

THE DAILY BEE.

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Sworn to before me and subscribed to by the proprietor of this paper, Geo. H. Rosewater, Secretary of the Bee Publishing Company, on the 27th day of November, A. D. 1891.

Notary Public.

Table showing circulation statistics for the Bee Publishing Company from 1886 to 1891, including average daily circulation and total circulation for each year.

After a suspension of eight long months our esteemed exchange, the unique and unique Congressional Record, will shortly resume publication.

The two prohibition candidates ran just enough ahead of their ticket to defeat Senator Shumway and elect Mr. Hudley regent of the university.

Milling in transit rates are fair to shippers and the roads, and of the utmost importance to the citizens of Nebraska and Omaha. Let us have them.

If Chief Oil Inspector Cairns will persevere THE BEE carefully from day to day he will learn how to perform his duties honestly, efficiently and promptly.

Since his return from Europe, it is observed, Hon. Shelby M. Cullom has taken no special pains to inject the elixir of life into his little blossom of a boom.

Judge Crawford of West Point has been twice beaten for district judge by Judge W. F. Norris. This ought to satisfy the Elkhorn valley democratic statesman, but he has appealed to the courts to make it three times and out for good.

And now comes the omnipresent "confidential friend" giving away alleged secrets showing that Blaine will or will not be a candidate for president and that Harrison expects to be re-nominated. The "confidential friend" is usually a fakir and a very tiresome one at that.

Germany proposes to increase her effective naval force by upwards of 20,000 men, and yet the young emperor only the other day expressed the opinion to the recruits of the guard in Berlin that they would never be called upon to prove their fidelity by actual war.

A special oil of the political humor of South Dakota is that the periodical rumor generally originates at some village or hamlet remote from the reservations. The farther it is from the supposed danger the more alarming and improbable the story.

The South Dakota liar is again in the harness. He telegraphs two or three times a week that the Indians are about to go on the war path or do something equally improbable. If the citizens of South Dakota would scrap this liar they would perform a valuable service for their state and country.

The nigardliness of the government toward some important branches of the public service is illustrated in that of the Life Saving service, where the annual percentage of resignations of competent men who go into more remunerative callings reaches 30 per cent. These men carry their lives in their hands and yet their pay is so meager that they can be taken into other less hazardous occupations at higher salaries.

When a general freight agent cannot cut a rate without involving himself in the danger of arrest and imprisonment things have come to a pretty pass. How does the government expect one general freight agent to differ from another if they are all forced to abide by the solemn agreements made with each other? The reputation of a general freight agent depends upon his ability to get business away from rivals and this thing of arresting him for giving a shipper an inside rate is really embarrassing.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, at the conference of the National Union of Conservative Associations in Birmingham, England, announces that the unionists and conservatives will remain in harmony "until they have finally defeated the conspiracy against the empire," and that their joint efforts would "give the people legislation based upon true democratic instincts." The paradoxical character of these sentiments are apparent only, not real. The British empire in England is rapidly becoming democratic. Monarchy is simply an expensive luxury handed down from feudal times, like the English land tenure. The people of Great Britain come quite as close to the power which actually rules and legislates as the people of America.

OIL AND OIL INSPECTION.

The investigations of THE BEE's special oil commissioner are revealing a vast amount of carelessness in the matter of oil inspection. His carefully prepared reports thus far show that the oil inspectors are not so much interested in protecting the people from inferior illuminating oils as in making sure of their fees. The tests made are often nominal. In many instances tanks of oil are sold without so much as a hint at inspection. In other cases the retail camps and tanks which have been stamped as tested are used time after time without further inspection. In one instance the brands of a retired inspector were found in possession of one dealer who was at liberty to use them as he liked.

Taking all these facts in connection with the methods of their appointment, the inherent weakness of the law itself and the extremely liberal interpretation of its conditions which enables corporation consumers of oil to escape oil censorship at the hands of inspectors, it must be clear to the reader that oil inspection is a miserable farce, as now conducted. When the inspectors and deputies have looked in upon the dealers long enough to collect ten cents a barrel, without as much as going through the motions of making a fair test according to the terms of the inspection law. The Standard Oil company has managed by its shrewdness in enforcing this law to make Nebraska a refuge tank for its rejected eastern oil and at the same time to crowd out of the state almost all opposition.

Weak as the law is, its proper enforcement might prove beneficial to the public. There would be some satisfaction in knowing that the oil sold in the state and used in the dwellings of all our citizens had been tested and found up to the standard required of 100% flash test. There is reason to suspect, however, that a very large proportion of the oil offered to our people is inferior to that quality. The fact lies primarily with the Standard company, which can as readily test its oils as any inspector and should be severely punished for violations of the law. The cupidity of that monopoly, however, is well known and it is not above imposing the inferior article upon a community which permits the Standard Oil company to manipulate its legislature in making the inspection law, and appoints its inspectors not on account of fitness for the duties to be performed but to pay them for political services.

THE SYSTEM OF PARKS.

The people voted the generous sum of \$400,000 for parks at the last election. The Board of Park Commissioners announced informally in advance of the election what tracts, except one in the south part of the city, they should purchase if bonds were voted. Although the proposition as voted upon by the people did not definitely indicate the lands to be obtained, the park commissioners feel morally bound to expend the funds from the sale of bonds for the lands which had been selected in advance of election. This will secure to the city the Distin tract, lying one-half mile north of the Dear and Dumb institute, the Parker tract north east of Fort Omaha and the Elmwood park addition on West Leavenworth street. They are all admirably located and the best lands that were offered, price and purpose considered. Bemis park in the center of the city will likely be secured and some suitable tract near the center of Omaha will later be determined upon.

There is no reason, so far as THE BEE can see, for any change of plan with regard to these park purchases. When the south park has been selected, the entire system will be complete and boulevards and small parks in the interior connecting them can be so designed and secured by condemnation as to make Omaha famous for her parks and boulevards. Fort Omaha on the north will in all probability be donated to the city for a park by the general government. Syndicate park within the limits of South Omaha will sooner or later be added to the system. Probably some generous property owners will fill in small and large tracts here and there where needed. In fifteen or twenty years when the improvements have been developed we shall have a park and boulevard system which will make every citizen of Omaha thankful for the election of 1891.

BORDER IMMIGRATION.

The statement that North Dakota is likely to be flooded with pauper immigrants from Europe unless vigorous measures are taken to prevent it, made on the authority of an agent of the Treasury department, will doubtless receive prompt attention at Washington. According to this agent immigrants are flocking into Winnipeg in large numbers, principally from Russia, many of whom will cross the border into the United States unless inspection stations are established and efficient means taken to exclude such as are classed undesirable by the immigration law. The difficulty is that there is no authority to establish inspection stations on the border, and provision for them is one of the matters to which congress should give early attention. It is obvious that, however vigilant and efficient the inspection of immigrants at the seaports may be, and it is now being conducted with more thoroughness than ever before, we shall not be able to keep out all the undesirable classes until we have established an inspection at every accessible point on our borders, or made some arrangement with the Canadian government by which it will agree not to permit the classes excluded by our laws to come from its territory into the United States. This matter of protecting our borders is perhaps the most difficult one connected with the problem of an efficient regulation of immigration. To provide inspection stations along our extended northern frontier would involve a very large annual expenditure, and yet it is perhaps the only safe precaution. It is possible that the Canadian government might be induced to agree to some plan for our protection against the invasion of paupers and criminals from its territory, but we could never safely leave the carrying out of such an agreement wholly to Canadian officials. We shall be safe from border immigration only when we have inspection officers at all points where persons are likely to cross from Canada into the United States. The Canadian government does not exhibit a friendly spirit toward this country in allowing Chinese and others excluded by our laws to freely pass through its territory and enter the territory of the United States. As a neighbor country it ought at least to show a disposition to respect our laws to the extent of refusing to allow its territory to be made the gateway for the passage into the United States of classes of persons whom our laws say shall not be admitted into the country. We cannot, perhaps, properly find fault with Canada for allowing the Chinese to come into that country, but we have just cause of complaint that she interposes no obstacle to their going from her territory into the United States, and the case with regard to European paupers and criminals is still more serious. This difficulty in the way of a thorough regulation of immigration will have to be met, and the only safe way to deal with it appears to be in establishing inspection stations along the frontier.

WHAT SHALL THE ISSUE BE?

If the democrats in congress heed the counsel of such leaders as Senator Carlisle they will give secondary consideration to the silver question and keep the tariff to the front. In his letter endorsing Mr. Mills as in every way qualified to be speaker of the house, the Kentucky senator declares it to be the first duty of the democratic party to change the tariff laws, and he says that "whoever proposes to postpone the performance of this duty in order to inaugurate a war among ourselves over the silver question, or any other question, is not a wise counselor, and would not make a safe leader." Mr. Carlisle at this time represents the view of a minority of his party, there being no doubt that the majority believe, with Senator Pugh, that the issue of the free and unlimited coinage of silver is quite as important and valuable to the party as that of tariff reform. But the minority, which includes Mr. Cleveland, is strongly influential, and it will not be surprising if it shall succeed in having its view of party policy adopted. In any event, however, a bitter fight seems assured, the effect of which must inevitably be to create a great deal of dissatisfaction in the party. The attempt of the free trade element, represented by Mr. Mills, to crowd out the conservative tariff reformers is being hotly combated, with abundant evidence of a growing feeling of sharply defined hostility between the forces. The leaders have reached the point of publicly criticizing each other, and the exchange of recriminations may be expected to grow in volume and force as the day of actual battle draws nearer. It is a situation that clearly threatens to make a breach in the democratic party which it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to close before the next presidential election.

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The Smead system of heating and ventilating school buildings may or may not be satisfactory. There are well informed persons who object to hot air furnaces under any and all circumstances and there are others who have no faith in dry closets. The Kellom building will, however, afford a good test of the merits of the system and it is not necessary to make the experiment in any other building. The Hitchcock school is a wooden building of four rooms, only two of which are needed at present. To the average taxpayer the idea of expending \$1,200 for a heating plant to accommodate two rooms now and but four rooms next year savors of reckless extravagance.

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OIL INSPECTION MADE EASY.

Peculiar Methods Which Obtain in Enforcing Nebraska's Provisional Statute.

NO TROUBLE TO BRAND THE BARRELS.

Stencils Laid at the Warehouses—Empty Barrels Filled—What North Bend, Nebraska City, Lincoln, Beatrice and Superior Show.

Pursuing his investigation THE BEE man found that it was a common occurrence on the Consolidated Tank Line company at Fremont to ship to retail dealers small tanks of the kind mentioned in this paper yesterday, containing about fifty gallons of oil. These tanks were placed on the cars and private wagons to Fontaine, Scribner and other places in the instances was there anything to show that the oil they contained had ever been inspected. This absence of proof of inspection had been noted by some of the more observant merchants, but was passed by without inquiry. When, however, their attention was particularly directed to the matter by THE BEE reporter, they made no attempt to handle no more tanks which did not bear proof of inspection and, wherever it was possible, to receive the oil only in wooden barrels. Many of them doubted that a barrel, even with a brand of approval, would insure to them better oil, but they thought it prudent to protect them as against their customers.

NORTH BEND'S EXPERIENCE.

The reporter then went to North Bend, whence it was alleged the two iron tanks first referred to had been returned. A canvass of the groceries in the thriving town was made. Several of the dealers stated that they had been using the illegal tanks, but said that they would do so no more. They also severely criticized the tank company for the unwarranted deception which it had practiced upon them.

IF I HAD THOUGHT A MOMENT, SAID ONE OF THE DEALERS, "THAT ONE OF THOSE TITLES (TANKS) TOOK THE PLACE OF A BARREL, I WOULD IMMEDIATELY HAVE NOTICED THAT IT WAS NOT INSPECTED.

At the time of THE BEE man's visit all the North Bend merchants were selling the oil which had a short time before reached them by carload from Omaha. The last of these tanks were made under the late law, was C. S. Lee, or rather the manager of the store which formerly belonged to that gentleman, who was generally known as Lee's store, and who was the general dealer in the town. These tanks had been sent out of the store at the request of the reporter, and were found by the latter on the depot platform awaiting shipment by freight to Fremont. These tanks were made under the late law, and were of the general description as has already been referred to in these columns.

READY-BRANDED BARRELS.

The BEE man next jumped to Nebraska City. The Consolidated Tank Line company has reported that the warehouse at Omaha, which the reporter entered the latter he asked the manager: "Do you know of any other firm?" "No, but I know you," was the response. It appeared for a moment as if somebody had advised the superintendent of the object of the visit, but the watchfulness of the tank man disappeared and he went on to explain that the stamp of approval of E. C. Cairns, chief inspector, and H. Richards, deputy inspector, of the warehouse was not about the place, and could have known the kind of oil which was intended for the warehouse, because of the approval brand of O. H. Phillips, deputy inspector.

THE BEE MAN NEXT JUMPED TO NEBRASKA CITY.

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