

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE
 FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
 VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR
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DECEMBER CIRCULATION,
52,148
 State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss.:
 Dwight Williams, circulation manager of the Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, deposes that the average daily circulation for the month of December, 1913, was 52,148.
 DWIGHT WILLIAMS,
 Circulation Manager.
 Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 3rd day of January, 1914.
 ROBERT HUNTER,
 Notary Public.

Findell's Declination.
 "Your letter does credit to your delicate sense of propriety," says the president in reply to Henry M. Findell's note declining the Russian ambassadorship. And that is the way the country will regard it. Those who did not know the Peoria editor will now be disposed to accept what his friends have said of his fitness for high diplomatic service. By declining under the circumstances he both vindicates the president's judgment and others' estimation. It must be clear to all who caught the significance of the foolish letter ascribed to James Hamilton Lewis—which Lewis denounces as a forgery—that any man who desired the post had enough to accept it with this handicap attached was not the man the United States needed at St. Petersburg.
 Of course, since the Illinois senator denies authorship of this letter, it may be superfluous to dwell upon the folly of a United States senator intervening in behalf of a presidential diplomatic appointment. If Lewis did not write the letter, he is certainly the victim of a very harsh combination of circumstances, and it will be too bad if the real author is not discovered, if for no other reason than that the full shadow of suspicion may be lifted from the brilliant personage involved. Until that is done this is scarcely to be regarded as "a closed incident."

Looking Backward
 This Day in Omaha
 Compiled from Bee files
FEBRUARY 3.
Thirty Years Ago—
 Justice E. White, superintendent of the Sixth Division of the Railway Mail service, is visiting in Omaha. He was at one time a resident of Omaha as chief clerk of the service, from which position he was transferred to the position he now has in Chicago.
 The number of police arrests during January was 177, and one of them for keeping a saloon open on Sunday.
 The "Don Caesar" was put on in German to an appreciative audience at the Stadt theater.
 Coroner Kent has had a beautiful sign painted, and has hung it up in the office of Drexel & Maul.
 Frank Kaspar is entitled to the thanks of the residents on South Thirteenth street for placing several crossings near his place of business.
 The Pathharmonic society is devoting its energies to its part in the Emma Thursby concert scheduled for February 15.
 Mrs. Mary Parmalee, wife of Daniel Parmalee, died suddenly at the residence, Thirtieth and North Center streets.
 W. B. Corwin, formerly salesman for Hickman of this city, has returned to Omaha.
 Internal revenue receipts for January aggregate \$127,125 as reported by Collector Post.
 The Aaron Root property on Saunders street is to be surveyed and platted, and thereafter known as Denise's addition.
Twenty Years Ago—
 The Boston store, sixteenth and Douglas streets, a liquor store on the north and St. Mary Magdalene's church and school on the west, were completely wiped out by fire at a total loss of \$25,000. The flames raged with uncontrollable fury, menacing a large part of the retail center of the city and it was good work by the firemen that restricted it to these buildings. As it was the Young Men's Christian association building across the street and the Kennard building were damaged. One hundred and seventy employes in the Boston store got out alive.
 J. Russell, a wealthy Colorado ranchman, stopping at the Paxton hotel, was knocked down and robbed of a check for \$1,200 at the alley on Fourteenth street back of the hotel. He had stepped into the Denver saloon to cash his check and the footpads, believing, it is thought, he had succeeded, which he had not, pounced on him. They beat him up while at it and got away.
 A baby coughing saved the house from destruction and possibly serious disaster at the home of Alfred Jones, 615 South Twenty-second street. The little one had coughed until his father got up for a remedy. He noticed smoke issuing from a room, then the carpet afire, then he found that a lamp, left lighted afire upon the floor, had exploded and caused the damage, which would have been great if a little while, but for the baby. As it was the loss entailed was limited to about \$500.
Ten Years Ago—
 The advisory board decided to recommend to the city council a requirement for every theater to place a fire alarm calling fire on its stage as a further safeguard against disaster.
 A. G. Eilleck was made administrator of the will of the late Mrs. Sophronia Jones, widow of the late A. D. Jones, Omaha's first postmaster. Mr. Eilleck succeeded in this capacity E. N. Robertson.
 Mrs. Harriet Penner Whitney, wife of Peter Whitney, townsite agent for the Northwestern railroad, died at their residence, 2315 South Thirty-second avenue, at 5 p. m. at the age of 83. The plan was to lay her at rest in Richmond, Ill., the old family home. Mrs. Whitney was beloved by a large circle of friends, having resided in Omaha for many years.
 An authoritative announcement was made that within a few days J. B. Berry, chief engineer of the Union Pacific, would resign to go with the Erie railroad in a similar capacity. Mr. Berry had been with the Union Pacific since 1885, joining it shortly after Horace G. Burt became president.
 County Surveyor Edquist received a letter from Major Crittenden, in charge of the Missouri river at Sioux City, saying his assistant would be in Omaha soon to make a survey of the Missouri in East Omaha, where it threatened an overflow, to determine what would be necessary to repress it.

Aimed at Omaha
 Hastings Tribune: When Omaha's new superintendent goes into office on February 1 he proposes to clean up Nebraska's metropolis. We thought the crooks had done that already.
 Bialar Tribune: Since all this cussedness and commercialized vice has been unearthed in Omaha, where has Sheriff Felix McKeive been all the time? Not long ago he was reforming everything in Omaha that was anywhere near loose. But maybe he has "canned" his press agent.
 Kearney Hub: Omaha has made a good showing in the matter of location of the new regional bank, and the bankers of that city are confident that Omaha's claims will have recognition. The advantage is not entirely one of location, but also of the independent money supply through Omaha's national banks. Here's to Omaha!
 Nebraska City Press: A burglar was necessary to find another "resort" in Omaha. The burglar robbed one of the Omaha "necessaries" the other night. The owner notified the police and the police found some interesting conditions that a number of young folks were put in jail. A few burglars added to the Omaha detective force might wonder in that town of deaf, dumb and blind officials.
 Hartington Herald: Whenever a crime is committed in Omaha, some of the newspapers raise a great hue and cry about the wickedness of that city, but it is doubtful that Omaha is any worse for its size than the other cities and towns of the state. It must be remembered that Omaha is a big city and it would indeed be remarkable if, like other big cities, it did not have a certain amount of crime.
 Blue Springs Sentinel: The bankers of Omaha call it Bryan penury politics in causing them to go to Lincoln to meet the committee who are to establish the new regional bank districts. It might be just as well if Omaha financiers would remember that Bryan is secretary of state at the national capitol and that a few penury political expressions might work to their disadvantage in making up the final decision.
 Group City Times Independent: Reformers agitated by Omaha people usually fall flat, when the same people try to spring something on the state. Because the state goes slow before they accept anything as coming from Omaha. They say they cannot clean up their "resort" and we knew they could not hold an election without fraud until the state stepped in and had a commissioner appointed by outside influence. Possibly it will require outside influence to clean up the resort that the Omaha police say they are unable to do.

The Bee's Letter Box
Single Standard.
 OMAHA, Jan. 29.—To the Editor of The Bee: The laws of God require the same obedience from both sexes, but the laws of man allow privileges to one sex which are denied to the other, and it is not intended that laws shall be passed which the majority of the people, on account of human frailty, cannot and will not obey.
 Certain social sins are committed by a large majority of unmarried men, and this majority cannot be punished, neither can they suffer disgrace, for married men cannot approach them with criticism; they must acknowledge nearly all men have been guilty of, and women for some reason will not condemn young men for sewing wild oats. Men as a rule do not value the opinion of women for they know that women are inclined to ridicule anyone who is awkward, timid or poorly dressed; but a man may sit with his brethren in a lodge composed of the most highly cultured men of the age, and if he wears overalls and top boots he is considered as "properly clothed" as any of the officers in dress suits.
 Women can seldom distinguish between the rustic and refined, between the cultured and the crude, except by external appearances, and this is the reason that men are never disgraced as long as they escape the clutches of the law, and keep up appearances.
 It is true that there should be but one social and moral standard for both sexes, but this ideal is so high and so far distant, that mankind can have no reasonable hopes of reaching it without divine assistance.
 When I visit a man I am not forced to carry him flowers and candy, nor pay his way into the theater, and if he makes remarks about my "clothes when I am gone, will be looked upon as a 'neat' I can disagree with any man's opinions without being accused of rudeness, and I can speak to a strange man on the street without being arrested.
 A man who would take a fallen woman into his home as a servant would be looked upon with suspicion by his wife, and this sentiment is not likely to change in his life; but the janitor can do exactly as he pleases as long as he works for bread. Had women suffer disgrace because there are so many that are virtuous, but men, being so nearly alike in this respect, are we forced to overlook them, and this we all appear to do even when we argue differently.
 E. O. MINTOSH.

About Women
 Mrs. Charles H. Israel is chairman of a New York committee that is interested in providing amusement resources for working girls. She is in favor of adding women to the police force, and Mayor Mitchell will be asked to name women for positions.
 The supreme temple of the Pythian Sisters will meet in Winnepeg next August and will consider many matters of interest to the organization. Mrs. Ida M. Kewley of Chicago is chairman of the supreme committee on the law and order for the United States.
 Mrs. Richard C. Burleson, wife of Lieutenant Burleson of Fort Myer, near Washington, will study politics and economics at Washington university. Mrs. Burleson is very much interested in the suffrage movement and her studies will be pursued with the intention of being able to give more help to the cause.
 There are now four members of the Pankhurst family engaged in the work of suffrage. Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Christabel, Miss Sylvia and Miss Adele, the youngest daughter, who has only recently begun her work. Because of ill health she has been living for some time in Italy and engaged in the work of gardening for the outdoor exercise, but has been so well of late that she has taken to lecturing, beginning in Milan, Italy.

TOLD IN FUN.
 Fond Mamma—Look at the little Sarling playing with his toes!
 Fond Papa—Awful thought! Suppose he grows up to be a chiropractor.
 "Your death struggles were very realistic tonight," commented Korick Hamm.
 "Confound that careless property man, snarled Hammett Fatt. 'When I tell I lit on a tank.'—Cincinnati Enquirer.
 "Popularity is very fickle!" exclaimed the offhand orator.
 "What's the trouble?"
 "Every time I get a crowd interested in my remarks an automobile tire blows out and the audience rushes off to see what the matter is."—Washington Star.
THE THIMBLERIGGER.
 The charlatan can imitate, but he is proven not so great. When forced to do his level best. By virtue of the acid test.
 By reasoning and actions queer. He may with skill make it appear. That white is black and black is white, But he can never change the right.
 In politics he often poses. As great and good a man as Moses. But finds at last his snake o'erpowered, His fauna removed, and then devoured.
 Religious liberty's great light is no more sacred than our right. To have the doctor we may wish. To heal the ailments of the flesh.
 And one who leans on Aaron's cane—Which represents truth's wide domain—Need fear no serpent of malice. False doctors or of politicians. Omaha. WILLIS HUDSPETH.

Why shouldn't Bryan aspire to be a senator? Nebraska can certainly stand it.

We nominate Nellie Bly as captain of one of those round-the-world aeroplanes.

The leader of Haiti's progressives is Senator Theodore. But what's in a name?

An increase in building permits for January is Omaha's answer to the impulse toward prosperity.

Third person, singular, seems to bother Dr. Shaw. She is not the first to be stumped in declension.

Universal transfers and single fares have been granted by Chicago street railways. So, it can be done.

It will be a groundhog case, though, if the weather man should put us up against an April winter.

Champ Clark's friends insist he is a big man, despite the fact that he cannot get over the tragedy of Baltimore.

Some very attractive bargains in railroads are now being displayed, but the rush to purchase hasn't yet been attended by fatality.

Nat Goodwin is starring in "Never Say Die," matrimonially speaking. Nat does not regard it merely as a stage joke, either.

But what is strange in a deeply religious president going to church twice on Sunday when the church has two or more services a day?

Go-to-church Sundays are well, but while the world is urged to go to church, the church must not stop going to the world with its message.

Governor Morehead may be surprised to know that his deputy is not satisfying everybody by his course; but what's the law between democrats?

Flying around the globe in ninety days may be as simple a year from now as promoters explain, although there is not much experience on which to base enthusiasm.

The significant feature of the government's report on the shortage of meat animals is that the producer has shared very little in the increased cost to the consumer.

Our esteemed friend, Edgar Howard, will have to be more definite. Up to the present writing no one seems to be dodging the missiles he is hurling in the general direction of Omaha's wicked.

Mr. Bryan challenges admiration by his dominant leadership as the apostle of world peace, but he makes war a possibility so long as he does not cut the string and let fall those three big, fat Nebraska plums, for which so many mouths are watering.

If the republican party had only been good enough to have kept Beveridge and a few others in office they would be with the "ins" now instead of the "outs," which is the essential difference between what the latter like to call the "standpatners" and "progressives."

Bill Price is not to be censured for refusing to continue playing the part of the paschal lamb in the First Nebraska district. He has stepped aside for other ambitious patriots with ambitions for the governorship, the senate and the house and now he hurls his hat into the ring with the announcement to Mr. Maguire and all comers that it is time to stay. All of which adds new zest to the rumor that Mr. Bryan might wish to have Mr. McClellan enter the same ring.

"Blue Sky" and Liberty.

Three judges of the federal court, sitting together at Detroit last week pronounced the Michigan "blue sky" law unconstitutional, because it is an unwarranted interference on the part of the state with "individual liberty." The right of an individual to venture his substance is beyond the police power of the state to control, according to this determination.
 This application of the doctrine of "caveat emptor" is one of the supporting reasons for the demand for reform in court procedure. It was not the purpose of the Michigan legislature, or the legislature of any of the other states that have adopted "blue sky" laws, to interfere with any proper right of an individual; the lawmakers merely sought to afford protection to citizens by compelling promoters to submit their propositions to competent examination, so the rectitude of their purpose might be established. In so acting, it seems, the state has exceeded its power.

But the lay mind, unaccustomed to the windings through which the judicial approaches its state of "sweet reasonableness," is likely to inquire why, if the state can protect its citizens against bodily danger, against contagious disease, and in other ways, it cannot make provision to guard against the wildcaters who seek to separate the unwary from his money?
 Surface indications are that the federal judges of Michigan are not in line with modern thought.

High Finance.

Rock Island stocks not so long ago went at 150; yesterday common touched 9 1/2, preferred 14 1/2. That seems to represent the latest link in that chain of cause and effect binding so many railroads to the inevitable gloom of high finance. The New Haven's precipitation has been a byword for months. The "Prison's" failure was the result of "entangling alliances" and stock gambling followed with scarcely less impressive warning of the peril of running railroads by such methods. Then came the Rock Island and now the Orient, passing from the twilight zone into a night of despair, is put upon the market for \$10,000,000—3,000 miles of railroad for \$10,000,000.
 The Rock Island announces plans for the abolition of its two holding companies. Yes, and the New Haven was willing to dissolve itself into its component parts, each going its way, when it found that it was no longer possible to pursue the old line of devious finance. In the light of these collapses and inevitable disintegrations, the late Mr. Morgan's "you cannot unscramble eggs," loses some of its pungence. It makes a bad mess, to be sure, but after the unscrambling is done, the mess can be cleaned up and then we shall have found that it was both possible and profitable.
 The people are tired of the buccaneer method of running railroads. It is the meaning of all this. It does not mean dull times, or non-compensatory rates or anything else except that the public has decided that railroads should be run primarily as public carriers and not as high finance and stock gambling enterprises.

Mr. Hearst is not so indissolubly wedded to the big navy propaganda that he finds it impossible to see the other side of the question. For instance, while howling himself black in the face in his eastern publications for an enlarged navy, his San Francisco Examiner puts on the soft pedal. There is one boy who knows how to hit them "fore and aft."
 The captain of the Monroe seems to agree with us, in using the ship-tucket for \$1,000,000, that ships ought to behave themselves even in fogs.

Twice Told Tales

Ruinous to Custom.
 The young man who sits all round the circuit ran against this quick-lunch incident the other day:
 A fastidious person made his way cheerily into the place. A tumbler of murky water was thumped before him by the young woman on the other side of the counter.
 "What's yours?"
 "Coffee and rolls, my girl!"
 One of those iron-heavy, quarter-inch-thick mugs of coffee was pushed over to him. Lastidious person seemed dazed. He looked under the mug and over it.
 "But where is the saucer?" he queried.
 "We don't give no saucers here. If we did, some low brow 'd come in an drink out of his saucer, an' we'd lose a lot of our sweetest trade."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

From Festive.
 At a recent dinner in a suburban district, where all the guests were amateur chicken raisers, after a discussion of the egg problem the conversation turned to the best breed of hens. After the good points of Orpingtons, Minorcas, Leghorns and others had all been brought forth the host said:
 "Well, the ultimate end of every chicken is the pot, and you can't tell the difference when it is on the table. Let's have some more and tell what kind of a bun we have just eaten."
 All agreed it was a very good kind; but there were many guesses as to the breed. The only child at the table, a 13-year-old boy, was the one who guessed correctly.
 The host beamed on him and said:
 "Jimmie, how did you know it was a Plymouth Rock?"
 "Oh, that was easy," he replied. "I found a feather in the gravy."—Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegram.

A Misunderstanding.
 In the struggling days at Tuskegee, Booker T. Washington found that he would have to use an old chicken house for a school room.
 "Uncle," he said to an old colored man, "I want you to come down at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning and help me clean out a hen house."
 "Law, now, Mr. Washington," the old man expostulated, "you all don't want to begin cleanin' out no hen houses round here in de daytime."—Pittsburgh Chronicle.

Boom That Burst

Kearney Hub: To R. R. McKeivie, Lieutenant Governor: There, little boy, don't cry; they've busted your boom, I know; but 1914 comes quickly, I wren when favoring winds may blow.
 Plattsburgh Journal: The court has declared that Lieutenant Governor R. R. McKeivie cannot make the race for governor. Four fellow! That decision will completely break his heart. He did want to make that race, eh, so bad!
 Kearney Hub: If Lieutenant Governor McKeivie should be able to prove that the constitution of Nebraska is unconstitutional he ought to be given anything else that he may ask for. A man smart enough to do that could just as well run the whole works.
 Beaver City Times-Tribune: Lieutenant Governor R. R. McKeivie says: "The constantly wanting efficiency of our rural schools is a sad commentary upon the educational progress of an agricultural state like Nebraska." A man who sits in a luxurious city office and "edits" a farm paper knows as much about the efficiency of the rural schools as he does about practical farming. And yet McKeivie has a waning ambition to be governor of an agricultural state like Nebraska. He better not come to the rural districts for votes.

People and Events

On a plantation in the interior of Java a motion picture fire killed seventy-five persons. If anybody thinks Java is behind the times, "he has another thing coming to him."
 A. A. Adams, the poet who pulled down the prize of \$500 for writing Australia's national song, is being sharply criticized for omitting mention of kangaroos and boomerangs among the colony's inspiring wonders.
 Dr. Robert Bridges, the British poet laureate, is a simplified spelling advocate. In his latest political works he uses the following spellings: "Doumion," "brandhalt," "foekt," "coud," "ouldt," "napt," "thro," "hav."
 Sam Gordon, the messenger in the governor's office at Trenton, N. J., has just commenced serving his fourteenth year as a messenger in 1872 under Governor Parker and has been on the job without a break since.
 At his home in West Liberal: Barton county, Mo., last week, Uncle Henry Gordon celebrated his one hundred and fiftieth birthday, and though he has been very feeble for the last three years, he recognized all his old friends who came to offer congratulations. He is believed to be the oldest man in America.
 That James English, who for years was known as the "Village Blacksmith," left an estate of more than \$20,000 became known when his will was filed with the surrogate at Newton, N. J. English died December 12. He was about 70 years old. His closest friends did not imagine that he had amassed \$20,000. Two sons are his heirs.
 Vincent Astor is preparing to give his bride-to-be, her mother and sister a propitiatory tour of the Mediterranean and the Nile in his yacht Noma and \$100,000 is being spent in alterations and furnishings. A pleasant feature of the trip will be a tiny motor car which Astor has neatly stored away and taken ashore at any point where the hinterland is promising. Nothing seems lacking but an ascarpian.

Editorial Siftings

Pittsburgh Dispatch: The return of prosperity can no longer be doubted. Stock exchange seats on Wall street have jumped \$15.00.
Indianapolis News: The tendency of the present congress to expedite legislation instead of delaying it as much as possible is somewhat unusual, but it is a state of affairs that the plain people regard with a good deal of approval.
Baltimore American: The strike in South Africa has been called off. John Bull can cow strikers and put down native uprisings, but his firm grasp on the situation gets the shaking palsy when he sees a suffragette a mile away.
Philadelphia Ledger: The Interstate Commerce commission had little enough to do when it was first formed; it now has its hands on the throats of every locomotive in the country. The Interstate Trade commission will be innocuous enough in the beginning, but it is likely to have a giant's girth before congress gets through invigorating it.
New York World: It is well for physicians to warn the public against the current shouting over radium as a "magic cure" for cancer or anything else. But why at the same time should they join hands with private radium mining interests against the government's proposed withdrawal of public radium ore lands from exploitation for private profit?
Springfield Republican: "What do you mean by rabble?" asked Miss Margaret Wilson at a meeting of the League for Political Education in New York the other day when a woman asked if throwing open houses and saloons and gathering places would not lead to their misuse by the rabble. It is not a very easy question to answer, but to deny that a rabble exists would be as extreme as to say that there are no mobs. In this particular context it may do to say that the rabble is composed of people, rich or poor, who deface monuments and public buildings, carry off money and other portables as souvenirs, mutilate books in public libraries, spit in street cars, theaters and other public places, and in general show boorishness, egotism and contempt for the rights and feelings of others. Nobody is compelled to belong to it a day longer than he chooses.



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