

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.
Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:
Sunday Bee one year \$1.00
Daily Bee one year \$3.00
Daily Bee six months \$1.75
Daily Bee and Sunday one year \$3.50

DELIVERED BY CARRIER.
Living Bee (without paper), per week \$0.15
Sunday Bee (without paper), per week \$0.05
Daily Bee (without paper), per week \$0.12
New Year's resolutions, get weeklies. Address all complaints to Postmaster.

OFFICES:
Omaha—The Bee Building, 230 Broadway.
Country Office—St. Joseph, Mo., 200 N. Second St.
Washington, D. C., 1119 Wisconsin Ave. N. E.
CORRESPONDENCE:
Contributors should send original copy of article to editor. If possible, original copy should be retained by contributor.

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1	\$2,500
2	\$2,500
3	\$2,500
4	\$2,500
5	\$2,500
6	\$2,500
7	\$2,500
8	\$2,500
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25	\$2,500
26	\$2,500
27	\$2,500
28	\$2,500
29	\$2,500
30	\$2,500

Total \$1,200,000
Returned copies 10,000

Net Total \$1,200,000
Daily Average 40,000
GEORGE E. TSCHUK,
Treasurer.

Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

Of course, Secretary Dickinson is not personally afraid of gun armed.

It is suspected that the weather man is just trying to display his versatility.

The Hornet has sailed out of the port of New Orleans. Now, watch somebody get stung.

Some of those British lords do not find as much Yule-tide cheer this time as in years gone by.

Wouldn't it be fine if congress should complete the session without winking up "Jeff" Davis?

Have you qualified as an early Christmas shopper? If not, you are in danger of being ruled out.

As if one without the other were not dangerous enough, Aviator Latham has gone duck hunting in an aeroplane.

If not careful to stay indoors Rockefeller's and Carnegie's dove of peace may get frost-bitten in this kind of weather.

The cotton-clothed Santa Claus is once more warned to keep at a safe distance from the lighted Christmas tree candles.

Chicago democrats may yet have to compromise for mayor by running J. Ham Lewis on a platform of irresponsible whiskers.

With all the investigations arising from the last Illinois legislature, Springfield is lucky to be still the capital of the state.

"Much American art is bad," declares Thomas Nelson Page. Yes, even the manly art of self-defense has fallen somewhat into disrepute.

A scientist says the human race is gradually losing its toes through disease. That is where the legless man in the dime museum has it on all the rest.

Dr. Cook has returned once more. If he will hurry while the cold wave is on he might possibly be able to locate the North Pole somewhere in Nebraska.

Down in Texas they expect to eat watermelon and drink sassafras tea for Christmas dinner. But up here in Nebraska we prefer the hot turkey and plum pudding.

A bold robbery of the Sunset express on the Southern Pacific in the very heart of El Paso is reported. Better call out the school children and set them to work on the trail.

Bees in this country are said to have produced \$20,000,000 in honey last year. Another argument for peace instead of war. They could never have done that hunting for a fight.

Governor Shallenberger cautions the legislature to be careful lest the proposed initiative and referendum prove to be as much of a gold brick as the open primary. The governor ought to know.

A disgruntled subscriber complains that between the prohibitionists and the bacteriologists he is afraid of both whisky and water.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Then boil the whisky and use gin-gar ale for a chaser.

Fruits of Our Diplomacy.

Criticism of the "dollar diplomacy" pursued by Secretary of State Knox has largely ceased. Congress recently called for a statement to show what, if anything, had been accomplished by the annual expenditure of \$100,000 by the State department for the advancement of our commercial interests abroad, and the statement was so meagre and so silent, promptly and completely, all carping critics. Here is the statement as submitted by Assistant Secretary Wilson.

Through the efforts of the State department we have secured for American shipbuilders contracts for two large battleships for the Argentine navy, which will bring here \$2,000,000 to go to American workmen and be applied to the purchase of American material. We also got contracts for railway equipment, in Argentina, amounting to \$2,000,000, contracts for the building of two ships for Cuba, to cost about \$500,000, contracts for furnishing armor and armament for the Argentine navy, amounting to \$1,000,000; contracts for furnishing paper to a large Latin-American newspaper, amounting to about \$200,000 per annum; the opening up of the Hukang loan agreement in China so as to permit Americans to have an equal share with the citizens of foreign governments in financing and supplying materials for a railroad in central China, to cost upward of \$30,000,000; a contract for the construction of a railway in China, to be financed with American capital and supplied in part with American material, together with harbor works and other industrial improvements in Manchuria, representing an investment of about \$40,000,000. We are also assured of succeeding in concluding a loan to China of \$20,000,000, which will greatly improve business conditions in China and, therefore, aid American commerce.

As compared with these results the little \$100,000 appropriation looks like pocket change. And yet what the policy of the department may accomplish after a few years no one can begin to approximate. It is pretty good evidence that Secretary Knox knew what he was talking about when he said the resources of the State department could be thus employed to extend our commercial interests and at the same time cement old friendships abroad and build up new ones.

Congressional Reapportionment.

The insecurity of party lines today should make less difficult the task of congressional reapportionment. A great deal is being said about gerrymandering, but as a matter of fact there is less to fear from its possibilities than in former years when partisanship was recklessly unscrupulous. The mere routine of a reapportionment involves an immense amount of work, so that the task could not well be made easy, but it should be much more simple now than heretofore.

So far as the matter of drawing lines with reference to political complexion goes, it cannot be done today with any degree of certainty. Very few districts may now be claimed as exclusive territory by any party, except, of course, in the south, where the democrats carry nearly everything by default and tradition. For these reasons neither the democrats nor the republicans can lay much stress on which shall direct the work of reapportionment. It matters little whether the republican majority in the present house or the democratic in the next has the directing control. It is a case where the best laid plans may "gang a-gle."

The present membership of the house is 389. Under the conditions of the recent census some states are bound to lose representatives unless the maximum of 440, possible under the new population, is taken. Other states, already with large representation, would gain. New York, for instance, would gain ten over its present number, giving it forty-seven members in the house. With some there is an indispotion to bring the house membership up to 440, for fear of making the body too cumbersome and unwieldy. The total membership may be limited or reduced only by increasing the ratio, which always encounters opposition.

Public Servants.

France, long harassed by strikes and other labor complications, has set about to deal with public utility corporations in a firmer manner. In addressing itself to its task, the French government takes the view that public service companies "have been instituted for the public good, not for the benefit of those to whom they have been confided."

The view is a sound one—so sound, in fact, that some public service corporations in the United States, themselves, have come to accept it, not in any spirit of philanthropy, either. A public service corporation, with headquarters in Chicago, recently issued a brochure in which it declared that, not only did such corporations owe their first obligation to the people, but that every employe was, to an extent, a public servant and that the better public servant he was, the better public service his employer was able to render.

No other theory is tenable, since it is directly from the people that such companies derive their franchise right to do business. Therefore, the principle laid down in the French proposition, that "the interruption of public service is a crime," is entitled to serious consideration. And it may be considered without reference, primarily, to which side is to blame for the interruption. Such a view emboldens France to believe in the early solution of its serious labor difficulties.

France proposes in connection with this construction of the law a compulsory arbitration system for strikes. It is a question if it would not be essential, for it might work one-sidedly to

throw all responsibility for interruption of service on the employers. Unless some such provision were made the employes might in times of trouble take advantage, not only of their employers, under the regulations, but also of the public. If there is any danger, therefore, in pressing the point of the corporation's accountability, it lies in this and serves to emphasize the point for Americans as well as for Frenchmen.

Dr. Cook's Latest Ambition.

It seems almost ironical that Dr. Cook should return seeking the pardon of his fellow countrymen on the steamship George Washington. Thus he comes back after a year's absence, during which he has been execrated by the public for what it conceived to be gross abuse of its confidence, begging to be rehabilitated in the esteem of his countrymen. Men do not like to feel the blight of social ostracism. It is more withering than the rigors of a Polar blast, which Cook endured with comparative equanimity. Whether his deception of the world was intentional or not, its penalties have brought him to the common realization of what he has sacrificed.

Dr. Cook magnanimously tells us he does not know what his future plans will be. He says he will have a statement supporting his veracity about the Mt. McKinley ascent ready later. That, however, can have little important effect now. The best he can expect is the charity of forgiveness, because no amount of explaining or attempt at proof from him would now convert a majority of Americans to his cause. Some will, of course, never relinquish their faith in him. Yet as time passes people may come to agree with Dr. Cook that it is nearly, if not impossible, for any man to be certain of reaching the pole.

Freedom of Speech in This Country Must be Badly Twisted in the European Understanding when the Personal Inclination of a Member of the Army or Navy to Shed the Last Drop of his Blood in Behalf of the British is Taken as Committing the Whole United States Government to that sanguinary policy against other nations. These resolutions were adopted in favor of a consideration of industrial, commercial and agricultural interests in future legislation, and demanding securities for the regular working of the public services, for liberty of labor and the sanctity of contracts.

Major Eyoub Sabri Bey, one of the heroes of the July revolution, who is chief guardian of the deposed sultan of Turkey, Abdul Hamid, has been interviewed by a correspondent of a Paris paper, and he tells of the wasting away of the aged autocrat. Abdul suffers from insomnia and is in an almost constant state of melancholia. One of the reasons for this is the impossibility of supplying him with all the artificial light he needs. At Yildiz he had always been accustomed to the nightly flare of 4,000 gas lamps and 2,000 electric lights. He had, in fact, a main for this sort of illumination, so that now he is reduced to a few scores of electric lights in all he feels his position keenly. He has become morose and taciturn, and a prey to some terrible anxieties. He often sits all night in his room before an open window looking in the direction of Constantinople.

RECALL OF JUDGES.

Basis of Objection to Arizona's New Constitution.
The prediction is made that the Arizona constitution as adopted by the convention will be remembered by President Taft. It will be remembered that Mr. Taft, when secretary of war, urged the people of Oklahoma to adopt a simple constitution, laying down general principles, instead of one containing all the items floating or fixed in the public mind. Oklahoma did not take his advice. It adopted a constitution containing full instructions to the legislature on nearly every imaginable subject, and President Roosevelt with difficulty brought himself to approve it.

OUR BIRTHDAY BOOK.

December 24, 1910.
Matthew Arnold, English poet and critic, was born December 24, 1822, at Middleton, England, and died in 1888. He was the elder son of Dr. Thomas Arnold, the famous European teacher, and was himself professor of poetry at Oxford for ten years. Rev. Adolph Hult, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church, was born December 24, 1823, at Moline, Ill. He began his ministry in Chicago in 1859 after graduating from the Augustan Theological seminary at Rock Island. He wrote the most interesting series of travel letters for The Bee a year ago while he was touring Europe. Emil J. Prohaska, clerk in the freight claim department of the Burlington at Omaha, is just 36. He was born in Bohemia, coming to this country with his parents when three years of age. He has been with the Burlington since 1881.

In Other Lands

The city of Belfast, Ireland, owns or leases all street railway lines within its boundaries. With the exception of a short bus line. As a result of municipal operation the rates of fare are said to be the lowest of any street railway system in the world. Financial results are equally gratifying. The net profit for the year ending March 31 last shows a total of \$4,547,501 passengers carried and receipts of \$20,827,684. The operating expenses were \$21,148,193, leaving an operating profit of \$679,491. After deducting various sums for income and other taxes and extension fund the net profit was \$229,393, which was distributed among three funds—sinking, depreciation and statutory reserve. Fare for a ride of limited length at any time of the day is 2 cents up to 5 s. m. A male passenger may ride the whole length for 3 cents and purchase a return ticket for the same amount good at any hour. This privilege is extended to female passengers up to 5 s. m. Children under 14 years of age ride at half fare at all times. A feature of striking importance noted in the report is the plan for extension of lines. The authorities have mapped a comprehensive scheme of development covering a period of twenty years, based on the probable growth of the city. The annual extension will approximate ten miles, and will continue year by year until the system planned is completed, giving all sections of the city fair and equal transportation, with no section favored at any time over the other. Authority for these extensions has to be secured by act of Parliament. Belfast is one of the forty cities in the United Kingdom exercising the right of street railways. Twenty-two of the forty pay over large sums every year for reduction of local taxes, while eighteen absorb profits in reduced fares. But there are fifty-four other British cities in which municipal lines have not been profitable, owing to poor management and excessive cost of purchased power.

THE "DEAD HAND" IN AMERICA.

Some Remarks on the Proposed "Rockefeller Foundation."
New York World.
Because of objections made to the bill incorporating the Rockefeller foundation as first introduced, Senator Gallinger has modified it to meet objections by limiting its term to 50 years and the sum it may hold to \$100,000,000.
Congress numbers many able lawyers, well read in history, who know what have mortmain laws. There is probably no country in Europe or Latin America where Catholic statesmen have not been formed to "nationalize" religious trusts. This is as true of monarchies and "most Christian" Spain as of republican Portugal. In England the sequestration of abbey lands is ancient and forgotten, but recent years saw the Hobbhouse commission ending up by putting to public use the ancient trusts which had become fossil; as where the London guilds were squandering \$50,000 a year on feasts and wasting or using for personal benefit even larger sums. The misuse of the Oxford university endowment is a continuing warning to generous American founders. To give an example more grotesque, the health measure that abated the famous free dogs of Constantinople confronted the young Turks with ancient legacies under the "wakf" laws for feeding these dogs forever.

Side Lights on What is Transpiring Among the Near and Far Nations of the Earth.

The steel buyers refuse to buy until prices are reduced and the steel trust refuses to reduce prices, thus resulting in a situation which Big Business is not always business.
"The Hoozy Man Will Get You."
Indianaapolis News.
You see, the trouble is that some night while we are looking the Jews might throw a pontoon bridge across the Pacific and march 100,000 men into San Francisco before the night watchman could ring the alarm bell.

Saving Sense of Humor.

No Japanese ship has been seen in the western heavens. To that degree of insanity only the British Germanophobes have been reduced. There are limits, distinct limits, to our trepidation, owing to the national sense of humor.

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Political Drift.

Owing to the hasty getaway of senators from Washington, Senator Lorimer's "white Christmas" is put off for a year. A decision by a Philadelphia court in validating a recent issue of bonds did not disturb the Christmas spirit of the authorities. They've got the money and are spending it freely.
On his arrival at Seattle the other day, James J. Hill brushed a few gobs of spit from his whiskers and remarked to the reporters: "Theodore Roosevelt, poor fellow; I know him well; he has no control over himself."
Governor-elect Cruce of Oklahoma declines to top up in a dress suit to attend an inaugural ball and the function is likely to be abandoned. The governor is willing to go the limit of a "billed" shirt, but a spiced-tailed coat never!

Recognizing the Inevitable.

Distribution of Authority in House of Representatives.
New York Tribune.
The Hon. Champ Clark surrendered gracefully that he would favor the creation of a committee on committees or some other method of divesting the speaker of the house of representatives of the power to make committee appointments. It is doubtful whether Mr. Clark could have seriously contemplated the retention under democratic rule of the one-man method of house control which he denounced so vigorously when practiced under republican rule. To succeed Mr. Cannon and at the same time surrender a large share of political prestige which Mr. Cannon enjoyed might seem a personal handicap, but Mr. Clark is a good enough philosopher and politician to realize that in abandoning the dictatorship which former speakers have exercised he only yields what the voters have clearly indicated that they desire no future presiding officer of the house of representatives to possess.

Smiling Lines.

"Haven't you a worse soiled dollar bill than that?" asked the shop girl, with elaborate politeness.
"Yes, miss," answered the customer, "but I've been saving it for some chap that wants to borrow a dollar."—Chicago Tribune.
"I understand that the appointments of the wedding were very costly indeed."
"Costly? I should say there were costly. Why, the old shoes they threw after the bride were genuine leather."—Puck.
"I don't want my son to marry you, my dear young woman. You know you have insanity in your family."
"Oh, that makes no difference. Your son is just crazy about me."—Baltimore American.

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THE BRESLIN

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