

**THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE**  
FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.  
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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5.....	25,300	19.....	26,900
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8.....	25,300	22.....	26,900
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GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK, Treasurer.  
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 24 day of March, 1908.  
ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

**WHEN OUT OF TOWN.**  
Subscribers leaving the City temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

So far as Minnesota is concerned it is not a case of too much Johnson, but of not enough Bryan.

Admiral Evans takes pleasure in reporting that the battleships all have their armor on straight.

The Mirror trust is planning another increase of prices. The prosecuting attorney should look into it.

Senator Knox is only five feet and seven inches high, but even at that he towers above his presidential boom.

The boundaries of "the enemy's country" have been moved westward far enough to include Minnesota.

"Why American Mothers Fail" is the title of an article in the Atlantic Monthly. The answer is that they don't.

Senator Bailey has made a speech criticizing President Roosevelt. The president's proverbial luck still clings to him.

The report that Boston is threatened with a bean famine has been officially denied. Someone was just trying to string Boston.

A Philadelphia court has decided that mock marriages are binding. It is too bad that so many of the real marriages are not.

Any nation that wants to get first page space in the newspapers for a few days can do so by threatening China, on any old pretext.

A Chicago woman advocates a public school course in shopping. The girls would naturally be at the head of a class of that kind.

"Japan proposes to make China knicker down," says a Washington exchange. Looks more like a case of making China ante up.

The president's message to the Mothers' congress is much more kindly in tone than some of those he has been sending to the fathers' congress.

Hetty Green's declaration that her daughter shall not marry a foreign nobleman shows that she is still conservative in the matter of spending money.

The best battle of Nebraska will be the tug-of-war between the "wets" and the "drys" in the various towns and villages that hold their spring elections in April.

Governor Sheldon may have to take a stenographer with him whenever he delivers a public address, if he wants to avoid being misquoted by the politically hostile press.

Emperor William has yet to learn the lesson which the veriest tyro in politics in this country knows by heart—never to write letters that he is not willing to have made public.

Judge Alton B. Parker says President Roosevelt is a menace. The judge cannot forget the day in November, 1904, when the political steam roller ran over him.

Governor Johnson, who was Henry Watterson's dark horse, is coming out of his stall a little too late. The democratic entry for the presidential stakes has already been selected.

**TO MAKE MORE PERFECT LAWS.**  
Our slovenly methods of law making, as contrasted with the more careful procedure of European countries and particularly of Great Britain, come in for timely attention in an address by British Ambassador James Bryce, which is printed in full in that magazine for lawyers, "The Green Bag." The defects of our legislative system are glossed over altogether too lightly and too politely by Mr. Bryce, for he could have dwelt at length upon the grotesque details that often get into our statute books and the tremendously expensive litigation growing out of poorly drawn laws in such volume as almost to clog our courts.

Mr. Bryce contents himself with pointing out the advantage of the procedure of the British Parliament, which devolves the initiating of general acts upon a responsible ministry and insures their accurate construction by providing an official draftsman, who takes the suggestions given to him and puts them into shape. To use his phraseology, the British system combines a "considerable measure of political knowledge of the subject and a high measure of professional competence for giving legal form to what is meant to be enacted." Mr. Bryce cites one instance of twenty-two successively revised drafts of a single bill before its introduction. The only weak spot in the British system is in the patching a bill may undergo by amendment enroute through the two houses.

Among the remedial recommendations embodied in the address for application to conditions in our country—recommendations which cover the whole range of law making—are included these:

Arrangements ought to be made by the creating of a drafting department connected with a legislature, or its chief committee, for the putting into proper legal form of all bills proposed.

Similarly a method should be provided for rectifying in bills before they become law such errors in drafting as may have crept into them during their passage.

In order to enable both the legislature and the people to learn what the statute law of all bills proposed is, and thereby to facilitate their judgment, the statute law ought to be periodically revised and as far as possible so consolidated as to be brought into compact, consistent and intelligible shape.

The final passage from this admirable address, which backs up these recommendations so forcibly as to require no further argument, is as follows:

Some cynical critics have suggested that the legal profession regard with equanimity defects in the law which may increase the volume of lawsuits. This unappreciative view finds little support in fact. Allowing for the natural conservatism, which the habit of using technical rules induces and which may sometimes make them overcautious in judging proposals of change, lawyers have both here and in England borne creditable part in the amendment of the law. It is a gratifying fact to think their profit by its defects. Where it is clear and definite, where legal procedure is prompt and not too costly, men are far more ready to resort to the courts for the settlement of their disputes. It is uncertainty, delay and expense that lead them to seek their wrongs and endure their losses. Hence, therefore, on the lower ground of self-interest the bar has nothing to gain by a defective state of the law. But apart from this every man who feels the dignity of his profession, who pursues his study in and through the law, who realizes how fundamental it is to understand and apply the law are, if one may use the somewhat high-flown phrase of a great Roman jurist, "the priests of justice," every such man will wish to see the law made as perfect as it can be. So, too, wherever, whether how greatly the welfare of the people depends on the clearness and precision, the substantial justice of the law, will gladly contribute his knowledge and his influence to furthering so excellent a work.

**THE FATE OF JEFFS.**  
A signal post, a deserted camp evidently made by one man and a rusted razor, on the handle of which was carved the name "Jeffs," were all that were found by the volunteer crew of the Yankton, sent from the American battle fleet in the Pacific to the desolate indefatigable island at which Frederick Jeffs, an American sailor, made his last unheeded appeal for succor from death more than nine months ago. His fate will have to remain a mystery. The island is full of monster turtles which, it is asserted, do not hesitate to attack a man, and is fairly alive with serpents of the most venomous type. Even had he fallen a prey to either of these dangers or died of the illness which forced his companions to leave him there, some explanation will be necessary for the failure of the rescuing party to find any of his bones. A portion of the island is densely covered with cacti, making it impossible for the searching parties to examine it carefully, and the sailor's bones may be bleaching there in the sands.

Jeffs was the son of a Tacoma merchant and had become a sea rover. He sailed a year ago on a Norwegian bark from New Castle, New South Wales. After months of disasters the crew deserted the bark and started for the Albatross islands. The boats became separated and one of them landed on the indefatigable island. Jeffs, suffering from pleurisy, was left while the party went to the other side of the island, where the men were picked up by a passing vessel, the captain of which refused to return for the companion left behind because a tropic storm was coming up, making it necessary to get the vessel out of the shoals near the island. Through the story of the survivors the Navy department heard of Jeffs' plight and instructed Admiral Evans to send a gubboat from Callao to explore the island.

It would have made a pretty story if the rescuing party had found Jeffs enacting the role of a modern Robinson Crusoe, with monster turtles for his companions and a new demonstration of man's ability to wrest a living from a deserted island. As that

was not to be, it is still good to know that the United States government, with all its varied and conflicting duties and interests, has sent a battleship thousands of miles out of its course on the small hope of rescuing a humble citizen in distress.

**CONTESTS.**  
The statement of Chairman New of the republican national committee in denial of the numerous stories in circulation, that the committee is to be used to influence the presidential nomination by arbitrary determination of the contests for places on the temporary roll of delegates, was hardly necessary. It goes without saying that the committee in passing on contests acts in a quasi judicial capacity and that the facts and equities of each case would have to be taken into consideration before reaching a judgment. Any attempt to dominate the convention for or against any particular candidate by riding rough shod over one or another set of contesting delegations would not only be demoralizing to party discipline, but produce after effects which would be seriously detrimental to the beneficiary. Those who know Chairman New know that the fact that he represents on the committee a state which has entered a favorite son in the presidential race would not affect his position with reference to a contest involving a question of right and wrong, and the same is true of most, if not all, of the other members of the national committee.

The multiplicity of contests in prospect for the coming Chicago convention is due almost wholly to the defective organization of the party in the southern states. As long as those states have over-weighted representation in the national nominating conventions their disproportionate power will constitute a temptation for dissenior and double-headedness. Some day our national conventions will be made up of delegates apportioned more according to the relative vote contributed to the party ticket, just as state conventions are now made up within the respective states, and when that time comes the quadrennial shower of contests will be reduced to a minimum.

**THE TROOPS LEAVE GOLDFIELD.**  
The president and the state of Nevada are to be congratulated upon the withdrawal of the federal troops from Goldfield, where they were called three months ago to perform a peace service which the officials of the state had neglected. When the strike of the Goldfield miners threatened to result in riots and disorder Governor Sparks called for the federal aid and apparently found comfort in the thought that if a clash came the responsibility for armed interference would rest on the authorities at Washington. To the credit of both the miners and the troops, wise counsel prevailed, the conduct of both miners and soldiers was excellent and the threatened trouble was averted.

Governor Sparks and the officials of Nevada do not emerge in a very pleasing light from their handling of the case. After the troops had been sent to Goldfield and a special session of the legislature called the governor and state officials showed a decided disposition to delay action until President Roosevelt threatened immediate withdrawal of the troops. At the last hour the legislature passed a law creating a state constabulary, which is now doing what should have been done years ago.

The incident should not be without its lesson. The spectacle of federal troops policing an American community in time of peace is repugnant to all good citizens. The army is not intended for the relief of local authorities who lack the courage to enforce their own laws. The protection of lives and property is the duty of the state and Nevada's dereliction throws the odium of it upon Governor Sparks and other officials who made such a determined effort to shirk their duty and their responsibility.

**THE DENVER HANDICAP.**  
It is too late, of course, to go back of the returns and pick another meeting place for the democratic national convention, but there is certain to be woe, grief, gnashing of teeth and other exhibitions of temper when the democrats of the country realize the neat confidence game played upon them by the committee that caught the democratic convention for Denver with a \$100,000 bait.

The east has been plastered with literature picturing the beauties of Denver in July and holding out a tempting list of entertainments for the delegates and visitors, but the truth is gradually coming out. In face of the facts, the national convention at Denver will not be like the old-time hurrah meetings of the party. It won't be safe to try to follow the old program. Hon. "Bob" Spear, the mayor of Denver and one of the democratic political bosses of the Rocky mountain region, is a native of Pennsylvania. While he is a most enthusiastic member of the Denver Boosters' club, he has a warm spot in his heart for his old Pennsylvania friends, and in a letter to Colonel Guffey, the democratic boss in Pennsylvania, he has written these words of advice and caution:

"Delegates should remember that the city is a mile up in the air—that 14,520 feet above the sea level; that they should not chase a car, should not become excited or be unduly active, and that two drinks of whiskey will 'light them up' as much as wine in another atmosphere. In other words, this high altitude contributes to quick heart action—a pumping heart, as it is called—and Denver's rarefied atmosphere demands on the part of alien con-

servative movements, little or no exhilaration, whoisolely quiet thought and action, and especially the minimum of stimulants, alcoholic and nicotine.

That is a pretty prospect for a democratic convention, isn't it? If two drinks of Denver whiskey will "light up" a man as much as nine drinks of Chicago, New York or Philadelphia whiskey, what will be the effect on the convention if the Tammany delegation and Cook county Democracy and the Guffey guards do so more than confine themselves to their regular liquid rations? If "conservative movements" and "whoisolely quiet thought and action" are essential to the physical well-being of the delegates, what kind of an intellectual ferment will follow the efforts of the reactionaries to block the plans of Colonel Bryan? What use will there be for a sea-level democrat, who likes to froth at the mouth in frenzied oratorical efforts and lead the rush in the rally of the state standards around a favorite son if he is to find the walls placarded with the admonition, "Do not become excited, or be unduly active?"

Unless the committee on arrangements and the Denver press agents devise some new attraction to offset the damage done by the Spear letter there is apt to be a slump in the attendance of the old-line "whoop 'er up" democrats at the coming gathering of the clans.

**ANOTHER "GREAT CONSPIRACY."**  
The hint of a conspiracy of "certain interests" to defeat Mr. Bryan at the Denver convention, which Mr. Bryan got direct from a man "who overheard a telephone conversation on the subject," is assuming tangible form. The democrats who are booming Governor Johnson of Minnesota for the presidential nomination have decided to open headquarters in Chicago, and intend that if properly encouraged they will open branch headquarters in New York, and perhaps in other cities. Governor Johnson admits that the headquarters proposition is under consideration, but disclaims any connection with what is being done or any knowledge of what line of activity is contemplated.

No further proof of the existence of the conspiracy is needed, so far as the Bryanites are concerned. Frantic supporters of the Nebraskans have been complaining that the republican press has given undue prominence to the Johnson movement and are intimating that "certain interests" are being spurred on by the republican leaders to defeat Bryan and name a weaker candidate. On that proposition the Bryanites are plainly mistaken. If the republicans are to be consulted as to the choice of the nominee at the Denver convention, the preponderant expression would favor Mr. Bryan. Evidence from reliable democratic sources has been accumulating to show that Mr. Bryan is no stronger in the east than he was in 1896 and 1900, and that he is even weaker in the south. His former inability to carry such pivotal states as New York, Indiana, New Jersey and Illinois is a matter of record and it is doubtful if he could carry Kentucky, Maryland and Missouri, that were in the democratic column in his two former campaigns. There is nothing to indicate that he would carry any state he failed to carry in 1900. On the other hand, Governor Johnson might place some of the eastern states in the debate column. Clearly, the conspiracy which is worrying the Bryanites is not of republican origin.

From a purely democratic standpoint, the Johnson boom, whatever merit it may possess, has been delayed too long in the launching. The Bryan hold on the democratic party is too strong to be broken in the time remaining before the convention at Denver. The only effect of the Johnson movement will be to arouse the Bryanites to more activity in securing pledged delegations to his support in the national convention and put the ban on Governor Johnson as a possible running mate with Mr. Bryan.

**MAKING THE BEST OF NECESSITY.**  
China has concluded to apologize. There was no other course left open to it. Japan refused arbitration, and such a refusal means business. But it is hardly probable that apology and reparation will end the matter. The Chinese have long memories and will not soon forget the indignity to which they have been subjected.

**Blessings of the Blind.**  
Helen Keller in March Century.  
The calamity of the blind is immense, irreparable. But it does not mean that they are of the things that count—service, friendship, humor, imagination, wisdom. It is the secret inner will that controls one's fate. We are capable of willing to be good, of loving and being loved, of thinking to the end that we may be wiser. We possess those spirit-born forces equally with all God's children. Therefore we, too, see the lightnings and hear the thunders of Sinai. We, too, march through the wilderness and the solitary places that shall be glad for us, and as we pass God maketh the desert to blossom like the rose. We, too, go in unto the Promised Land to possess the treasures of the spirit, the unseen permanence of life and nature.

**A PROHIBITION BURCHARD.**  
**Intemperate Abuse of a Noted Catholic Prelate.**  
St. Louis Globe-Democrat.  
Cardinal Gibbons, the well known Catholic prelate, recently declared that prohibition had been a failure in the large cities which had tried it, and he favored high license and thorough regulation instead. For this reason he preferred local exclusion, by counties or towns, and not a statewide interdict on whiskey drinking. A leader of the political prohibition party made a savage attack on the cardinal, and it was not ignorance, but "appetite" which makes him oppose prohibition, and added that "when a man announces such views as Gibbons announces he ought to exchange his surplice for a white apron, and go to keeping bar."

Naturally this assault has called out vigorous denunciations from many newspapers, the most pointed of which has come from papers which are outside of the cardinal's church. Nobody who has appeared in print in many years has ever been stigmatized by so many uncomplimentary terms as have been hurled at this unfortunate saint. And every one of the epithets which we have seen is deserved. As the cardinal has been a total abstainer all his life, as he has urged abstinence in his church, and as he has caused immeasurably more for the cause of temperance than has ever been done by his traducer, all the denunciations which have been heaped upon the latter is particularly pointed and pertinent.

Irrespective altogether of the merits of the state-wide prohibition movement it would seem that its leaders ought to know that intemperate abuse like that which they have hurled at Cardinal Gibbons and others is calculated to repel a hundred persons for every one that it will win. Looking at the matter on the material and practical side, this is bad politics. No cause, however good it may be, has ever been promoted, or ever will be promoted, by such a spirit as that which is shown in this particular propaganda. The political prohibition party turned the scale against the republicans in 1884 through the large vote polled in the decisive state of New York by St. John, its presidential candidate, and thus defeated Blaine and made Cleveland president. Recently the prohibitionists have been gaining ground, and the country looked for a heavy vote by them in 1898. But if the prohibition party neglects to muzzle these speulibanders who talk in the strain which has been referred to here, it will not sell enough votes anywhere to frighten either the republicans or the democratic campaign managers.

**When Will Fathers Convene?**  
Minneapolis Journal.  
The mothers' congress is meeting in Washington. The National Fathers' convention has not been called yet—not out loud, anyway.

**Heroines of the Schools.**  
Buffalo Express.  
Did anybody ever hear of a school fire in which the women teachers have failed to do their utmost to save the lives of the children in their charge?

**Judicial Wisdom.**  
Washington Post.  
A Nebraska court has decided that a woman has a perfect right to get off a street car backward. Evidently the court understands the wisdom of making a virtue of necessity.

**Push the Good Work Along.**  
Wall Street Journal.  
The Pennsylvania has recently posted notices in its various workshops, forbidding profanity. In view of the present railroad situation, why not put such notices in the executive offices and mail one to every stockholder.

**Revising an "Old Saw."**  
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A big diamond firm which failed the other day blames its trouble on "the public's craze for automobiles." The old saying may, therefore, be changed to "Stick to me and you'll ride in an automobile."

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this tardy recognition? The platform was written and promulgated word for word just as it is, with the exception of about four paragraphs, nearly a year ago.

"No peace born of force can possibly endure," said Mr. Justice Brewer at a Loyal Legion banquet at Washington. The first peace this nation had was born of force and it is enduring pretty well, a member of the supreme court to the contrary notwithstanding.

Engineer John F. Stevens says the Panama canal will not be any good when it is built. It may also be remarked that the chances were against it ever being built until Mr. Stevens made way for another engineer in charge.

Harry Orchard has pleaded guilty to the murder of ex-Governor Steunenberg of Idaho. That is going to make a good many folks believe that Orchard had nothing to do with that crime.

The National Bank of North America had \$360,000 invested in the Ice trust which Banker Morse floated and then sunk. The creditors have a keen appreciation of the term, "a cold deal."

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Irrespective altogether of the merits of the state-wide prohibition movement it would seem that its leaders ought to know that intemperate abuse like that which they have hurled at Cardinal Gibbons and others is calculated to repel a hundred persons for every one that it will win. Looking at the matter on the material and practical side, this is bad politics. No cause, however good it may be, has ever been promoted, or ever will be promoted, by such a spirit as that which is shown in this particular propaganda. The political prohibition party turned the scale against the republicans in 1884 through the large vote polled in the decisive state of New York by St. John, its presidential candidate, and thus defeated Blaine and made Cleveland president. Recently the prohibitionists have been gaining ground, and the country looked for a heavy vote by them in 1898. But if the prohibition party neglects to muzzle these speulibanders who talk in the strain which has been referred to here, it will not sell enough votes anywhere to frighten either the republicans or the democratic campaign managers.

**When Will Fathers Convene?**  
Minneapolis Journal.  
The mothers' congress is meeting in Washington. The National Fathers' convention has not been called yet—not out loud, anyway.

**Heroines of the Schools.**  
Buffalo Express.  
Did anybody ever hear of a school fire in which the women teachers have failed to do their utmost to save the lives of the children in their charge?

**Judicial Wisdom.**  
Washington Post.  
A Nebraska court has decided that a woman has a perfect right to get off a street car backward. Evidently the court understands the wisdom of making a virtue of necessity.

**Push the Good Work Along.**  
Wall Street Journal.  
The Pennsylvania has recently posted notices in its various workshops, forbidding profanity. In view of the present railroad situation, why not put such notices in the executive offices and mail one to every stockholder.

**Revising an "Old Saw."**  
Chicago Record-Herald.  
A big diamond firm which failed the other day blames its trouble on "the public's craze for automobiles." The old saying may, therefore, be changed to "Stick to me and you'll ride in an automobile."

**"He'll Deliver the Goods."**  
Kansas City Star.  
Secretary Taft says that he does not agree with the engineers who say that the Panama canal will be a failure. The country is not disposed to have a lack of confidence in anything that Secretary Taft has in hand. He has never been identified with a failure.

**Making the Best of Necessity.**  
San Francisco Chronicle.  
China has concluded to apologize. There was no other course left open to it. Japan refused arbitration, and such a refusal means business. But it is hardly probable that apology and reparation will end the matter. The Chinese have long memories and will not soon forget the indignity to which they have been subjected.

**Blessings of the Blind.**  
Helen Keller in March Century.  
The calamity of the blind is immense, irreparable. But it does not mean that they are of the things that count—service, friendship, humor, imagination, wisdom. It is the secret inner will that controls one's fate. We are capable of willing to be good, of loving and being loved, of thinking to the end that we may be wiser. We possess those spirit-born forces equally with all God's children. Therefore we, too, see the lightnings and hear the thunders of Sinai. We, too, march through the wilderness and the solitary places that shall be glad for us, and as we pass God maketh the desert to blossom like the rose. We, too, go in unto the Promised Land to possess the treasures of the spirit, the unseen permanence of life and nature.

**A PROHIBITION BURCHARD.**  
**Intemperate Abuse of a Noted Catholic Prelate.**  
St. Louis Globe-Democrat.  
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**A PRO**