THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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NOVEMBER CIRCULATION

49,805

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss:
Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the average daily circulation for the month of November, 1912, was 49,805. DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager.
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 5th day of December, 1912. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.
(Seal.)

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

Do it today.

Germany's fist appears to be still mailed.

Happy the man with the price of Christmas shopping.

Omaha's postoffice is beginning to look like the real thing.

In case we ever annex Bermuda—Dr. Wilson probably could carry it.

Madame Bernhardt must have thought we did not hear her last au revoir.

Boston is considering open cars for winter. They would be better than none.

You must get The Bee in order to get the news. This is demonstrated every day.

Wilson gets two of California's electoral votes, but he really did not need them.

Maxine Elliott modestly admits that marked beauty is a hindrance to an actress.

Omaha is the best example of a concrete mixture of business, pleasure and virtue ever known.

It may be noted that, spite of the promised relief, some of our cars are far apart and badly jammed.

Fakirs who prey on the credulity of suffering humanity ought to be hunted out of every community.

Dr. Morehead continues to maintain such silence as gives his eager democratic brethren a decided pain.

The Laird of Skibo has decided to salt down $25,000,000, which sum might afford him a private library of his own.

Mrs. Hetty Green says she has eaten an onion every day for fifty years. She is one of the country's strong women.

Having found a successor to old Doc Wiley, the Department of Agriculture may now continue its pure food campaign.

The Anti-Saloon league is out with the assurance that it will hold off its campaign for state-wide prohibition until after the woman's suffrage campaign is over. This is wisdom for the prohibitionists, but is it going to help the suffragists?

Republican leaders, discussing the future of the party, agree that it has a glorious mission, and that it will be the dominating factor in the history of the American people, just as it has been for the last half century. It has weathered fiercer storms than that of 1912, and has always come back stronger as a result of the experience.

President Taft's efforts in behalf of better credits for the farmer will bear fruit if the conference of governors has any weight in shaping legislation. And this one thing has in it more of real benefit for the producers than all the promises made by the rampant opponents of the president during the late campaign.

The unfortunate disclosures made in connection with the registration of members of the State Teachers' association indicate the necessity for action to put the control of that organization into the hands of its real members. Something is radically wrong when it is possible to pull off such stunts as that which resulted in $1,321 being returned to the Lincoln Commercial club.

City Planning.

Mayor Dahlman, at the instance of the Real Estate exchange, is moving towards the formation of a volunteer committee that will work to the end of adopting a comprehensive plan for the ultimate Omaha. The purpose in view is to bring about, as far as possible, a readjustment of the general lines on which the city is laid out, to the end that the comfort and convenience of the citizens may be better secured. Details at this time cannot be discussed, because a general study must be made, and different plans formulated, before the matter can be given full consideration. However, if Omaha is to be given the benefit of modern ideas in city planning, now is the time to commence.

Amending the Constitution.

Some interesting features are disclosed by the canvass of the vote on the five amendments to the Nebraska state constitution, submitted at the recent election. The total vote cast at the election was 259,124, and the highest total vote on an amendment, that for the initiative and referendum, was 204,515. More than 21 per cent of the voters were either careless or indifferent as to the fate of the most significant of all the amendments proposed. This was the most popular of the amendments, though, for it received from 15,000 to 25,000 more affirmative votes than either of the others. And here is disclosed a rather paradoxical condition. The amendment to permit cities to frame their own charters, certainly a step in the direction of getting government closer to the people, received 25,000 fewer affirmative votes than did the initiative and referendum, while over 16,000 more negative votes were cast against the proposition. Why was the opposition to the home rule amendment so strong.

Ambassadors and Their Pay.

James Bryce gives up an annual salary of $50,000 in resigning as British ambassador to the United States. Were Whitelaw Reid to resign the American post at London he would forfeit a salary of only $17,000 a year. That is a small part of what our ambassador spends, however. It is not as certain, on the other hand, that Mr. Bryce's expenditures at Washington equal his salary. The temperaments and tastes of these men would make a good deal of difference, but even so, the social obligations of the office at Washington are not to be compared with those at the Court of St. James. It has long been admitted that a poor man, or one without a rather elastic purse string, would have little business at that august court in the capacity of American ambassador. But even if the government were to increase the stipend to equal a fair measure of the obligations, it would still seem to require a man accustomed to the art of spending money instead of one who could let go only by dint of sheer effort in order to have the thing done gracefully enough to satisfy the amenities of the position. As things now stand, it appears that we shall have to let the London job be considered a rich man's. It's more social than business, anyway.

Railway and Other Regulation.

The Railroad Trainman, a journal published in the interest of railway employes, recently raised the question, "If railway regulation is such an excellent thing for the public because it protects the public from the arbitrary impositions of the railroads, why is it not just as good a thing to be applied to other corporations?"

And there is a good deal of ground for the question, too. The railroads are able to care for their own case, but it is strange that the consumer does not see more keenly that the law opposes no increased cost to him as vigorously as that of railway operation. The fuel, food, clothing and shoe plants advance their prices on the flimsiest of pretexts. For instance, the textile industry, which, after a fierce struggle with miserably paid men, women and children, was forced to advance wages, paid a little, increases its costs to the consumer on the theory of an increased cost in production when, the truth is, its cost of production does not yet allow fair wages to all of its employes. The coal barons, times without number, have employed similar tactics. The shoe industry announces an increase in the price of shoes, giving as an excuse that leather has become so scarce as a result of the enormous demand of automobile makers, it is a question of getting shoes at any price. Yet no one with the price has to go barefooted any more than does a man who is able to buy coal have to do without it.

The railroads, most of which are making good returns on their investments, nevertheless are paying more for everything they buy, labor included. Why not, indeed, look after the clothing, food, fuel and other industries with as much diligence as we give to the railroads?

An Illinois paper speaks of the "luxuriant" styles of slippers this winter. But they probably will feel just the same to the naughty little boy, who takes a premature dip into his ma's Christmas cake.

HARRIMAN MERGER DECISION

Editorial Comment on the Supreme Court's Deliverance.

The Rule of Reason.
Chicago Record-Herald.

By another unanimous decision—Justice Van Devanter not participating in the case—the United States supreme court has further strengthened and elucidated the Sherman trust act. The rule of reason is still followed, in spite of many foolish attacks upon it based on the inexplicable notion that to give the Sherman act a "reasonable" interpretation is somehow to emasculate and destroy it.

Stifled Competition.
Philadelphia Record.

Harriman was an uncommonly good boss, as railroad bosses go. He made great improvements in the roadbeds, equipment and service of the companies he controlled. But he performed some of the most extraordinary financiering in railroad history, and he denied to the residents of the far west the advantages of competition, and his action was unlawful. The merger must dissolve, and other combinations of railroads should govern themselves accordingly.

Property Values Undisturbed.
Wall Street Journal.

With the ultimate consequences of such a ruling made upon mergers consummated since the passing of the Sherman law, it would be premature to deal. That property values will be disturbed it is hard for any student of modern corporation history to believe. A position is, in fact, created which might call for the legislation of some fair pooling system, beneficial alike to the public and the railroads, and controlled for the general good by the Interstate Commerce commission.

Paved the Way.
Des Moines Register and Leader.

It is too early yet to estimate fairly just what has been accomplished by the trust prosecutions of the Taft administration. But it is not too early to recognize that they have paved the way for a fair and final readjustment by which both business and the public will profit. Illegal combination and monopoly they have finally driven from the field. Trust organization, so popular a few years ago, has entirely ceased, and voluntary disintegration has in many instances set in. Big business has been forced to come to the public.

Leaves the Way Open.
New York Journal of Commerce.

The court in rendering the decision leaves the way open for the adoption of a plan by which the Central Pacific, which was owned by the Southern Pacific, may pass to the Union Pacific, so as to give it a through line to the Pacific coast. Such a plan would require the consent of the court and would no doubt receive it, as that was a part of the government's suggestion in bringing the suit for the restoration of competition between the transcontinental lines, the acquiring of the Central Pacific extension being the chief excuse of the Union Pacific for getting control of the corporation which owned it. This decision is especially significant for its possible application to other railroad combinations.

What is the Gain?
New York Times.

However interesting this may be to the lawyers, it does not appear that it greatly concerns the man in the street. The court does not find as matter of fact that the rates on the merger were unreasonable, and that they should be reduced. The finding is simply that competition was restrained by combination, and that restraint of competition in that manner is unlawful. The order runs against the form of combination, not against its acts apart from restraint of competition. Accordingly the form must be altered, but it does not appear that the effect upon rates will be marked.

No Great Change.
Chicago News.

Despite a momentary flurry on the stock exchange following the court's decision, it is clear that nobody expects any great change to come with the new order. Both railroad systems are fine properties. They should continue to flourish. And the Interstate Commerce commission will have to watch them as sharply in the future as it has had to watch them in the past to see that they charge only fair rates for service and do not discriminate unjustly between sections or individual shippers.

Stockholders Will Not Suffer.
New York Sun.

In other words, a segregation of the Southern Pacific's assets owned by the Union Pacific will be enforced such as was enforced in the cases of the Standard Oil company and the American Tobacco company. The original Standard Oil and American Tobacco stockholders did not suffer much by that segregation; nor do we believe that the Union Pacific stockholders will be hurt by the execution of a similar process. The stock of the Southern Pacific is far more valuable now than it was at the time the Union Pacific bought it.

The Bee's Letter Box

Rev. Wedge Cleared.

FULLERTON, Neb., Dec. 5.—To The Editor of The Bee: Thursday, December 5, the Nance county court exonerated and justified Rev. F. R. Wedge with the beating he gave Lawyer Rose of Genoa. This is the case that has caused widespread attention over the country since January 17, the day on which Rev. Mr. Wedge met the lawyer at the Genoa depot and demanded of him an explanation as to why he came to his home when his wife was ill and he (the preacher) was away from home. Lawyer Rose replied, according to court testimony, that he had no time to talk to the preacher. The preacher said, according to the court testimony, "You have got time to try to murder my wife; you have got to listen to me." The result was, when the lawyer put up his hand to push the inhibiter away, the preacher struck him, knocking him down. Rose, when on the ground, said, "Give me a show." So the preacher let him up, gave him a show and the result was the lawyer was knocked down five different times.

The lawyer claimed as his part of defense that he was injured permanently, that two ribs were broken and a kidney jarred four inches out of its place. The X-ray proofs were thrown out of court.

Mrs. Wedge, with her 10-months-old boy, was at the trial, testified that Rose did come to the home and stood by her husband through the legal battle.

This completely clears Rev. Mr. Wedge before the public and the court and gives him clear title to go on in his work; in fact, the church had several months before exonerated the preacher, but the lawyer was persistent in his effort to ruin the young pastor's future and had made the case so serious that if convicted of the crime Rose charged Wedge with, it would have meant from one to five years in the penitentiary. When the verdict of "not guilty" was read the judge had great difficulty in controlling the applause of the audience in the court room and the many friends of Rev. Mr. Wedge throughout the state are rejoicing today because he has won both battles—in the court and out of the court.

REV. F. R. WEDGE.

Election Law Changes.

OMAHA, Dec. 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: You have frequently agitated for a more businesslike manner of handling the registration of voters, one that would save the taxpayers time and temper. Why not devise some measure so as to make it possible for a citizen who has not changed his residence to remain registered and qualified to vote? Why not have a central registration place, open the year around for any who alter their place of abode? Why not have a less cumbersome method of registration—one that will eliminate the five books now used and the attendant expense to the city which is renewed each year? Why not have a card index system such as any modern business house would have or something equally as good? To safeguard against tampering we have the officials' oath of office and if need be we can apply a penalty that shall be an effective deterrent to crookedness and easily applicable.

Why not also modify within reason our election laws so as to make them more serviceable and just? Why should election judges and clerks in South Omaha receive $6 and in Omaha only $5? Why are such services so far underpaid when one considers the long hours required in service? Why, in justice, is it necessary to count the ballots immediately after they are cast, inasmuch as the successful candidates never assume office till months afterwards? Thus we could reasonably pay all the clerks and judges of election by the day and only require them to count eight hours each day. In such manner better service would be attained because the men would be in good physical condition to give their best service. Still another method would be to have counters whose duties would be to count the votes as they progress. At all events while the writer does not advocate a panacea for all ills it is still true that improvements could be made in this respect.

GEORGE WEINDENFELD.

Racial Integrity.

OMAHA, Dec. 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: "Defending the Lynch Law" is the title of a letter which you published in your issue of December 6, signed by "Ned."

To "Ned" the great problem of our time and of the future is "the lust of the black man." To the negro the great problem is racial integrity. And with numerous "Neds" in the land the problem becomes almost insurmountable. For while "Ned" is quite eager to have a negro lynched, because of what he calls his "lust," he does not attempt to argue for racial integrity, except insofar as it relates to the question of black men and white women, regardless of their unmorality or immorality. No effort is made to explain the existence of several millions of mulattoes in our country. Indeed, the late moralists do not attempt to discuss this ugly fact.

But there is some hope for the future of the integrity of the races, if all the "Neds" and Bleases will use their talents to prevent the white men, whose convictions are less pronounced than theirs, from making more remote the day when we may refer to racial integrity without guilt or shame.

In the few years we have had since slavery in which to re-establish family life, we have done remarkably well. And we are doing all we can to save the women of our race and our racial integrity from those who would lynch a black man for crossing the "line," while boasting of the ruin of they have wreaked on some helpless colored girl. But as bad as that picture is, we will succeed in our struggle for racial integrity.

H. J. PINKETT.

AS THEY SEE OMAHA.

York Times: Omaha is going to confine the number of its saloons to 250. It looks as though it might be difficult for an outsider to get waited on at all.

York Times: Omaha has the same mayor under the commission plan that it had under the old system. In either case we believe the people are likely to get about what the majority want.

Beartice Express: Dr. Lorenz, the Berlin surgeon, got $50,000 for the Lolita Armour congenital hip joint operation. Dr. Lord of Omaha got nothing for the bringing joy to the life of Mabel Wittkowski. Lorenz got the reputation. Reputations are often measured by money, after all.

Fremont Herald: Omaha ought certainly to feel proud of the Brandeis interests, which have just offered to give real estate to the value of $250,000, conditioned only on the erection of a $750,000 hotel thereon. It is such men as make cities, and the Brandeis people have certainly done their share in the upbuilding of the city in which they have made their fortune. It only needs a Fremont Brandeis to insure a fine hotel for this town.

Shelton Clipper: The Nebraska State Teachers' association, which closed in Omaha November 8, was the largest ever. Five thousand eight hundred teachers were in attendance and on every side were comments of praise for Omaha because of the excellent way the convention was handled. From all parts of the state letters have been pouring into the publicity bureau from teachers expressing their appreciation and good wishes for Omaha and its hospitality.

Beatrice Sun: A number of uplift societies in Omaha banded together for the purpose of pushing through the city council an ordinance creating a social service board. They came to the commissioners' meeting armed with reams of speeches and bushels of oratory. They had their breath taken away when the commission adopted the ordinance without a dissenting vote and shut off all reason for setting loose the speeches that were to make an epoch in uplift progress. Some people are disappointed when results come without a blare of trumpets and a display of red fire.

Looking Backward This Day in Omaha

COMPILED FROM BEE FILES

DECEMBER 9.

Thirty Years Ago—

New officers of St. Johns' lodge for the ensuing year are James B. Brunner, master; H. R. Hathaway, senior warden; Jerome Coulter, junior warden; J. J. Points, secretary.

Major Jacob Rawle, Lieutenant E. V. Thomas and Mr. Chambers, constituting a board for purchase of horses for the Department of the Platte, returned from Missouri where they have been engaged for two weeks selecting horses for the army.

A number of gentlemen have organized the Omaha gymnasium, Colonel E. F. Smythe being chairman and C. K. Crawley secretary, with a membership of 100. The object is to pull off athletic events.

The wife of James H. Smith, residing at 2718 Burt street, died.

Douglas county gardeners have inaugurated a horticultural society with these officers: President, M. A. Donaghue; vice president, James Craig; treasurer, John Simmons; secretary, Will R. Shotbolt; executive committee, E. C. Earthling, John Barry and Mr. Midgeley.

A lawn tennis club composed of players, who have found the summer season too brief, meets every Saturday for practice in Centrall hall. The members are, Lieutenants Howard, Leiden and Treat, Messrs. R. W. Patrick, Will McMillian, E. Raff, R. S. Berlin and the Misses Berlin, Rustin and Lehmer.

Twenty Years Ago—

Hon. E. J. Hainer, congressman-elect from the Fourth district, was at the Murray.

Hon. George D. Melklejohn, congressman-elect from the Fifth district, was at the Millard.

Superintendent Tilly of the building department issued an order permitting Ed Baumley to repair the barn at Seventeenth street and St. Mary's avenue that was crushed in by the snow during the recent storm. The barn will be allowed to remain until spring, when its destruction will be ordered.

Miss Dundy could not have planned a more charming affair fir her guest, Miss Richards of Douglas, Wyo., than the fancy dress party she gave in the evening. It was an ideal night for the commingling of gay spirits and Omaha's society set was out in the burst of bloom with dresses representative of conspicuous events and sentiments, men and women.

The Rock Island officers announced their telegrapers' strike, a day or two old, was virtually ended, although operators seemed to be quitting faster than resuming work.

Ten Years Ago—

The tax committee of the Real Estate exchange asked the Board of Review to place an assessment of $24,500,000 on the property of the Union Pacific taxable in Omaha. That represented an advance of more than $27,000,000. The complaint was sworn to by George T. Morton and filed with the board by J. H. McIntosh, attorney for the exchange.

"Social Evolution" was the subject of the lecture by Prof. Ira W. Howerth at the First Congregational church in the evening. He said there were two schools of social philosophy—one holding that all our social difficulties will be remedied by the gradual and inevitable advancement of society due to evolution, the other urging the necessity of hastening the solution of our social problems by intelligent, concerted action.

George Thompson, district foreman of the Omaha shops of the Union Pacific, became master mechanic of the Nebraska division, succeeding M. K. Barnum, who resigned to accept a similar position with the Southern railway.

The retail grocers were having a merry little word war over the personnel of their legislative committee. Some were objecting to Harry Fischer as head of that committee, while some insisted on having no other but Fischer.

People Talked About

Before decorating the Christmas tree with cotton whiskers, be sure the insurance policy carries the right figure.

Uncle Andy Carnegie has no intention of pensioning newspaper men. The road to enduring fame beckons him in vain.

The Tennessee society of New York pulled off a "speechless banquet" last Monday night. Hamlet without the ghost walk is now a possibility.

Baltimore has an anti-noise committee directing its steam against factory whistles. Baltimore is an old town. Age objects to rude awakenings.

Democratic eagerness for federal pie is not spurred by hunger. Not much. It is a humane enterprise—a desire to help republicans shake off the tyranny of habit.

Frank Tilford has purchased for his daughter, Miss Julia Tilford, society girl and business woman, the largest poultry farm in the world, about three miles from Lakewood, N. J.

Mrs. John Cummins of Woburn, Mass., is the owner and manager of one of the largest farms in New England. She cultivates 400 acres, disposes of the milk from twenty-six cows, keeps two stalls in the Boston market and raises 2,000 hogs a year.

Claude Grahame-White, aviator, fixes 1915 as the year for his flight over the Atlantic. The trip requires four engines of 250-horse power each and four tons of petrol. Carrying that weight calls for considerable experimenting. As a sinker it would be inconvenient.

M. Paderewski has virtually given up the role of virtuoso and devotes his time to composing music, rather than to playing it. After a youth full of pathos, some of the tragedy of which he put into his playing, he has retired to his Swiss home, happy in the comradeship of his wife.

Miss Mae Patterson, who is 23 years old, has won the first prize for corn growing in Calhoun county, Arkansas. Her corn field measured just one acre and was cultivated under the supervision of the Agricultural Department of the United States. This prize winning acre is part of the farm on which Miss Patterson lives with her father.

Charles G. Gates, who is writing the life story of the late John W. Gates, his father, says that there never was a prominent man more misunderstood. "He was not the big plunger that people pictured him. He had none of the small acts that characterize many financial magnates. His methods were direct. They puzzled Wall street, because he made a habit of telling the truth or else saying nothing."

HOW EDITORS SEE THINGS.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: Let us give Texas unqualified credit for permitting that negro to be hung by the law after seven trials for murder. According to lynching ethics, he might have naturally expected to be hung by the mob after the third or fourth conviction.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: British suffragettes had better confine themselves to the comparatively safe sport of smashing windows and cabinet members. If they keep on with their new pastime of pouring acid into letter boxes a few of them may be caught and lynched by a mob unable to appreciate the force or delicacy of such arguments.

Boston Transcript: Nobody ought to be surprised at the necessity for a special deficiency appropriation of $20,000,000 to enable the government to carry out the provisions of the act passed last summer. Pensioning grows with what it feeds on, and if the pension charge for the next fiscal year does not exceed $200,000,000 the nation will be fortunate.

TRIFLES LIGHT AS AIR.

Griggs—Talk about aviation; look at the price of coal.

Briggs—Yes, and you'll notice that the coal man, like the aviator, is trying to avoid a drop.—Boston Transcript.

"Say, what are we going to do with all these old books? Nobody wants them."

"That's easy. Have 'em flashily rebound, print on the fly-leaf 'limited edition,' put the price up to $50 per and sell 'em like hot cakes."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Chollie—Her hopes of marrying the Count de Monnal were dashed to pieces on the rocks.

Reggie—On what rocks, Chollie?

Chollie—On the rocks her father sunk in Wall street.—Judge.

"Did the trip of the young heiress to Europe to secure a title in the matrimonial market succeed?"

"Yes; though, strange to say, it was a baron result."—Baltimore American.

"Do you really believe, doctor, that your old medicines really keep anybody alive?" asked the skeptic.

"Surely," returned the doctor. "My prescriptions have kept three druggists and their families alive in this town for twenty years."—Harper's Weekly.

"That man talks a great deal, but you must admit that he's wide awake."

"Well," replied Farmer Corntossel, reflectively, "you couldn't expect a man to fall asleep during one of his own speeches."—Washington Star.

"Could you support my daughter in the style to which she has been accustomed?"

"I have never tried such rigid economy, sir."—Puck.

"Tim," inquired Mr. Riley, glancing up over the door of the postoffice, "what is the meanin' of thim letters, 'MDCCCXCVIII?'"

"They mean eighteen hundred an' ninety-eight."

"Tim, don't it sthrike you thot they're carryin' this spellin' reform entirely too far?"—Youth's Companion.

EASING A GROUCH.

Chicago Journal.

A yard or two of stuff that's called a skirt,
A waist that's made of some expensive lace,
A pair of shoes that are so tight they hurt,
Some padding out in just the proper place,
A hat that costs nine times what it is worth;
A peck or two of someone else's hair;
A complexion bought most anywhere on earth,
A corset that is too tight everywhere,
A bundle of artistic temperament,
A flow of conversation that is light,
A passing whiff of some delicious scent,
A show of vanity from morn till night—
And that's a woman.

A bag of wind inflated without cause;
A blowhard and an ardent egotist
Who knows more than the ones who made the laws;
A set of teeth, a mustache and a fist;
Some shoulders that are padded out of shape;
A smell of burned tobacco that is stale;
A blossom on the nose from festive grape;
Some stories that make modest folk turn pale;
A punk cigar that sizzles all day long;
A thing whose chiefest aim is just to eat;
A party who is right all, others wrong,
Who's always 99 per cent conceit—
And that's a man.