

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE
FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROBEWATER
VICTOR ROBEWATER, EDITOR
BEE BUILDING, FARMAN AND 17TH
Entered as Second-Class Matter...

Nebraska's Panorama of Resources.
Statistics compiled by the bureau of labor, showing the farm products shipped from various Nebraska stations...

Looking Backward This Day in Omaha
COMPILED FROM BEE FILES
JULY 29, 1913
Thirty Years Ago—
It was a wet Sunday, a downpour of rain, making Farm and Douglas streets look like rivers, and flooding cellars en route.

Twice Told Tales
Mellower in Flavor.
If there is a difference between rural wit and any other kind, it is that rural wit is mellower in flavor.

The Bees Letter Box
Where Do the Concessions Come In?
OMAHA, July 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have been asked my reasons for opposing the proposed gas ordinance...

LAUGHING GAS.
"Although I was traveling incognito," mused Plodding Pete, "I was received with marks of distinction too numerous to mention. People of wealth and position vied for my attention."

TO MY ABSENT STENOGRAPHER
Corinne B. Swain, In Life.
With how sad steps, O Mayme, I climb the stair.

50,401
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 July, 1913, was 50,401.

Su Chow has been taken. Chow Chow will come next.

As already observed, the gas debate may develop more heat than light.

Did you ever know of a crooked man who advocated turning on the searchlight?

The old padlock game is going, but the de luxe bookseller still finds plenty of victims.

If congress does not hurry it will not have time to change clothes between the extra and regular sessions.

Why not send Governor Cole Blease to Mexico to see what is the matter, and be sure of finding out?

The socialist leader in New York who is getting in some hard blows on the money devil is former Mrs. Punch of St. Louis.

It was our amiable did friend, Wu Ting-fang, who proposed the basis of peace in that China rebellion. Wu is the original dove.

These Nebraskans must make good governors for our dependents. There was Charles Magoon, and now comes Dick Metcalfe.

Frank Darmoch likes routine to principles. Always struck us that it was more like chili and fever.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Or the tummy ache.
New York is to have the largest court house and the largest church in the world. Every city is the best judge of its own needs.

Omaha printers and employing printers are setting a get-together example which should not be lost on other lines of industrial trade.

Now that Mrs. Wilson is to have a rag carpet for her room at the White House, why not put blue mosquito netting on the windows?

Is it not about time to begin checking up the cost as compared with results of some of these numerous congressional investigations?

Colonel Watterson's Courier-Journal sums it up as "the Bryan Plunder," which seems to give alliterative force to a tersely told truth.

Congressman Barton will get himself in bad with those princes of peace if he urges that government-owned armor plate factory too strong.

"Chinese Rebels Lose Their Hold On the Yaak Tse," says a headline. Might save space and preserve a coincidence by writing it, "Rebels Lose Their Hold on the Yaak."

John L. Sullivan is said to be unable to get farm hands because they all are afraid of him. But what about those other farmers of the country, who find themselves up against the same difficulty?

The public debt interest charge of New York City has been increased by \$14,000,000 a year during Mayor Gaynor's administration. And it was not stung by any compulsory water works purchase, either.

Out of 8,500 registered voters in Omaha only 171 write themselves down as affiliating with the "progressive" party, which is the official name for the bullmoosers. Let the significance of that figure soak in a while.

The young man who killed his wife and threw her body in a deep lake proposes to write a novel of life in the underworld. While there is no crying need for such literature, he will find that a safe way to employ his time.

And on down the list we go, finding such things as popcorn, broom corn, celery, sugar beets, honey case-seed, nursery stock, in whose production fortunes are being made here in Nebraska.

What, with our 49,000,000 acres of marvellously fertile soil under ever-improving conditions of cultivation, can we not produce? The panorama will become more bewilderingly beautiful and varied as we improve the prodigious wealth of opportunities given us by nature.

Omaha a Natural Traffic Center.
If the Interstate Commerce commission establishes a subdivision of its work, stationing a number of its employees in the central west, particularly for the physical valuation of railroads, it should by all means locate in Omaha.

With a dozen trunk lines converging here, the official division headquarters of several railroads, the official home and terminus of a great transcontinental line, Omaha is a natural traffic center. It has a claim to offer in this respect incomparable and, it would seem, irresistible, force. In addition to its railroad pre-eminence, it is the center and metropolis of a vast dominion of agricultural and industrial wealth.

As a business proposition—the only standpoint from which the commission should act—considering proximity, convenience and facility for work, Omaha's position is most strategic. Our delegation in congress can afford to get behind this proposition with nothing short of its full power, and our business interests at home, through organized or other agency, should also boost, if boosting is required.

Example in Arbitration.
It is exceedingly gratifying, though not surprising, that those 89,000 trainmen on fifty eastern railroads found a way of settling their difficulties without striking. While 90 per cent of them had voted as a last resort to strike, such an issue never really seemed imminent in view of the well known conservatism of the trainmen, and the mutual regard of both sides for the larger interests and welfare of the country, which would have suffered undeniably in the event of a tie-up.

The settlement, which was reached through the operation of the amended Erdman or Newlands act, vindicates its efficacy, showing the advantage of arbitration over a strike and what may be done when both sides are ready to consider mutual interests and put above selfish demands those of the general welfare. The result is cause for national congratulation and should carry with it a great weight and moral influence for the future.

Ambassador Henry Lane Wilson.
Regardless of personal bias or prejudice, no one can gainsay that our ambassador to Mexico, Henry Lane Wilson, has occupied that post during a period more critical than any other diplomatic representative who ever served this government in that position. For the nearly three years that the revolution has lasted he has been on the firing line every minute of the time, and whether he made mistakes or not, he has succeeded so far in maintaining peaceful relations between the United States and Mexico without sacrificing our standing as a nation among nations. Possibly, his period of usefulness as our ambassador has reached its end—his resignation has been in the hands of President Wilson from the first day of his administration, and he has continued only by the president's wish—but if he is supplanted at this crucial stage it will not be because someone else would have done better in his place.

Comes now Secretary Wilson of the Department of Labor with a demand for three auto. Funny how Jeffersonian simplicity acts on some folks.

Twenty Years Ago—
Several of the leading business men and firms were quoted in The Bee as saying there was no reason for the cry of hard times. Among these optimists were the Morse Dry Goods company, the Boston Store, W. R. Bennett company, Hayden Bros., Kelley, Sliger & Co., Major R. K. Wilcox of Browning, King & Co. and many others.

Dr. F. K. Murphy returned from his trip through the east. He and Gus Cobb of Fremont were at the Millard. Superintendent Fargo of the Pacific Express company left for Hot Springs to join his family.

Reports received at headquarters said that President S. H. H. Clark of the Union Pacific had left his summer resort in the Alleghenies for the Atlantic seashore, not to return to Omaha until late in the season.

William Alstidt, in charge of the night registry department at the postoffice, was granted a ten-day leave of absence to enable him to go to the World's fair in Chicago.

Arthur Johnson returned from Portland, Ore., where he did some bidding on some public works.

Conrad H. Young, who was reorganizing the state tennis tournament, had already sent out some 20 or 30 circulars, meeting with hearty responses.

Ten Years Ago—
The highest temperature of the day was 82.
Assistant Secretary H. G. Shedd of the Nebraska commission to the Louisiana Purchase exposition at St. Louis came to Omaha to continue preparation of the state's exhibit at the fair. He is improving "each shining hour" and making much headway with his work.

The New Thomson-Houston Electric Light company retired from business and was succeeded by a reorganization known as the Omaha Electric Light and Power company. Fred A. Nash, president, explained the change by saying that the old company's growth of business was largely in excess of its revenues, that it had been spending less money, necessarily accumulating a heavy floating indebtedness, and that a new organization was required. Many improvements and enlargements were to be made. The new company started with a capital of \$3,000,000 and bonded debt of \$1,300,000. Henry W. Yates, vice president, said that the company as newly organized became the property of eastern capitalists.

The Douglas County Democracy announced its fifth annual picnic at Price lake the forthcoming Sunday, when as one feature Dave O'Brien, representing the city, would oppose Dave Connolly, for the county, in a boat race. It was decided that grape juice would not be the official beverage of the day.

People Talked About
Fred Hrodek, driver of a car which threw a Chicago pedestrian into eternity, was a fourteen-year sentence in the penitentiary for murder. Tally one worth while.

A statue of a highborn child, said to have been stolen from the National museum at Athens, Greece, was dug up last week in the cellar of a house in Baltimore occupied by a Greek family. The statue is alleged to be 3,000 years old.

Philadelphia Ledger: If Mr. Bryan's practical treaty with Nicaragua, which practically establishes a protectorate over that rich but distracted country, shall be ratified by the senate of the United States, whether for weal or woe, since the treaty of Paris confirmed to this country the right and title to the Philippines.

Washington Post: The absence of any substantial reason for a radical change of front in our diplomacy in face of the Mexican situation looms up so portentously, persuades congressmen that the Nicaragua proposition holds a larger significance than appears on the surface. Is it a "feeler" or an entering wedge having to do with the Cubanizing of Mexico?

New York Tribune: The United States should do what it can do reasonably to insure order, tranquillity and political and material progress in the small republics which lie in the neighborhood of the Isthmus Canal zone. It is to our interest as well as to theirs that they should be freed from the curse of revolution for the sole purpose of private plunder.

New York World: This treaty means more than the Monroe doctrine. It means more than friendliness and helpfulness in Central and South America. It means that with our war canal at Panama we defy the earth, hold all other great nations under suspicion and stand ready with money if not with armaments to control the weak states of Latin America, possibly against their own interests. We irritate both hemispheres.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican: Mr. Bryan's plan for what would amount to a protectorate over Nicaragua is too momentous in its implications for either hasty action or hasty judgment. In itself it would not be very different from the plan which has been followed in Cuba, but there is a very important difference between an island and the mainland, and even coming from an anti-imperialist like Mr. Bryan the proposal can hardly fail to awaken in Latin America suspicion of further encroachments.

Unheeded Warnings.
New York Tribune: The Bingham fire proves that no half-way measures can be trusted to make factories safe.
Cleveland Plain Dealer: The old, old story of crying "wolf" too often seems to have been retold in that fatal Binghamton fire. The workers had been drilled in practice fire alarms so often that when the real alarm came they took it for another "fake" and leisurely responded.

New York World: As in those cases, most of the victims are young women; they were at work in an upper story; they were in the midst of the most inflammable material; they were unprovided with adequate fire escapes and exits; they were caught in a trap and had to choose between falling back into the fire and jumping to the street. They did have a fire-drill, but of what use in a tinder-box which could burn up in a few minutes?

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: The Binghamton clothing factory fire seems to guard against inflammable contents as against fire-trap construction, that it amounts to little to require fire-proof walls to the end that they may become something furnace through being filled with tinder-like material without protection from chance ignition and spreading combustion.

Philadelphia Bulletin: Once more the lesson is taught that factory inspection for purposes of fire prevention must include working conditions as well as building construction; that it is as essential to guard against inflammable contents as against fire-trap construction; that it amounts to little to require fire-proof walls to the end that they may become something furnace through being filled with tinder-like material without protection from chance ignition and spreading combustion.

That is a sovereign power, an arbitrary power, and should always be arbitrarily exercised. Of course, exercised with the due regard for justice which is expected from the state. It is certainly not a matter for bargain counter haggling. It is decidedly not a something to be bartered away for a long period of time.

Due regard for justice, before referred to, involves on the part of municipalities the keeping of contracts. If a contract is entered into it should be kept. Now, this is somewhat academic, but undoubtedly true. Let's apply it to our present problem, the gas franchise ordinance.

Our mayor has been shouting for dollar gas for so many years that he thinks the pledge to furnish it must be kept at all cost.

In a laudable and straightforward effort to secure this price the city council encountered a contract entered into by the city twenty years ago and found that its hands were tied. It seems willing now, if dollar gas can be secured, to tie the hands of those who, twenty years from now, will be charged with the duty of protecting the people in their necessary purchase of gas.

It is claimed that the proposed ordinance does not bind the city's future action. If this contention is correct, it is not because of anything this ordinance confers, but rather because of constitutional rights that it is impossible for the city council to contract away.

So far as the proposed ordinance is concerned, it introduced a number of things, which construed as a contract, furnish mighty good grounds for more lawsuits of the kind that we now apparently are trying to get away from. If they don't absolutely forfeit the city's right to regulate, they certainly jeopardize it. And for what?

Why, it is said that the gas consumers of Omaha will save \$200,000. That is not true. I admit that the Omaha Gas company is willing to pay that amount in reduced sales, now, for this franchise. Nothing is saved.

We are selling a franchise for twenty-five years for \$600,000. If the franchise is worth no more than that we are just where we started. We're even. Nothing gained or lost. If it is worth more than that the city loses to the extent of the difference.

I know of no reason for philanthropy on the part of the gas company. They are entirely within their rights, and I naturally have confidence in their business sagacity, and as they are cheerfully spending many thousands of dollars to secure the contract, it seems reasonable to suppose that they have a bargain.

If so, where does the saving to consumers come in?
I certainly would wish to be just to the gas company. I would want to be honest with them. I would like the city council to say to them, "Gentlemen, the day has gone by for profit in the furnishing of gas for any public utility beyond a reasonable interest on capital. Let us get at the exact value of your investment. We will then tell you how much interest we will allow you to make, and we expect to take the balance for the benefit of the people of the city."

That balance is all the city is entitled to. All that it should take, and to take any less than that balance is unjust to the people, whose trustees we are.

The day of private deals and petty bargaining has gone by. Let's have no more of them. Let's be square. Vote down this franchise.

WILLIAM F. BAXTER.

Sleep.
OMAHA, July 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: Man passes the happiest hours of his life asleep. The stoics held the opinion that happiness is nothing more than the absence of pain and misery, and this is the theory that nature seems to favor, and she does her part in making us happy by periodically reducing our minds to insensibility. During our waking hours our minds are overflowing with exaggerated opinions of our own importance, mistaken notions of the value of wealth and power, with regret for the past and with insatiable curiosity and frivolous speculations concerning the future. During the day we revel at our momentary triumphs, laugh at the apparent defeat of our enemies and expose our own ignorance and stupidity by ridiculing the folly of others; but by midnight sleep has stripped every woman of her virtues and every man of his foolish fears; by 3 o'clock the woman of the scarlet robe has had her escape from the dens of lust; sin and shame are forgotten, and sleep restores the balance between pleasure and pain and gives her what the world denies—forgetfulness. But natural sleep is not always sufficient to deliver us from the insupportable miseries of life; it is powerless in thousands of cases to restore the equilibrium and fortify us against the ills of another day, and in order to further escape the consciousness of our own frailty and the general depravity of mankind we seek the stupefying fumes of the wine bottle, court the bewitching influences of flattery and pursue the intoxicating pleasures of the shameless dance.

A man wakes from a sound sleep, and his mind being clear, he begins to think; the follies and regrets of yesterday begin to return, and he looks a cigar, or swallows a highball to stave off his reflections until he can plunge once more into the business of the day. Happy is the idiot who cannot think, and the child who cannot reflect; happy too is the man who thinks only of the goodness of God, and the welfare of his neighbor. To escape the evils of existence, philosophy can render us but little assistance, except to give us a knowledge of our ignorance, and persuade us to rest our hopes upon something more substantial than the

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