

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$4.00...

DELIVERED BY CARRIER. Daily Bee (without Sunday), per copy, 5c...

OFFICES. Omaha: The Bee Building, South Omaha: City Hall Building...

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

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

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George B. Taschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company...

Table with columns for circulation statistics, including total sales, net average sales, and subscription figures.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 15th day of December, A. D. 1903.

Pretty soon the railroads will be organizing winter health excursions to Omaha.

We are not so sure that the publicity Omaha acquires as the national headquarters of the socialist party is the kind that helps rather than hurts.

Colonel Bryan's present stay in Lincoln is to be short. But Colonel Bryan still continues to be the most effective advertising agent for the capital city.

South Omaha democrats are blessed with a superabundance of inoratory material. Viewed at long range, they remind us of the ten little Indians sitting on a fence.

The czar of Russia can at least count upon having all the newspapers of his country with him on almost any subject. 'Tis easier to agree with him than to suspend publication.

To judge from current press dispatches, Germany will do a little civilizing on its own hook in South Africa. Two natives tribes in German territory are on the warpath.

San Domingo should revise its election laws. This thing of defeated candidates resuming the campaign before the successful contestant can be installed is wearing upon the cables.

After trying coercive measures Turkey has finally concluded that the best way to deal with troops in mutiny for wages is to pay them. There is nothing like striking at the root of the evil.

Sunday public dances are not a necessary of life to the community. The people who patronize the Sunday dances, however, are not likely to be found in the churches when the dance halls are closed.

Omaha ought to have a brick building season ahead of it. The demand for new stores, warehouses and dwellings is here, and good returns are insured to the capitalists who volunteer to supply them.

The elevation of Cardinal Sarto to the papal chair seems to be having the result of adding some healthy peasant blood to the higher circles of Italy. One of his nieces is to marry a rich landed proprietor.

If the council, sitting as Board of Equalization, will do business on a business basis, the municipal tax roll will not suffer the usual shrinkage that attacks it while it sojourns in the presence and control of that body.

Now that the Chicago police have organized to protect themselves from the criminal classes, it is to be hoped some effort will be made to protect the ordinary visitor to that city from the same ever-present gentry.

The Missouri bank robbers who fled to Kansas should have hesitated before flying in the face of history. They might have known that capture was inevitable. A Missouri bandit was never given half a chance across the line.

If Milwaukee should relieve us of Fearse, we will try none-the-less to manage in some way to keep the doors of our public schools open and provide a proper education for the boys and girls of Omaha who are to be its men and women some day.

A NAVAL GENERAL STAFF.

It is probable that the present congress will be called upon to consider a proposition for creating a naval general staff, the matter having been freely discussed in naval circles. It was referred to in the annual report of the secretary of the navy, who while making no specific recommendation in regard to it, still indicated that the proposition had his approval.

Such a plan has been formulated by Rear Admiral Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Navigation, and is said to have the approval of a considerable number of naval officers, including Admiral Dewey. There is, however, a strong opposition to the general staff proposition. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Darling has expressed the belief that it would be exceedingly unwise to abandon the present methods of administration in the navy and embark on something new.

It is more than probable that congress will take this view of the matter, since it appears to be in accord with that of a number of naval officers, particularly those not on duty in Washington. There is certainly no such demand for a naval general staff as there was for a general staff for the army and as the naval establishment appears to be running smoothly under existing conditions there is no good reason for any radical change.

A FUTILE HOPE.

Democrats and republicans hostile to President Roosevelt who are hoping to get any aid from Senator Hanna are doomed to disappointment. There has not been a single instance of unfairness or insincerity on the part of Mr. Hanna since he became identified with national politics and he will not mar this record now.

RUSSIA'S HANDICAP.

Existing conditions in Russia are such that in the event of war the government may have serious trouble at home and it is by no means improbable that this has something to do with the position of the czar and his conservative advisers. It is well known that the laboring classes of Russia are all but in a state of revolt.

It is from those classes a large part of the army is recruited. The Russian soldier is told among many other things that he is bound to shed his last drop of blood not only for his colors but for his czar and for every member of the royal family. He remembers the kind of talk he used to hear among his companions before his conscription and the authority of the statements about the czar soon fades and vanishes altogether.

It is pointed out that with a dissatisfied proletariat, a soldierly unenthusiastic, to say the least, and the irrepressibly patriotic Poles, are reasons enough for Russia to abstain from war. Patriotism, as it is understood by most other peoples, is not a marked characteristic of the people of Russia. While, for instance, the Japanese are manifesting the strongest patriotic feeling and the government is being offered millions of money for war purposes, there is nothing of this kind in Russia, or if so the world is not informed of it.

ALIAS AND ALACK.

A man who brewed beer that he never claimed made Milwaukee famous has just died and left \$100,000. We can't all have fame, nor, alas, the other, either.

LIKE A SORE THUMB.

The democrats cannot lose Mr. Bryan. Like a sore thumb, he is always on hand at committee meetings and conventions. A professional candidate with no other visible means of support will naturally stay in the business as long as possible.

WHAT SOCIALISM DOES.

The public debt of Australia already amounts to \$75 for every man, woman and child. The United States is but \$11 per capita. Socialism robs the country, loads future generations and begets the present population.

NEW COMES THE TUG OF WAR.

The democratic national committee, having passed Chicago out of regard to the Hearst spook, has fixed upon St. Louis, only to find that the dates it wants have been preoccupied by the National Educational association. It is now requesting the pedagogues to "give way."

CHEAPENING THE PRICE OF VOTES.

The announcement that certain aldermen have been arrested in Milwaukee, charged with selling their votes for three tons of coal, comes with considerable force. Now three tons of coal, even if it be anthracite, could not be worth more than \$25, delivered in sacks, and the fact that the votes of aldermen are quoted at such a figure shows the terrible demoralization of the grafting craft.

VALIDITY OF PURE FOOD LAWS.

In a decision handed down on Monday last by the United States supreme court the validity of the "pure food" laws of New York was upheld against the plea that the suppression of traffic in adulterated products by a state was a regulation of interstate and foreign commerce, and, therefore, an invasion of the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal congress over such matters.

TALK OF THE STATE PRESS.

Kearney Democrat: Invitations to the Bryan banquet at Lincoln next Monday night include everybody but democrats. Fremont Tribune: A renewed effort is to be made to have Mr. Summers bounced from the office of United States district attorney.

WAUSA GAZETTE.

It is rumored that our fusion friends in this congressional district are planning to trot out Judge Loomis of Fremont, this fall as a rival of our own J. J. McCarthy for congressional honors. Judge Loomis is in all respects a worthy man, but so was John Robinson.

NORFOLK NEWS.

What has become of those Nebraska coal mines and oil wells discovered last year that were to prove of such material benefit to the people of the state? They have probably gone the road of similar discoveries elsewhere, and there will be nothing for the people to do but to await a new grist of rumors in order to experience that exhilarating feeling of having their hopes raised to be gradually quelled later on by a letting up of the reports from the well's mouth until the story is finally forgotten.

WAUSA GAZETTE.

Representative Burgess of Lincoln is a candidate for chairman of the republican central committee. Harry Lindsey, who has satisfactorily filled that position of trust for a number of years would probably be reelected by acclamation if Burgess is elected by the party.

State sovereignty gets a severe jolt from Senator Bailey of Texas, who declares he will not vote for the Panama treaty at the behest of anyone—this, probably, with a view to the Mississippi situation, where the state legislature has undertaken to issue instructions to its senators.

ARMY AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON.

Current Gossip Gleaned from the Army and Navy Register.

In connection with the consideration of the plan of promotion by selection some attention has been given to the so-called efficiency reports which are now part of the record of the adjutant general's office. These reports theoretically furnish untiring record of the achievement of officers and provide a means of making comparisons of merit. Much complaint, however, has been made against these reports, since, necessarily, they must come from numerous sources without the advantages of uniformity of marking.

It has been decided to do nothing with the plan to increase the allowance of fuel for army officers and enlisted men of the service.

The army general staff is giving consideration to the employment of retired army officers. It is General Chaffee's idea that many of the officers of the retired list can be profitably employed under conditions which would give them their active pay, and which would benefit the army through the active list duties now performed by them.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED THE REPORTS OF OFFICERS ON THE COST OF THE MANEUVERS AT WEST POINT, KY., AND FORT RILEY, KAN.

The damage to property represented in the claims of land owners at West Point amounts to \$25,000 and that at Fort Riley to \$3,000, or a total of about \$28,000. The total acreage leased at both places amounted to 107,608 and cost the government in rental \$3,568. The grand total of cost, exclusive of damage to property, was \$27,575, divided as follows: On account of regulars at West Point, \$2,073, and at Fort Riley, \$1,495, on account of militia at West Point, \$10,982, and at Fort Riley, \$2,528. It is proposed next year to have a specific appropriation made for the maneuvers so that the expenses incident to them will not be chargeable to the present appropriations of the quartermaster's department.

The general staff of the army has been discussing the question of permanent military camps, the selection of which in various parts of the country has been in matter favored by the secretary of war.

These discussions there is brought forward some question of the advisability of purchasing, as a cost which must necessarily be considerable, large tracts of land exclusively for occupation by the regular and militia commands in annual joint maneuvers. There is no question of the value of this mobilization of the two classes of soldiery. The military authorities agree that the advantages to the regular army and militia are bound to be mutual, but it is a question whether it will pay the government to establish permanent camps where large tracts must be reserved for these occasional exercises.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Manuel P. Avery has presented to the Columbia university, New York, a number of books of his collection, illustrating the history of bookbinding from the period of earliest efforts to make the trade a fine art.

John Becker, a resident of Milwaukee since it was little more than an Indian village, and one of the pioneers who, with Solomon Juneau, founded that city, is dead at the home of his son in Menominee Falls.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Table showing financial statements: Net assets Jan 1 1903, Receipts during the year, For premiums and annuities, For interest, etc., DISBURSEMENTS: Claims by death, Matured endowments and annuities, Surrender values, Premium abatements.

Table showing ASSETS: City loans, railroad and other bonds, bank and other stocks, Mortgages and ground rents, Premium notes, Loans on collateral, Home office, Boston office and other real estate, Cash in banks, trust companies and on hand.

Total surplus \$7,423,468.03. Gross assets, as above \$11,116,235.48. New business of the year, 29,548 policies for \$69,728,754.00. Insurance outstanding December 31, 1903, 129,817 policies for \$308,786,092.00.

HARRY F. WEST, President. GEORGE K. JOHNSON, Vice President. LINCOLN K. PASSMORE, 2d Vice President. WILLIAM H. KINGSTLEY, Sec. and Treas. JESSE J. BARKER, Actuary.

F. W. FOSTER, Special Agent. G. Z. GOULD, General Agent. 522 Bee Building, Omaha, Neb.



Fifty-sixth Annual Statement OF THE PENN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. OF PHILADELPHIA

Table with financial data: Net assets, Jan. 1, 1903, at market value \$52,060,247.19. RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR: For premiums and annuities \$12,050,665.23. For interest, etc. 2,790,053.27. Total \$14,840,718.50.

Table with financial data: Net assets, January 1, 1904 \$58,731,376.61. In addition to the above abatements the company allotted to deferred dividend policies \$535,755.18, making the total appropriation of surplus during 1903, \$1,321,036.07.

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Wm., aged 88 years. He was a carpenter and emigrated to Milwaukee sixty-four years ago. Melton Prior, the distinguished war artist of the Illustrated London News, is on his way to Japan, by way of this country, on what is his twenty-seventh war commission from the journal named Mr. Prior has seen fighting in every quarter of the globe, and returned only a few weeks ago from active service in Somaliland, Africa.

A LITTLE SOD-HOUSE IN NEBRASKA. Mamma Irving in Leslie's Weekly. I dine upon dishes of silver and gold. In a glitter of clothing and gems. I walk upon carpets so thick and so soft. They muffle all sound as I pass. I sleep in a chamber of azure and white. Under satin and down, but all black. In the dead of the night, when I'm lying awake, My thoughts will go wandering hither. To a little sod-house in Nebraska.

THE FLOOR IT WAS BARE, and the smoke-blackened log. From the very few papers that drifted our way. And the window was curtained with chintz. But oh! what an army of beautiful dreams. Came out in the freight to play. And tell me of all the grand things I would do. When grown up, I could journey away. From the little sod-house in Nebraska.

I would buy for my mother a gown of black silk. And a bonnet of roses and lace; And also here I tasted the fruits of success. The grave-moulders came over her face. And a line of silver and a white. I hark to the wind in the night. As it moans and it groans, and I think of the little sod-house in Nebraska.

How it walks for away o'er the site. Of the little sod-house in Nebraska. I am tired of the languorous lilies of life. I long for the wind and the rain. The glory of morn on the dewy green corn. And the smell of the wheat-fields again. The golden-rod grows. Oh, I'm there when sighing to roam. In the State of my birth, on the one spot of earth.

That I call by the dear name of home. The little sod-house in Nebraska.

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