Lincoln as an orator will always rest, as Mr. Reed suggests, on the two inaugurals and the speech at Gettysburg, everything that has been preserved of his utterances is worth reading, for Lincoln never gave careful expression to his views without saying something of value. His mastery of debate with Douglas is a rich mine of political ideas and principles, many of which are as valuable now as when they were spoken.

Of the patriotism of Abraham Lincoln the world needs no new evidence. His love for and devotion to free institutions was profound, intense, boundless. He had also an unflinching faith in the survival of those institutions and in the grand destiny of the republic, which had his basis in a perfect faith in divine providence. There has recently been some controversy regarding Lincoln's religion, but there can be no doubt of his belief in the bible and in the cardinal doctrines of Christianity. His whole course of life and all that he ever said attest this.

Hannibal Hamlin once said: "There cannot be any exaggerated estimate of Mr. Lincoln. No doubt he made mistakes, and he was the first to admit them. He had less of self-consequence than any man of ability I ever saw, but he is not to be judged by occasional mistakes, but by his whole career, his purposes and his achievements." So judged, Abraham Lincoln was one of the greatest, noblest and most heroic characters the world has known.

THE NEW REGIME IN CUBA.

General Weyler has assumed his duties as commander-in-chief of the Spanish forces in Cuba and according to the dispatches the effect has been to greatly raise the spirits of the Spanish sympathizers. Undoubtedly they expect great things of the new commander and there is every reason to believe that he will do his very best to justify their confidence. The proclamations issued by General Weyler are, however, unexpectedly moderate in tone. He promises a vigorous prosecution of the war and the punishment with all the rigor that the law exacts those who in any way shall help the enemy, but there is nothing in these proclamations to indicate that he intends to adopt a policy in contravention of the rules of civilized warfare. It would not be safe, however, to give full faith to these public utterances. Campaign was relieved of the command in Cuba because he would not yield to the demand of the Spanish party there for the adoption of a policy of extreme severity toward the insurgents, and if Weyler desires to remain in command he will be compelled to make some concessions to this party. It has already been shown that it is his intention at Madrid and there is no reason to suppose that it will demand less of Weyler than it did of Campos. If all this that is said of Weyler, he will not be indisposed to listen to the demands of the Spanish

sympathizers, but, on the contrary, will be found ready to go as far as they may desire, and possibly farther.

The policy of the new regime will be watched with profound interest by all who sympathize with the insurgent cause and if it shall prove to be as apprehended there will be a fresh outburst of feeling favorable to the insurgents that cannot fail to be helpful to them. The Spanish government has been made aware of the sentiment in this country respecting any policy of cruelty or unusual severity in the treatment of the Cuban patriots, so that if it permits such a policy to be inaugurated it must be prepared for action on the part of our government that will at least give the insurgents a status as belligerents. Perhaps this consideration may have some influence in modifying the plan which it was understood General Weyler had arranged for his Cuban campaign.

ATLANTA AND OMAHA.

In a progressive, enterprising community like Omaha there can be no such word as fall in any undertaking that elicits the active support of all its public-spirited citizens. The proposed Transmississippi exposition doubtless surpasses in magnitude every other project that has been taken in hand by our people. Its successful accomplishment will tax the best energies of the representative business men who have assumed the responsible task of planning and executing the work. It will also call for the cordial co-operation of the people of the whole state.

We make bold to assert that the Transmississippi exposition will in no particular suffer by comparison with the recent Cotton States exposition. What Atlanta has done in 1885 Omaha can and will do in 1896. In many respects Omaha starts out with great advantages over Atlanta. It has a larger population to begin with and has a tributary country of much greater resources. The sum total raised by the citizens of Atlanta by stock subscription and donation was a trifle less than \$125,000. Omaha raised nearly \$100,000 last year for the state fair. The city of Atlanta contributed \$75,000 in money and the county expended about \$25,000 for roadways and improvements. With the requisite legislation next winter Omaha and Douglas county can readily duplicate this subsidy. The state of Georgia voted \$20,000 for a state building and exhibit, but paid out only \$17,500. The state of Nebraska will scarcely hesitate to invest \$50,000 in the Transmississippi exposition. Eight states made appropriations ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 each for the Atlanta exposition and congress appropriated \$200,000 for that purpose. There are twenty-four states and territories west of the Mississippi and not less than two-thirds of these, or eighteen states, can be counted on to make liberal appropriations for exhibiting their resources at Omaha. What Uncle Sam has done for Atlanta and the cotton states he cannot refuse to do for Omaha and the transmississippi country. In round numbers 1,200,000 people passed through the gates of the Atlanta fair during the period that it was open to the public. It is safe to predict that more than 2,000,000 people will avail themselves of the opportunity to view the Transmississippi exposition in the same time. Iowa and Nebraska alone will send in 1,000,000 visitors without really overtaxing themselves.

As already stated, the ability of Omaha to match Atlanta is not open to question. Omaha will excel Atlanta as much, if not more, than Atlanta excelled New Orleans. What is now required is for its citizens to come forward and second the efforts of the directors of the exposition by stock subscriptions. The subscription list should reach at least the \$100,000 mark within the next thirty days, so as to enable our congressional delegation to give assurance that we are in earnest and ready to proceed with the practical work.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

It is expected that the session of the British Parliament, which opened yesterday, will be of unusual interest and importance. Not only are there commanding questions of domestic concern which the party in power will be called upon to consider, but the grave international issues and complications that have developed since the close of the last session will demand attention from Parliament, and as to some of these the liberals are pretty sure to make themselves troublesome to the majority.

The so-called queen's speech is chiefly noteworthy for taking an optimistic view of all the international issues in which Great Britain is involved. It expresses a trust that further negotiations will lead to a satisfactory settlement of the Venezuelan case; it is hopeful regarding reforms in the Armenian provinces of Turkey, and it is sanguine that everything will hereafter be satisfactory in the Transvaal. All of which may have a reassuring effect upon the British mind. In regard to the policy of the government, as outlined in the speech, the extension of naval defenses is urged and there will no difficulty in securing the necessary appropriations for this purpose. It is also contemplated to do something for the agricultural producers of England, whose condition is about as bad as it well could be. With their great majority the unionists will undoubtedly be able to carry through any measure they propose, but some of them will encounter vigorous opposition.

President Cleveland has no doubt advanced himself a peg in the estimation of the Washington correspondents who discounted in advance his appointment of Mr. Eld to succeed the late Mr. Ruymon as ambassador to Germany. If there is one thing that delights a Washington correspondent more than another it is to make a prediction of some forthcoming event and have it come true.

Maeco, the Cuban revolutionary general, is a negro, and the greater part of his armed following consists of negroes. They are fighting for Cuban independence of Spain. What they are accomplishing in the military field is an

indication of the assistance the United States may expect from its negro troops and volunteers should occasion arise to take up arms in defense of their liberties.

And now Omaha is to have a bicycle show, where the latest fads of wheel makers and every novelty that inventive minds have contrived will be put upon exhibition. It is only a stray showing the extraordinary interest taken in everything pertaining to the bicycle this season. It is freely predicted that more wheels will be purchased in Omaha this year than during any two years heretofore. What was once a fad has come to be a craze. Everybody wants a wheel.

The expulsion of Knights of Labor from the local branch of the American Federation of Labor is said to be due to the fact that the knights insist upon dabbling in politics. This may or may not be true. At any rate a disposition to dabble in politics has wrecked many a labor union, and it is likely that local organizations do not differ widely from those of other cities. The knights, however, disclaim the charge, and they are entitled to their denial.

Where Doubt Perches.

Nobody doubts that there is plenty of gold in Colorado, but it is as to the existence of gold in mining stock.

The Hair-Trigger Statesman.

Representative Barrett of Massachusetts seems to be constantly on the outlook for an opportunity to make a spectacle of himself. He is probably the most statesman-like of a hair-trigger trigger attached to a flint-lock blunderbuss.

Congressman Ken's Halo.

Mr. Ken of Nebraska is the possessor of a fine halo of golden red hair, but he is a man of no great ability. He is a member of the house on Friday a member remarked to Representative Perkins of Iowa: "There is a man for the white metal."

Distressed by Rebel Tactics.

General Marin, acting captain general of Cuba, objects to the military tactics of the insurgents as "dishonorable," inasmuch as they are a "disgrace to the arms of the republic." The insurgents may be excused on the ground of poverty; with improved resources and especially some field artillery they will turn around and thrash the government in the most complete manner and in the highest style of the art.

Wherein Venezuela is Sounded.

There is one good reason why the United States should feel kindly toward Venezuela, and that is that she is sound on the money market. She is the only country in the world with the best in the world. Gold is the standard of value, and silver is coined only to the extent of the government's ability to redeem its gold. This is probably the only reason why she is unwilling to surrender her gold-producing territory to Great Britain.

Veterans Held in High Esteem.

Outside of national and state legislation, the votes of the people have shown how the old soldiers are held in high esteem. Mr. McKinley was elected to the presidency since 1865 all but one were ex-soldiers of the union army. About the same proportion holds as to governors of states and to all other elective officers. It is, therefore, quite unnecessary to pass ridiculous and unconstitutional acts in honor of the interest, but really to the injury of the men who bore arms in any great war.

The Anthracite Squeeze.

The great coal kings have combined and agreed to restrict the output of anthracite to 1,000,000 tons per year. The coal owners have promptly seconded the act by raising the price of coal. They want less coal and more money. The consumer can easily see where he will come in. Is such a combination just and legal? Is there no law, and no officials who will enforce the law all in all? It is reported that the present combination has a capital of \$1,000,000 and is behind it, led by Morgan and the Vanderbilts.

Not a Rival, but a Lender.

Sir Charles New York has formed a Berlin newspaper that England has no fear of Germany's rivalry in the manufacturing industries or in foreign trade, in both of which she is her rival. Sir Charles is a man of great ability and a high character. It is not in the interest of mankind that England should control foreign trade.

The Death of General Gibbon.

There will be universal regret over the announcement of the death of General John Gibbon, in this city. As a soldier General Gibbon made a reputation as one of the hardest fighters in the army of the Potomac. He was a man of great courage and of the most reliable divisions in that great army. Afterward General Gibbon distinguished himself by his successful campaigns against hostile Indian tribes. In social life he was highly esteemed for his genial, companionable qualities, and in connection with his military career he was an inveterate sportsman. Among General Gibbon's most intimate friends were gentlemen who fought on the confederate side during the late civil war.

THE SEED SCANDAL.

Secretary of Agriculture J. Sterling Morton has issued a circular to his assistants to buy and distribute certain seeds, sold by some persons to be required by law. The requirement of the law is that the purchase of seeds should be made from the department, or such as can be made more useful by frequent changes from one part of our country to another. The seeds are wheat, alfalfa, vetch and cuttings of alfalfa, and such as are adapted to general cultivation and to promote the general interest of agriculture and horticulture throughout the United States. The secretary says this duty has been attempted so thoroughly that in recent years the vast majority of the so-called new seeds and plants merely old varieties under new names. Almost no seed rarely or uncommon anywhere in the world, and for many years the purchase of seeds is made under a liberal construction of the provisions for "such seeds as can be made more profitable by frequent changes from one part of our country to another." 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