

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.

George E. Zeschick, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of April, 1904, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Issue, Copies. Rows include Daily Bee (with/without Sunday), Sunday Bee, Evening Bee (with/without Sunday).

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 24 day of May, A. D. 1904.

GEO. E. ZESCHICK, Notary Public.

The Iowa idea of 1904 was very much like the Ohio idea of the 80's—an iridescent dream.

With two markets under his supervision the Omaha market master will have his hands full.

For a town which has been reported to have fallen twice Port Arthur is standing firmly.

Regardless of the measures proposed Nebraska will vote one "Aye" on all motions at Chicago.

If Alexieff and Kourpatkin are really in conflict Japan may help its enemy by capturing one of the leaders.

The sudden awakening of the love of freedom in the heart of Web Davis may be accounted for when the Boer general goes into court.

From the expressions of some of the local democrats Mr. Bryan may get an impression that Omaha is now a part of "the enemy's country."

The repair of asphalt pavements is, after all, only a temporary makeshift.

When an asphalt pavement is worn out, the street should be repaved.

Omaha people will not be surprised at lively political sessions of the Woman's Federation so long as there is someone named Denison at the head of affairs.

With so many conventions meeting this week it will not be long until we will all know "who to holler for," unless perchance we may happen to live in Illinois.

Having been figuratively in the air for two weeks the military experts at St. Petersburg have decided to put the bellicent armies there by the use of war balloons.

It would appear from the reports that there was something of a distribution of funds during the last Denver election, and the supreme court will be asked to pass upon the result.

Methodists desire to consolidate the different branches of the book concern, but do not know who should be let out, and none of the employes is willingly resigning in the interests of economy.

The latest report is to the effect that distressed Armenians are in Mesh. This is the first intimation that Turkey had stirred meal into the hot water in which it has kept the Armenians for some time.

When the Frank E. Moores No. 5 Metropolitan fire engine rolls through the streets of Omaha it will have about the same effect upon the Fontanelle club as a red rag waved in front of a bull.

Revelations at St. Louis regarding the Australian exhibit would indicate that public scandals are not confined to the United States, but the atmosphere at St. Louis may have had something to do with it.

Having touched Gordon W. Wattles for half a thousand the Junior Yellow is beginning to cultivate the Yellow leg for senatorial ambition with the discreet proviso, "if Senator Millard does not desire re-election."

From the election returns it would hardly seem possible that there are enough republicans in the state of Arkansas to form two factions, but probably republican votes are counted in their conventions if not in elections.

It seems that England can easily find "a few rabid barbarians" to fight wherever there is gold or land not held by a force equal to the occasion. Great Britain's worst fault is belittling its enemies until it is whipped, which is not often.

RAILROAD TAXES PER MILE.

The railroad tax agents and railroad attorneys have for years insisted that the railroads pay more taxes in Nebraska than they do in other states. Bulletin No. 3, issued under authority of the railroads of Nebraska in 1902, attempted to institute comparisons between railroad taxation in Nebraska and seven other states, selected so as to convey the impression that the railroads of Nebraska fare much worse than do the railroads in those states, and the assertion was made that the average tax per mile in five states is \$103.60, while the average tax paid by railroads per mile in Nebraska is \$198.86.

In order that the state board of taxation may not be deceived by the juggled figures of the railroad tax agents, attention is respectfully called to the latest annual report of the Interstate Commerce commission, published December 15, 1903, pages 27, 28 and 29, showing taxes per mile of the railways of the United States by states and territories and the aggregate amount of taxes paid in each state for the year ending June 30, 1902. Those tables show the aggregate taxes per mile paid by the railroads in:

Table with 2 columns: State/Territory, Amount. Lists states from Massachusetts to Nebraska with their respective tax amounts per mile.

Average for all the states and territories, \$274 per mile.

The aggregate amount of taxes paid by the railroads in these states in the year 1902 was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: State/Territory, Amount. Lists states from New York to Nebraska with their aggregate tax amounts for 1902.

It is a matter of notoriety that in nearly every state in the union, excepting Nebraska, the assessments were materially raised in 1903 and the divergence between the tax rate per mile and the aggregate amount of taxes paid in Nebraska and the other states is more striking.

The state of Michigan changed its tax system from a percentage on gross receipts to ad valorem, or value of the properties, based on stocks and bonds and earnings, and the tax levied for 1903 was raised from \$1,500,444 to \$2,400,000. In the state of Minnesota the tax for 1903 will exceed \$2,200,000, as against \$1,752,493 in 1902. In Missouri there was an increase in the assessment of railroads and other corporations over the preceding year of \$8,254,254.98, or very nearly 10 per cent.

In Wisconsin, Kentucky, Montana, North and South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas and, in fact, practically all the transmississippi states, the assessments for 1903 were raised anywhere from 10 to 50 per cent, while Nebraska actually reduced the aggregate of railroad taxation on the mileage basis.

It should also be borne in mind that the aggregate taxes paid by the railroads in Nebraska include not merely the railroads proper, but vast tracts of land outside of the right-of-way and terminals.

THE DEMOCRATIC SITUATION.

No one can predict with certainty who will receive the nomination of the St. Louis convention. It may not go to any one of the men who now aspire to it and in whose behalf delegates have been chosen. Judge Parker is now in the lead and in securing an instructed delegation from Indiana made what appeared to be a most important accession to his strength, but it is understood that the Indiana delegates do not feel that they are required to stand by the New York man to the last, one of them being credited with the statement that should conditions change at St. Louis the delegation would "reserve the right to vote for the best interests of the democratic party." There is no absolute assurance, therefore, that the vote of Indiana will go to Parker after the first ballot, should he fall of nomination on that ballot.

The man who gets the nomination must receive not less than 697 votes, or a two-thirds majority of the convention and at this time the friends of Judge Parker are able to count up only 429 votes for him and some of these are from states which have not as yet taken formal action, but whose determination to instruct for Parker has been repeatedly announced by the leaders who are in control of the local organizations. It is at least possible that the count thus made may prove disappointing. There seems to be no very serious consideration given by the democratic leaders to the Hearst movement, yet the managers of the boom are as active as ever and profess to be quite confident of carrying off the prize. There has already been a vast sum of money expended on this movement and undoubtedly the supply of Hearst cash at St. Louis will be abundant. Gorman and Olney appear to have been dropped out of consideration and there is noted a disposition to revive the Cleveland boom. It is stated that this is discussed anew in the inner circles in Washington and New York, some of the politicians being of the opinion that Mr. Cleveland will be nominated at St. Louis notwithstanding the immense obstacles that seem to loom in the way. There is said to be a general conviction that the president wants the nomination, whatever he may have said. Joseph W. Folk, the prosecutor of St. Louis hoodlums, is talked of as a possibility. Mr. Folk will be nominated next month for governor of Missouri and this will possibly give him some prestige in the national convention, though the fact that he will not be of presidential age until next October is unfavorable to him.

There will be opportunities at St. Louis for combinations and undoubtedly some will be made. What the situation now clearly indicates is that the democratic national convention will be one of the liveliest and most interesting in the party's history.

HELPFUL TO CUBA.

The reciprocity treaty with Cuba is proving helpful to the island republic. It went into effect at the beginning of the present year and in the ensuing three months our imports from the island nearly doubled in value, while our exports to Cuba were somewhat increased, though in nothing like the degree of the imports. There was a gain in the exportation to the island of agricultural implements, flour, cotton, cloth, locomotives, leather, oil, lumber, furniture and some other articles. Our exports, however, were in value but little more than one-fourth of the imports and this can hardly be regarded as satisfactory. It was reasonably expected that under the treaty Cuba would buy about everything she needed from American merchants and manufacturers, but obviously this is not being done and the slight increase in our exports to the island must be regarded as indicating that the arrangement is not as yet reciprocal in its operation and is not interfering to any material extent with the trade of foreign countries with Cuba. An increase in our exports to the island of a little more than \$1,000,000 during three months conclusively shows that Cuba is buying almost as extensively as before the treaty from other countries than the United States.

This is somewhat disappointing. It was persistently urged by the supporters of the treaty that it would have the effect to very largely increase our exports to the island at once. It has not done so according to the figures at hand, but perhaps later statistics will make a better showing, so that it should not be hastily concluded that the reciprocity arrangement is a failure so far as this country is concerned. It is certainly proving a great benefit to Cuba, as shown by the fact that in the first three months of its operation our imports from the island increased from \$1,048,597 to \$2,217,180, nearly all of it, of course, being sugar.

THE CLEVELAND BOND SALES.

We have already referred to the statement of Mr. Cleveland in regard to the sale of bonds in his second administration for the purpose of replenishing and maintaining the gold reserve, which had been depleted by the redemption of the legal tender notes. In that statement the ex-president attempted to justify the course pursued in disposing of the bonds at private sale, asserting that this was necessary under the circumstances.

Another contribution to this interesting part of our financial history is made by Senator Elkins of West Virginia, who points out some facts which Mr. Cleveland failed to remember or intentionally ignored. It appears that Mr. Elkins introduced in the senate a resolution providing that no bonds of the government should be sold at private sale or under private contract "and in case of any sale of bonds under existing laws the same shall be made only after due advertisement of such sale and proposals invited, and then only to the highest bidder." That resolution was not acted upon, but there was an extended debate on it and Mr. Elkins says the facts as then developed do not bear out the claim made that the private sale of the bonds to a syndicate of bankers, of which J. Pierpont Morgan was the head, was necessary. The West Virginia senator is quoted as saying: "The facts were that Mr. Cleveland had disposed of \$62,000,000 of 4 per cent bonds at 106 1/2 at private sale when the same bonds were selling on the market for 115 and upward. According to the papers, it was charged at the time that Mr. Morgan made \$1,000,000 out of the contract. It was said to be a case of one night and went back to New York. The margin of profit on the deal, it was charged, was approximately \$6,000,000, which was divided among the other bankers who were to supply the gold. In the face of that and offers to buy the bonds at prices far in excess of what had been realized at the private sale of \$62,000,000, preparations were going forward for another private sale of \$100,000,000." It seems evident from this that Mr. Cleveland's statement of the loan negotiations during his second administration did not state all the facts in the situation and those that were ignored are by no means the least important, since they show that the Cleveland administration obtained much less for the bonds sold than it could have done and that what should have gone to the national treasury went to the syndicate of bankers with which the sale of the bonds was negotiated. It is true, as stated by Mr. Cleveland, that there was an emergency which needed to be promptly met, but there is no doubt that Senator Elkins is right in the opinion that there would have been no delay in disposing of the bonds at public sale and with very material advantage to the government. This is shown by the fact that a subsequent offer of bonds at public sale was entirely successful, being subscribed six times over at a much better price than the syndicate paid for the earlier issue. "Mr. Cleveland," remarked the West Virginia senator, "saved the country from a silver basis, but he could have done it without

SELLING BONDS AT PRIVATE SALE AT RATES WHICH MEANT A GREAT LOSS AND AN UNNECESSARY LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

There have been so many pie dreams in connection with electric tramway projects headed toward Omaha that a good many people have become somewhat incredulous, and they have a right to be. It is announced, for example, that the electrical interurban railroad with which our late Postmaster Crowe figures so prominently is to become a link of the projected system projected to connect the four packing points of Sioux City, Omaha, St. Joseph and Kansas City, in which the Armour and Swift interests are potential factors. It is announced that Armour not only controls the stock yards at South Omaha, but also is largely interested in the Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway company, while in Sioux City the Armour and Swift interests not only own the street car system, but control the Sioux City Stock Yards company, and the Swift estate has large holdings also in the company which owns the combination bridge across the Missouri river at Sioux City. This line of speculation concerning the projected Sioux City, Omaha, St. Joseph & Kansas City State Electric road would be gratifying to the people of all the towns on the line if it had any basis. But Mr. J. Ogden Armour has pronounced this report, as well as the report that he proposed to invest a large amount of money in the Fremont power canal, purely fiction fabricated out of whole cloth.

THE SUPPRESSION OF THE TICKET SCALPER IS NOT A VERY EASY TASK.

An injunction issued last week against the ticket scalpers of Chicago by Judge Koblasat of the United States district court has proved practically worthless because of the clause in his order reading "But nothing in this order shall be construed as preventing the brokers from selling any tickets purchased by them from the railroads." That clause was inserted in the order of the court by agreement of the attorneys for the Michigan Central and the Baltimore & Ohio railroads for the benefit of the business men anxious to have the railroads grant stop-orders at Chicago on St. Louis fair tickets. But the clause, apparently in the interest of the Chicago business men, is pronounced by competent lawyers a loophole through which a coach and four might be driven because the scalpers make it a practice to purchase tickets direct from authorized agents of the railroads. As a matter of fact, the railroads could have suppressed the ticket scalpers long ago were it not for their anxiety to use the scalper in selling out rate transportation, very much on the same plan as pawnbrokers sell new watches and jewelry under the pretext that they are pawned goods.

THE MAN WHO DOES THINGS.

Secretary Cortelyou is now talked of as the probable chairman of the republican national committee. The choice will be wise one. Cortelyou is a man who does things.

A Tremendous Advantage.

General Kourpatkin has one great advantage over his aggressive foe. He has 6,000 miles of open country back of him in which to retreat, and it begins to look as if he were going to need it all.

Same Old Tune.

Englishmen say that Russia has been "found out" and that its defeats will keep it quiet for the next fifty years. That is what a good many people were saying in Europe about England when the Boers were making things so uncomfortable for it four years ago.

Prize Shaves Opinions.

Our army and navy officers stationed in Washington divide in a singular way concerning the probable outcome of the war. The naval officers pick the "Japs" as sure winners, while the army officers are quite sure that the regular aid and triumphant in the end. The only discernible reason for such a cleavage of opinion is that the naval men are biased in favor of the stronger naval power, while the army officers hope to see the land power succeed against the naval power. Professional pride evidently is at stake.

As the Scene Shifts.

Philadelphia Inquirer. Harbin and Dalny, says Count Cassini, in a magazine article written before the Japanese had done anything on land, "cost Russia more than \$300,000,000; to be abandoned them in the face of the menacing attitude of the ambitious and daring nation would have been a most stupendous folly that would have made Russia not only the laughing stock, but the object of the scornful pity of the whole civilized world." But Count Cassini did not know of Kourpatkin's withdrawal strategy then.

Living Ahead of Pay Day.

Boston Herald. Of all the weaknesses that man is heir to none is more universal than the defect of habit, and few are as capable of adding to the discomforts of life as the workingman, but men in high positions—government employes who have generous salaries—are forever living with a deficit staring them in the face. They do not spend more than they receive. Men seem naturally to fall into the habit of living a week—if he is paid by the week—or a month—if he is paid by the month—ahead of his means. He is very unnecessarily always pinched for cash, and whether it be his grocer or the maker of the various men with whom he deals, he must endeavor to get accommodations until pay day.

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched On the Spot.

A dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald says that with the payment to the United States treasury May 15 of \$10,000,000 under Secretary Shaw's third call on the depositary banks and the payment of the remaining \$5,000,000 to the Republic of Panama, which will be made whenever that republic is ready to receive the money, the transactions connected with the Panama canal payments will be closed, so far as this government is concerned.

The available cash balance, which stood at the first of the year at \$23,274,886, has been reduced to \$17,714,873. This decline of more than \$5,000,000 in the available funds of the treasury is made up of the \$46,000,000 loan to the French Canal company, the \$1,000,000 already paid to Panama, the \$4,000,000 advanced as a loan to the St. Louis expedition and a large number of deficiency appropriations made by the recent session of congress.

The remaining payment of \$3,000,000 to be made on butterfly searches and deficiency payments still remaining probably will carry the available cash balance down to \$16,000,000 in June.

A little square box perforated with air-holes and addressed so illegibly that even the experts at the Postoffice department couldn't make out the scribble was sent to the dead letter office the other day. One of the clerks in the office opened the package and found inside a cocoon, somewhat similar to that occupied by a silk worm.

With the assistance of the radiator next his desk he cracked out the chrysalis into a big and beautiful butterfly. It was such a remarkable specimen, having wings half inches across and of nearly all the hues of the rainbow, that he took it to the national museum to add to the exhibit there.

After the insect had been chloroformed the expert on butterflies searched in every volume devoted to the subject in an endeavor to determine to what species the butterfly belonged. He hasn't found out yet, and the prospects are that he won't.

Meantime, the scientists of the museum are wondering where the cocoon came from and where it was going, as the postmark on the package was, oddly enough, also indecipherable. They believe that the specimen is very valuable.

The clerk who hatched out the chrysalis is wondering where he comes in, and when the museum authorities offered to let him name the new butterfly he suggested "Deadletteroffbughatchedoutbutterfly." The museum experts declined the suggestion and the naming of the insect has been deferred pending further investigation.

The counterfeiting of pennies is one of the government annoyances. This business would hardly seem either profitable or attractive to criminal talent, but in one month 10,355 bad pennies were found in the New York treasury, evidence that some coiners have directed their attention to it.

The counterfeiter does it as cheaply, or at a little lower figure. Almost any copper disk of the proper size will pass muster, so that the imitation of this coin is easier and the passing of it attended with less risk than the making and passing of a silver or larger denomination. But penny counterfeiting has its drawbacks to the criminal of smaller returns and the penalty attached is just as heavy if he is convicted. The government does a big business in pennies in the east, but has much less demand for them in the west. Over 1,000,000 1-cent pieces are sorted out in an average year in the New York treasury. One man will count 60,000 a day, throwing out the bad ones. One day's record of bad coppers discovered by one handler of cents was 1,250.

To one inclined to be merry fun may be found in almost every sphere of human life. A writer tells some amusing stories of instances of veterans applying for pensions on account of physical disabilities. The case is well authenticated of a man drawing a pension for deafness incurred in the service when his playmates remembered that this infirmity was so pronounced in boyhood that he always sat in the front seat at school and was even called "Deafie." Of course, no one can say that this infirmity was incurred in the service, but the story of a man who applied for a pension for injuries received by "taking fright at a false alarm" has become classical. In the old gulf states, where colored veterans and a few northern people are about the only federal pensioners, no less strange at the federal treasury, no less strange. "I had a man come to me," relates an Alabamian, "to say that he wanted to get a general law pension for injuries really received from being thrown out of a buggy at Racine, Wis., ten years after the war. He acknowledged the procedure was not quite regular, but he justified his course by saying that it was only a question of time when every union soldier would get a pension and as he might not live to see that day himself he wanted to take time by the forelock by getting his share now."

Every town has its jokes of that sort. This is one of the pronounced evils of a system of payment based on disabilities, from which a straight service pension system would give a welcome relief. At least it would greatly reduce the evil. There is a true story of a man who drew a pension for total deafness on the certificate of an examining board and was discovered in charge of a telephone instrument. One man who was a pensioner on the score of total blindness was found reading newspapers and doing the work of another man, officially certified blind by the United States government, was encountered in a jewelry shop engaged in delicate mechanical tasks with a magnifying glass stuck in his eye. A man drawing \$75 a month for the regular aid and triumphant in the end. The only discernible reason for such a cleavage of opinion is that the naval men are biased in favor of the stronger naval power, while the army officers hope to see the land power succeed against the naval power. Professional pride evidently is at stake.

HEARST POINTS THE WAY—WILL THE COLONEL FOLLOW?

Cleveland Plain Dealer (Dem.). Mr. William R. Hearst announces that he has no intention of bolting the party if he shall be defeated for the nomination for president in St. Louis. On the other hand he is making the fight wholly within party lines and will not only abide by the decision of the convention but also heartily support the convention's nominee.

It cannot be said that there has been any particular apprehension on this point in democratic circles, but it is well enough to have the matter clear up. Hearst, then, will not sulk, will not start a third party and will do his utmost to secure victory for the St. Louis candidate, even if that involves, as it probably will, some sacrifice of his widely heralded convictions. But genuine importance attaches to a similar declaration from Bryan, and that gentleman persistently refuses to deny that he cherishes a purpose which Hearst has repudiated. There is every prospect that Bryan's platform of the French republic, but it is well enough to have the matter clear up. Hearst, then, will not sulk, will not start a third party and will do his utmost to secure victory for the St. Louis candidate, even if that involves, as it probably will, some sacrifice of his widely heralded convictions. 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