

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR. BEE BUILDING, FARNAM AND 17TH.

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State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, B. J. Dwyer, Clerk of Court, do hereby certify that the average daily circulation for the month of January, 1914, was 50,542.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 24 day of February, 1914. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

The weather man must have been taking through his medicine hat.

Reports indicate that Tammany Hall's barometer is just now very low.

Spring Gowns Tight With Loose Effect—Headline. Looks like a straddle.

The Storm King is now giving cast a taste of his company. Well, turn about is fair play.

Although Mendota, Ill., pays its mayor \$60 a year, he has gone on a strike. Some folks demand the world.

By saving the secretary at the critical moment, Mrs. Bryan has certainly earned a Carnegie hero medal.

New York has essayed the task of regulating the billboards. Beating Tammany would be a snap by comparison.

Wonder what Uncle Andrew thinks of his world peace plans now that the suffs have burned a Carnegie library.

By the multiplication of its committees, the Commercial club should soon be in a position to have committee places for all.

Mr. Hearst is now engaged in the amusing winter sport of lecturing President Wilson on "A Question of Honor, National and Personal."

Villa did not eat that Christmas dinner in the capital; neither has he yet ended the war, though no longer hindered by the embargo.

Ak-Sar-Ben lost \$6,500 through its guaranty of a wild west show last fall. Experience is the best schoolmaster though the tuition fees generally come high.

When it comes to weather eyes, consider the Washington millionaire who has employed a woman lawyer to defend him against a charge of alienation of affections.

Wonder if Georgia democrats now can work up as hot and acrimonious a contest for the Bacon succession as is now on the boards in Alabama between Underwood and Hobson.

The best proof that conditions are muddled in Nebraska on all sides of the political fence is to be found in the slowness of the sprouting of the boomlets expected to bloom in the spring.

It is Solomons who is wise as they may be how come he didn't quit long 'fo he did? Frank L. Stanton in Atlanta Constitution.

The innocent old darkey, of course, could not appreciate the hold all those wives had on him.

When they go to call the roll of great satirists they should not omit the name of Charles Francis Murphy of New York, who says:

I'll be very glad to aid in any effort to uplift the party—if "uplift" is the word—if it needs reorganization.

Had the currency act offered first comers inducements in the nature of trading stamps or other prizes, the applications of the banks to qualify as reserve members would doubtless have come in faster.

Mr. Bryan explains that he is fighting the Roger Sullivan candidacy for the democratic nomination for United States senator in Illinois entirely on his own personal account. If he were not premier of the cabinet he might do that without involving the president, but under the circumstances, Roger's friends will be inclined to retort in the language of Mayor Jim, "Tell that to the marines."

The Literacy Test Doomed.

The president's announced decision to stand by our established immigration policy and veto the literacy test bill if it comes to him from the senate in its present form is gratifying, though not surprising. Every attempt yet made by class interests to enforce the literacy test has failed and more than once chiefly because of executive opposition. There is no reason, it seems to us, why President Wilson should depart from the rule of fitness, which has become a national policy.

The literacy test is both unjust and ineffectual because it does not test the immigrant's physical, moral or intellectual status or determine his worthiness for American citizenship. Those who contend that it does either do not know or choose to ignore what private and public statisticians have discovered, that the most apparent cause of illiteracy in Europe, as elsewhere, is poverty; that the economic status of a people has a vital effect on the literacy rate and that one factor in the economic condition of a family is the need of children's services at home. According to Dr. Isaac H. Hourwich's accepted work on "Immigration and Labor," the ratio among the immigrants is considerably lower than among their countrymen who remain at home. Statistics, he says, "prove that, measured by intellectual standards, the average immigrant is above the average of his countrymen who remain behind."

No law prescribing an educational test should bar from our land the otherwise worthy man or woman with the grit to leave all that is dear to take the hard chances of betterment in a far and strange country.

Our Sagging Trade Balance.

This game of see-saw between imports and exports is not coming out under the new tariff quite as our democratic friends said it would. Instead of exports gaining over imports, according to the treasury statement for December, 1913, there was a loss of more than \$48,000,000 from the balance of trade in favor of the United States in December, 1913. Last December showed about \$29,000,000 in imports over those of December, 1912, under the Payne-Aldrich tariff. Our exports underwent no increase in value, but actually showed a loss of \$17,000,000. In short, the balance of trade in our favor dropped during December from about \$97,000,000 to about \$51,000,000.

And the prospect is no brighter than the retrospect. Thus far the Underwood-Wilson tariff has failed of specifications as a trade-balance preserver. Yet gains in exports holding the balance in our favor are essential to the maintenance of our credit, and, further, taking the democrats at their word, to any approach of a solution of our high cost problem. We cannot continue this ratio long without wiping out all the balance in trade achieved under the old tariff.

Unappreciative.

Under the caption, "Respectable Smuggling," the Outlook, carrying the name "Theodore Roosevelt, contributing editor," advertises to the recent case of the Littauer brothers as follows:

An interesting legal point has since been raised, whether this conviction and suspended sentence deprive the two men of their civil rights—that is to say, of their right to vote or to become candidates for office. This point is of peculiar interest in this connection, because Lucius Littauer, a well known big game manufacturer of Gloversville, N. Y., is one of the prominent republicans of this state, and was a member of congress from 1897 to 1898, where he was an ardent protectionist.

Irrespective of the merits such reference seems to be particularly inappropriate coming from this source. More than half the period of Mr. Littauer's incumbency in congress coincided with that of Mr. Roosevelt's occupancy of the White House, the two being constantly working together both in legislation and in politics. But more than that, in the strenuously fought preliminary of the last republican national convention in Chicago, Mr. Littauer was one of Mr. Roosevelt's principal unafraid men in the firing line squad, holding a Roosevelt proxy as a member of the committee, and voting regularly as the Roosevelt managers directed.

These facts are recalled not by way of rubbing it in or exculpating any one, but merely showing how far the Outlook is going out of its way to find some connection between Mr. Littauer's smuggling and his former position of prominence in the republican party.

Democratic politicians are after the scalp of President James of the state university on the ground that he maintains a "political rule." It is evidently a matter of who does the ruling that bothers these politicians.

Venner, the man with the hammer, is still knocking on Omaha's credit. Perish the thought that the prompt return of his \$5,000 forfeit might have persuaded him to change his tune.

The New York legislature declares by resolution that "a chicken is a chicken up to the age of 8." But at a tenderer age it often seems otherwise.

Looking Backward This Day in Omaha

FEBRUARY 16.

Thirty Years Ago—The county commissioners appointed J. H. McCulloch to serve the unexpired term of County Judge Chadwick. Mr. McCulloch is comparatively unknown to our great mass of people, having been in Omaha but two and a half years, but is well recommended by his fellows at the bar.

Another meeting of North Omaha property owners to consider the opening of Seventeenth street was held in Smith's planing mill. J. O. Corby presided and M. M. Sears acted as secretary. A number of committees were appointed to take up various matters, one consisting of Messrs. Brown, Morley and Ogburn and another of Messrs. Smith, Joseph Redman and M. M. Sears.

The directors of the Union Pacific Athletic association elected Charles M. Rohr manager for the ensuing year. They are also considering giving the club a grand ball some time in April.

E. J. Rohrbach, father of Mrs. R. K. Spaulding of this city, was seriously injured in a railroad accident near Memphis. He was returning to Carthage, Ill., from a visit to his daughter in Omaha.

Mon R. R. Livingston of Plattsmouth, Lou. May of Fremont and B. E. H. Kennedy of this city, composing the State Board of Fish Commissioners, held a meeting here this afternoon to arrange for the distribution of 150,000 trout now hatching in the hatcheries at South Bend.

Twenty Years Ago—

Mr. Fischer was taken to St. Joseph's hospital so badly frozen that it was feared he would die, or at least lose both legs.

Mrs. J. M. Crissey, druggist at Twenty-fourth and Lake, whose house was ransacked by a burglar, says the burglar did not overlook \$400, as reported, for the good and sufficient reason that no such amount was lying around. He got her purse with \$18 and \$100 in jewelry, but she resented the impudience that she was carelessly lying about in her apartments while she was out.

Joseph S. Bartley, state treasurer, came up from Lincoln and stopped, as usual, at the Millard.

D. J. O'Connell, editor and proprietor of the Northwestern Catholic, was in the city negotiating for the establishing of a branch office here.

Rev. Newton M. Mann spoke at Uutty church on "The Sun."

John M. Thurston arrived from St. Louis, expressing entire satisfaction with Judge Caldwell's disposition of the matter laid before him for the Union Pacific by Thurston and John C. Cowin. Thurston said Caldwell's instruction to revoke the order cutting off employees and wages put the employees' matter back into the hands of the receivers, who must settle it. Meantime Thurston expected to attend to his own knitting, as Judge Dundy issued the order. Thurston said he did not know whether the receivers would ask for its revocation or not.

Ten Years Ago—

State Senator W. H. Harrison of Grand Island let it be known that his candidacy for the republican nomination for governor had reached full-fledged proportions and would keep on extending. His agents were at work in all portions of the state, including Omaha.

"I look for great development in the facilities for irrigation during this year," said Edward Mead, chief of the division of irrigation and drainage of the Department of Agriculture, who was in Omaha on a leave of absence.

The annual banquet of the Nebraska Underwriters' association held at the Metropolitan hall proved one of the most enjoyable ever held. H. D. Neely and John Dale were the orators of the evening and President G. W. Noble presided, while Miss Laura Goetz, Miss Elizabeth Howe, Mrs. Noble and Master Norton Gould sang and J. M. Gillan and Miss Kate B. Swartzlander gave recitations.

Postoffice employes presented Joseph Crow, retiring postmaster, with a handsome silver set costing \$30. The Palmer was present at the presentation.

The board of directors of the Young Men's Christian association met and organized for the construction of the new building. W. P. Harford was made chairman of the site committee, the site not as yet having been decided on.

People and Events

An official quiz in Massachusetts developed the fact that Theodore N. Vail, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph company, draws a salary of \$30,000 a year.

Count Beud de Castellane having touched the Gould millions to the limit, says he would not marry an American again. Surely not—if the girl sees him first.

As proof of feminine goodness, Philadelphia sends on the rounds the statement that "Miss Catherine Delham has not missed a Sunday at Sunday school for the last ten years." Pass the cake to Kate.

Awakened by a noise in his chicken coop, John Gentile of Edmeston, Alb., captured the thief and discovered it to be a pure black fox, for which he has since refused an offer of \$500.

As the result of the confession of a convicted thief, W. J. Smith of Indianapolis, is trying to recover from Jesse Henderlich, a man stolen seven years ago, which has been ever since the undisputed property of Henderlich. The latter bought it from the thief and had no reason to suppose that he was not his rightful owner.

Twice Told Tales

Willie's invention.

When little Willie's mother opened the door to the vicar her face beamed with joy and welcome, in spite of the fact that it was washing day.

"This is a real pleasure, sir," she began. "I've been waiting to thank you for the good you've done our Willie by your evening classes. Home's as different again since he attended the plumbing and gas-fitting class."

"This is, indeed, gratifying—very," said the vicar. "Now, what improvement have you noticed especially in little Willie of late?"

"Well, he's arranged our penny-in-the-slot gas meter so that we get our gas for nothing. You see, he's moved it to the scullery to outside the front door, sir."

"But you still have to put your pennies in the slot, my good woman?"

"Ah, but you see, sir, before he put the meter in the road, our Willie wrote 'Chocolates' over the slot"—London Answers.

Absence of Father.

A smile flitted over the features of Congressman Jeremiah Donovan of Connecticut when his eyes rested on the motto: "If smoking interferes with business, quit business." He said it reminded him of Jones.

At a o'clock tea one afternoon the women guests were lauding the glories of their respective husbands when it came Mrs. Jones' turn to do the eulogistic.

"I must say," contributed the proud wife just a little eagerly, "that Harry is one of the best husbands on earth. He doesn't drink, smoke nor chew, and goes to church very regularly, or, that is, he used to."

"He used to!" quickly interrupted one of the fair listeners. "Doesn't he go to church now?"

"No," said the frank rejoinder of Mrs. Jones. "He learned to play golf and says that churning golf interferences with the game."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Appreciated the Compliment.

Mr. Timkin gave a party and a Christmas play for his children. Before the curtain rose he made a speech.

"Ladies and gentlemen—and grown-up folks," he began, "we take pleasure in presenting this marvelous, scintillating Christmas spectacle before so stylish and handsome an audience."

Next day Mrs. Spriggs asked Mr. Timkin whether he had noticed the new gown worn at the party by Miss Elvira Spriggs, aged 5.

"To tell the truth," said Mr. Timkin, "I was so much preoccupied with the scintillating spectacle that I didn't notice anything, even Elvira's dress."

Elvira looked up accusingly. "Why, Uncle John," she said "you said you did in your speech."—New York Post.

Around the Cities

Cincinnati has abolished rule against employing married women as public school teachers.

The city council of Akron, O., opens its meeting with prayer by the president, who also shuts out smoking during the session.

Milwaukee's lawyer "ambulance chasers" are promised a run for their money. The local bar association proposes to exclude them from membership.

Providence, R. I., proposes limiting the width of vehicles permitted to use the streets to seven feet eight inches, and their capacity weight to ten tons.

The Omaha grain market handled 6,222 carloads of grain during January, 1914, as against 5,303 carloads during the same month last year. Shipments amounted to 6,941 carloads.

Chicago offers the longest street car ride in the world for 5 cents—twenty-eight miles. In Omaha, for the same price, a passenger can go thirteen miles straight away without a transfer.

Greater New York has a debt of \$1,000,000,000, and proposes to add to it \$200,000,000 during the next four years. Since the consolidation sixteen years ago the city's public debt has trebled.

The Bee's Letter Box

Why People Do Not Go to Church.

SOUTH OMAHA, Feb. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: I saw by newspaper reports a few days ago that a minister by the name of J. E. Crowther of New York City said that he hoped the day would soon come when the contribution plates will not be passed in the churches any more.

It is my opinion that taking up collections or contributions every Sunday two or three times drives as many people from the church as any other cause. It is a fact that many who would go to church much oftener than they do dislike to have a contribution plate passed over their noses every time they attend divine services and feel so humiliated at not being able to give something each time that they stay at home, or at least stay away from churches on Sunday.

Another thing, when contributions are taken in churches the ceremony is made as solemn as a funeral and is made so stiff and formal that it is really ludicrous.

Then, the services are so very formal and carried out in the same manner exactly every Sunday, so much so that the solemnity becomes oppressive. If you go to church on the first Sunday in January and do not go again until the next December, you know exactly before you go what tiresome and painfully formal ceremonies will be carried out. Of course, there should be more or less solemnity in religious services, but it would not hurt to let up on the stiffness occasionally.

The only way to get more people to go to church and to get them to go oftener is to let up on the formal ceremonies occasionally and not make people feel that they are attending the funeral of some dear friend every time they step inside the portals of a house of worship.

F. A. AGNEW.

Lincoln Also Columbus.

OMAHA, Feb. 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: I believe congress should enact a law making February 12 of each year a legal holiday in commemoration of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, perhaps the noblest character this nation has ever produced. Much is said in praise of this great man upon each anniversary of his birth, and it is hard to understand why his name is not perpetuated in a more suitable way by the lawmakers of this nation. It appears to be the universal opinion of all true American people that he was our most lovable character.

An attempt is being made to railroad through congress a bill to make Columbus day a legal holiday. This should never become a law, because it does not appeal to all the American people and is in the interests of no religious creed only. There are several reasons why this proposed bill should not become a law. One is that he was not an American.

Another is this proposed holiday is sectarian and is against the wishes of the vast majority of the American people. Our coming generation should not be taught to revere the memory of this man simply because he happened to discover this continent.

I do not believe the time is ripe for a religious holiday, whether it be Catholic or Protestant, but we should always be willing to perpetuate the memory of such a noble character as Abraham Lincoln was, and his every act sprung from a heart that represented the highest type of American citizenship, and he gave up his life to an assassin in the defense of those principles. Long may the memory of Abraham Lincoln live. C. L. W., 1025 Harney St.

Damage Suits.

OMAHA, Feb. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: The man of wealth is too often counted respectable whether he follows that line of conduct which virtue and religion prescribe or not, but if he be sued at law, it will not be done in order to punish him, but for the purpose of collecting damages; and there are people in this world that are so lost to all sense of honor that they would gladly publish every secret sin and shame they might wear a golden girdle and be immersed for a while in a state of indolence and luxury. The man of wealth is often a great sinner, yet there are men and women so utterly despicable that in order to tap his money chest and collect a few paltry gold eagles, will take the witness stand and vomit up a mass of corruption that would astonish and alarm a naked Siwash Indian.

A wealthy man, if he be somewhat shabby in his morals will be made the prey of those wretches who desire to be led into temptation at so much per lead; these miserable villains then undertake to collect damages for the loss of a character they never possessed, and twelve decent, respectable men are forced to sit and listen to their abominable confessions, which a priest could scarcely hear without fainting. And these confessions are not made for the purpose of divesting the heart and conscience of its guilt and shame—not made in order to cleanse the soul and restore activity to the spiritual nature, nor to mitigate the sentence of punishment pronounced by an offended deity, no! These idiots whose heads contain an insufficient quantity of brains, and whose hearts are as black as the smoke from holes, want nothing more than a few thousand in gold certificates—an abolition of dollars and cents.

Charles the Bald declared war with the Swiss over a cart load of sheepskins; the bishops condemned Jeanne D'Arc and burned her in the market place at Rouen; and yet these men may still be said to have had a conscience; but men and women who boast of, and confess their crimes for a financial consideration, have certainly reached the lowest depth of degradation.

These damage suits are always pending in our courts, and we know not whether to pity or despise these blackmailers, or whether or not to conclude that when people lead their virtue they lose their brains with it. E. O. MINTON.

Expense Item Overlooked.

Philadelphia Bulletin.

The "cost" of the postal service, as officially figured, never includes the cost of housing the service, the interest on government bonds issued or money invested in postoffice buildings; if it did the deficit never would be wiped out.

Apparently the advocates of national telephones do not include such cost in their estimates, for they suggest that the government need not purchase any of the real estate of the telephone companies, temporarily renting buildings until accommodations could be provided in the postoffices and stations. But the government can't get along without its exchanges and it must pay for them in one way or another.

Editorial Siftings

Washington Post. As Senator Norris views the situation, the house of Morgan took about everything from the New Haven except the widow.

St. Louis Republican: Let us hope that the Balkans will have finished burying their dead and that Mexico, Haiti, Peru and Ecuador will have smoothed out their internal affairs before the peace conference meets at The Hague in 1915.

Boston Transcript. Admiral Sigbee's declaration that the Panama canal means that we must have a larger navy will surprise those who had been supposing all along that the big ditch would make every one of our battleships as good as two.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: General Smuts advances the excuse for the deportation of labor leaders from South Africa, that they were guilty of conspiracy, but that the courts would not have convicted them. That is a stock excuse for lynching in this country, but in one place as in the other it is false in one premise or the other.

New York World: Not the least interesting aspect of the present movement of rapid-fire guns toward the Mexican frontier is the escort of skilled workmen provided by the manufacturers, as is usual in such cases. Cannons, like automobiles, carry their own demonstrators, it appears.

Baltimore American: Colonel Goethals, as governor of the canal zone, will have power to appoint and fix the salaries of 2,500 men. And politics will cut absolutely no figure in this power, which thought must be driving the politicians of the nation half mad with the awful waste of such splendid opportunity.

Springfield Republican: It was ridiculous for the senate to pass the Norris resolution directing the Interstate Commerce commission to probe the New Haven again, after the commission, through letters of Messrs. Prouty and Clark, had stated that a senate probe would go deeper, under the constitution and the laws, than the commission's probe could possibly go. The senate seems to have shrunk from doing its own investigating, or was it all a gallery play?

GRINS AND GROANS.

"That man follows the medical profession," said the grouch. "Is he a doctor?"

"No," replied the grouch. "He's an undertaker."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"I despise a hypocrite." "So do I." "Now, take Jackson, for example: he's the biggest hypocrite on earth. He's an undertaker."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"But you appear to be his best friend!" "Oh, yes; I try to appear friendly to—"

With horror I view every night in the flat. "The Victim, Asleep, Presses Button" (Thus the headline may read). "Is Trapped Like a Rat!" And so should my sheep become mut—

I shall sleep on the floor and of freak things beware. So long as a flat I must keep in. There are beds here and there—yes, beds everywhere. But never a bed fit to sleep in!

"You say there are no gratters?" "Yes," replied Senator Borahum. "How do you account for their disappearance?" "Well, to tell you the truth, I fancy they have all gotten rich and retired."—Washington Star.

"A wife gets a third of her husband's property, doesn't she?" "No." "Why, I thought the law gave that to a man's wife." "No; only to his widow."—Baltimore American.

THE BED OF TODAY.

New York Globe. Come, let's drop a tear for the old-fashioned bed. That stood on its legs stout and able. And was what it seemed. Now we have, instead, Console and "convertible table." There's also the door that is not a door. Nor yet is "a jar" (see Joe Miller). But when it's down it's a bed, nothing more— Unless it's a mantrap and killer!

That innocent looking and tufted divan. No high it and heaven protect you! If you touch the right spring in its intricate plan, Through the ceiling the thing may project you. 'Tis a bed! And a bed is you seeming bookcase. And also that counterfelt closet— There is scarcely a thing in the whole blooming place That has not a bed on deposit!

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I shall sleep on the floor and of freak things beware. So long as a flat I must keep in. There are beds here and there—yes, beds everywhere. But never a bed fit to sleep in!

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