

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR. The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.

BEE BUILDING, FARNAM AND SEVENTEENTH. Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION table with columns for Daily and Sunday, By carrier, By mail, per month, per year.

REMITTANCE Remit by draft, express or postal order. Only two-cent postage stamps received in payment of small accounts.

OFFICES Omaha—The Bee Building, South Omaha—318 N. Street, Council Bluffs—14 North Main street, Lincoln—35 Little Building, Chicago—601 Hearst Building, New York—Room 130, 235 Fifth avenue, St. Louis—225 New Bank of Commerce, Washington—25 Fourteenth St., N. W.

CORRESPONDENCE Address communications relating to news and editorial matter to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

FEBRUARY CIRCULATION 51,715

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 February, 1914, was 51,715.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 24 day of March, 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.

Wonderful are the technicalities of the law.

At the risk of being ruled out of order, we rise to inquire what has become of old Doc Cook?

It is worth noting that the half rate to the San Francisco exposition is considerably less than a 2-cent fare.

The lawyer who objects to a clean-up of the crooks in his profession must be afraid of something himself.

As the St. Louis Republic says, launching a battleship with a prayer for peace is one of the funny things of life.

Sometimes it really seems as if President Wilson ignored Mr. Hearst merely to see how perfectly angry he can make him.

Some folks have undertaken to reduce the tango to a psychological principle, which is itself enough to make them dance.

"The Responsibility of Silence" is the subject of a discussion by the Detroit Free Press, dedicated, no doubt, to John Lind.

Ambassador Page's speech was perfectly proper; in fact, it does not make any difference what an ambassador says, anyway.

A self-constituted committee of eighteen strong is to peddle out bull moose nominations in this county. Let the people rule.

Still, the heavy burden of public business pressing down upon our senator is not so heavy as to press him to resigning the job.

If every good citizen must be in politics, then every good citizen will be a politician, and the word "politician" will no longer carry opprobrium with it.

The test of bull moose devotion certainly becomes severe when it consists of acquiescing in a draft to make a forlorn hope run for congress in this district.

Why should those eminent reform newsmen rush so zealously to the defense of all the crooked lawyers, blackmailers and shake-down gentry exposed by The Bee?

There may be real method in it. If the free tolls clause in the Baltimore platform means nothing, why, of course, the one-term presidency clause likewise means nothing.

Congressman Dan Stephens has a competitor for the democratic nomination already in the field. It was an unlucky day for "Uncle Dan" when the deal changed and put patronage cards in his hands.

Kansas City is in the throes of a campaign to inaugurate the commission plan of municipal government. Here's hoping Kansas City will not be disappointed.

The cost of the recent special election in Omaha is given in round figures as \$4,000, which looks small enough. It does not include, however, any of the expense of registration, nor was the usual corps of special policemen employed this time. It will not be safe, therefore, to quote these figures as the normal election cost.



Two out-of-town marriages of Omaha parties took place Wednesday. In Sioux City Otto Belendorf and Miss Nellie Keithley, both for a number of years employed by S. P. Morse, joined their fortunes, and at Magnolia, Ia., W. J. Whitehouse, the popular druggist, was married to Miss Essie Johnson at the residence of the bride's parents.

The republican city convention finally thrashed out a school board ticket consisting of William White, James S. Bennett and Prof. Scott.

The Postoffice department has ordered the weighing of the mails and the following special employees were appointed from this city: W. F. Puray, Fred Thompson, C. A. Dunham, J. B. Southard, I. B. Saunders, L. J. Kinney, J. L. Hobbs, C. Alstad, Henry Barbeau, F. D. Wilson, M. A. Ellingwood, F. S. Stewart and W. F. Crowell.

Roland Reed delighted an enthusiastic audience at Boyd's in the comedy entitled "Check." Miss Blanche Vaughn was his leading lady.

D. C. Shelly, formerly foreman for Samuel Rees, has taken a position in the county treasurer's office. Complaint is made against the mud-splashing drivers of hacks and wagons, who go over crosswalks pell-mell, splashing all pedestrians within reach.

Giving the Case Away. Our local democratic contemporary, which is the personal organ of our United States senator, discusses the Panama tolls question in such an erudite manner that it gives the whole case away. As to whether exemption of American coastwise vessels from Panama canal tolls violates the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, equally dependable authorities, it tells us, are divided. President Wilson, Secretary Bryan and former Secretary Root taking one view, and Mr. Taft, Mr. Roosevelt and former Secretary Knox the other, so that "if you are going to determine your position by the proper interpretation of the treaty you can take either side and be in good company."

What excuse, then, does this democratic oracle have to offer for repudiating the democratic platform promise of free tolls? Not national honor, not doing the square thing by Great Britain, not simplifying our relations with Japan and other powers, on which score alone the president is demanding repeal. No, it urges compliance with Great Britain's demands, on the sectional plea that free tolls for coastwise shipping would benefit the coast states more than it would the people of Nebraska, Iowa and other interior states that have no shipping interests. Surely, some people manage to crawl through a mighty small knothole.

That Boys' Court. Every time the need of a boys' court is spoken of, a feeling of self-incrimination must come to the heart of the thoughtful and serious-minded father and mother. For why such a public agency but that the home is falling short of its full responsibility? Commenting on this juvenile judiciary, the Chicago Tribune observes:

Little, indeed, is the attention which most parents give their boys nowadays. When the father leaves the house at 6:30 in the morning to go to the factory, his son is sleeping. Why should he not? School does not begin till 9 o'clock. When the parent returns home in the evening he is either too tired or else too dull to exert much of an influence over his child. The child, experiencing so little parental authority, is pretty likely to get into trouble.

Our modern life has cost dearly if it destroys the compact family circle. Under former conditions, when each member of the household of necessity had his and her chore to do in the early morning and late evening in order to keep the home running smoothly, father and mother and son and daughter saw more of each other, rubbed elbows more frequently, lived together on more intimate terms of relationship than they do today. Then no one clamored for boys' courts or schools of correction for the girls. The "big brother" movements were unknown, for natural kinship was coming nearer to answering all demands.

But changing external conditions are not alone to blame. We must adjust ourselves to all these natural evolutions. No one will presume to say that the boys' court is doing the job of the home better than the home could do it. The boys' court means merely that parents are shirking their duty.

A Fine Selection. We believe everyone interested in the movement will heartily approve the selection of General Frederick A. Smith to head Omaha's city planning committee. Having retired from a long and honored service in the army and established a permanent residence here, General Smith will bring to the work the varied elements of strength required for the part assigned to him. Perhaps better than anyone else who might have been chosen, he will typify the spirit of disinterested zeal and effectiveness essential to the task. For this is a work that calls for united effort of the community. Therefore, to make General Smith's appointment a complete success, all of those with the welfare of Omaha at heart, determined on advancing its growth and development, will promptly lend their moral and material support.

Nepotism Under Madero. Nepotism is a deadly canker in the body politic of any government indulging it. It was visualized in the grim sense in the Madero administration of Mexico. That may be put down as one of the salient reasons for its collapse, though there were doubtless enough other reasons to insure failure. Even though generally understood at the time that this practice was carried on by the Maderos, it is extremely doubtful if the extent of this nepotism has ever been widely known.

Major Cassius E. Gillette, formerly of the United States engineering corps, purports to reveal it in his pamphlet, "Mexico and the United States," a reprint of an article in the February issue of the Trend Magazine. He gives names of twenty-two of the leading members of Madero's administration who were his brothers, uncles, brothers-in-law or cousins. The most distant relative was an uncle of his wife's brother, and only one came in that category. Four were his own brothers, one his brother-in-law, fourteen his cousins.

If this was the Madero idea of a self-governing democracy, and we have no alternative for concluding otherwise, then it is idle to lament what he might have accomplished toward restoring orderly government and national contentment to Mexico. History has not as yet passed its judgment on Madero, and it will not until time lends a better perspective. Major Gillette, who claims the right of speaking with more than common accuracy of Mexico and its politics, utters this shuddering sentence upon him:

When real history is written, he will appear as the most colossal criminal or the most colossal fool of modern times.

It is, perhaps, enough for those less intimately acquainted with the actual facts not to pass judgment, nevertheless, realizing that with the best that can be said for Madero, he did nothing of lasting benefit in the year and a half of his stewardship of Mexico; nothing by which now, in the crisis of its existence, the best of its people can help the country. Whatever influence he left has gone merely to swell the rising tide of anarchy and war.

The really cruel feature of Senator Crawford's defeat by a regular is that he had the benefit of the personal presence of Gifford Pinchot with his official blast of the colonel's war-note. The way the G. O. P. refuses to go out of business in South Dakota is perfectly unbearable.

Every one of those Panama exposition excursion tickets ought to carry the privilege of stopover at Omaha. What are our Commercial Club and Retailers' association going to do about it?

The Bees Letter Box

Idle Land a Single Tax Argument. OMAHA, March 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: The article appearing in today's Bee in reference to vacant lots in Omaha is certainly a severe indictment against the system of private ownership of land. Eight thousand acres of valuable, unproductive land within the city limits of Omaha is surely a tremendous burden for the community to bear. Next to an idle man an unproductive piece of land is the greatest menace confronting society today.

The followers of the single tax theory may believe that the shifting of all taxes to the land will be a solution of this problem, but beneficial as such a change may be, the fact remains that, after taxes have been thus collected we would still have the interest, profit and rent question to deal with and therein lies the greatest source of evil, and it all grows out of the private ownership of land and machinery.

Our water works system has cost many hundreds of thousands of dollars more than it should have cost, because of the miles and miles of expensive pipe laid past thousands of vacant lots from which the plant derives no income on the investment, and a remedy for this would be a special, annual water tax levied against every vacant lot on the city which the water supply is available but not used.

The same principle is involved in every other public service corporation. Valuable and productive corn fields are converted into suburban lots and after a few have been induced to build homes the street railway company is induced, through improvement clubs and various other means, to extend its lines. New school houses are made necessary by this isolated community, and so on down the line.

This evil should be taxed out of existence, but instead of selling the property to private individuals at a tax sale, the title should pass to the state on all property sold for delinquent taxes and leased back to any citizen desiring to use it upon the payment of a nominal rental equivalent to the amount of taxes paid on other similar property.

The term "idle man" not only includes the man who will not work, but embraces that large number of men who render no service at all, but live in various ways off the profits of others' labor, as well as the man who, though busy from day to day, does not, through force of circumstances, follow what may be called useful or necessary labor. Put the idle man as well as the idle acres to work and you will not hear very much more about the high cost of living.

Howing Down to the British. SOUTH OMAHA, March 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: In the early days of this republic had any president proposed that we submit to England or any other country on any proposition that concerned ourselves alone, there would have been a sense of indignation among men and women of the West End of London came before a local court. The woman involved in a gambling debt admitted having an average yearly income of \$15,000 from games played at her home.

Rochette, Swindler. The fact that wealth is more equitably distributed among the people of France than any other nation serves to explain why promotion schemes promising large returns draws family savings out of countless stockings. The tragic death of the editor of the Paris Figaro, shot to death by the wife of Finance Minister Caillaux, is directly due to the escape from justice of Henri Rochette, a promotion swindler of magnificent proportions. Rochette was a writer in a country hotel and having inherited \$1,000, moved to Paris and started on an amazing career of high finance. Within a space of ten years he rose to the head of sixty banks in France, with branches in Spain and South America. Such a wizard of finance could not exist, much less last, establishing close relations with government politicians, consequently his operations were linked with the prosperity of political favorites. By promoting a successive series of banking companies, each paying large dividends out of inflated capital, it is calculated that \$30,000,000 of it from small investors, was drawn into Rochette's schemes. Even when the crash in 1910 was but a few hours away, the political insiders, on advance information, rigged up a deal on the stock market and skinned the crowd for \$2,000,000. With ample means at his command and political influence, Rochette got off with a two-year sentence and a nominal fine, and that was held up by appeals. A second trial on other charges was delayed by the influences which provoked the newspaper charges. Not until President Poincaré took office a year ago did Rochette realize that the game was up, and fled the country. According to police advices in Paris his whereabouts is not known.

Suffrage in Austria. The militants of Great Britain are obsessed with the idea that outlawry, ruffianism and wanton destruction of property are the only effective means of convicting the nation of the justice of their cause. The farther they go on that road the farther are they removed from the goal. As far as present signs can be interpreted the militants have not only lost ground, but have turned countless friends into determined foes. Far different and correspondingly effective is the campaign of representative women of Austria. Up to last spring order in politics, systematic agitation on an active part in politics, had been the rule, and they are now free to participate in political affairs, though not yet eligible to vote. They are taking an active part in economic affairs, and as housekeepers have effected reductions in the prices of some necessities in Vienna and Brunn. Leaders of the movement have been elected to municipal committees and for the first time a woman has been put on the housing committee of a town council. Though the advance is comparatively slight, a breach has been made in the walls of law and custom, and progress toward complete equality is a matter of time.

People and Events. Governor Dunne names April 15 as good roads day, and exhorts the people of Illinois to get busy and "pull themselves out of the mud."

A wave of moral reform is gathering strength, with police assistance, in Paris. Hereafter no lady will be allowed to shoot an editor without a police permit.

Curragh camp, the chief center of the mutiny of British army officers, friendly to the Ulsterites, is the largest military station in Ireland, and is commonly known as "Curragh of Kildare," being located in Kildare county. It is on the main line of railroad west from Dublin and very close to the geographical center of the island.

A certificate of proficiency in the domestic arts should be given away with each and every bride, according to H. L. Jones, a wealthy farmer of Geneva, Ill., and that is why he threw in a certificate for good measure when he gave his daughter, Miss Millicent Jones, in marriage to Merton Armagast, member of the school board of Joliet.

According to Dr. A. K. Fisher of the biological survey of the Department of Agriculture, more than 60,000 prairie dogs, gophers, ground squirrels and mice have been killed in the government's campaign of destruction. The fur of these rodents found would be sufficient for about 1,000,000 pairs of shoes or 1,500 to 1,800 head of cattle, worth at least \$100,000.

Nebraska Editors. Dr. J. Ray Shike has purchased a half interest in the Nebraska County Republican. J. H. Dundas, editor of the Auburn Granger, celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of his ownership of the paper last week. The Deemer Times has been sold by O. N. Mayfield to H. H. Pease, who was until recently editor of the Stromburg News. Mr. Mayfield will take a position on the staff of the Norfolk News. The Western Free Press, conducted for many years by E. E. Kelly, has been sold to H. A. Craney the former foreman of that paper, and will be published, as heretofore, as a republican newspaper. Judge Johnathan D. Heywood, who has been owner of the Crawford Courier for the last seven years, sold the paper last week to W. H. Egan, who has been connected with the paper for some time.

In Other Lands

The Ulster Shindy

The Ulster Mess. Political events are moving swiftly in the British Isles these days. Almost every hour marks a shifting of scenes. For a time the orange colors fluttered merrily above the union jack, while in the distance the sunburst of Erin flapped idly around its staff, as if outside the path of the big wind. Making proper allowance for political exaggerations and the Ulster mess reveals a dangerous lack of concerted aggressive action in the ministry. It is evident from the blunders admitted and the misunderstanding of army orders that responsible ministers, in their eagerness for peaceful compromise, allowed matters to drift in a careless, slipshod way, narrowly escaping destruction. Above all things the Ulster mess reveals a danger there is shown in clear outline, the far-reaching influence and power of the Tory aristocracy, and its readiness to disrupt the army to accomplish the overthrow of the Asquith ministry. Home rule is not the ogre they picture it. It happens to be the most effective means of harassing the government of Great Britain.

Monte Carlo commands a larger variety of publicity than any temple of the fickle goddess, and thus gives strength to the current impression that it monopolizes the gambling business in Europe. The fact is that Monte Carlo is the more fashionable resort of the sports of all nations and does more business than any one of the thousands of public and private gambling resorts in Europe. The gambling business is widespread. It is a recognized business in France, the government taking a percentage of the profits. One hundred and thirty-three casinos were licensed by the state for operation at various resorts last season. The city of Nice conducts a municipal casino. Englelin, the nearby holiday resort of Paris, is literally a rendezvous for amateur and professional players and does one-fifth of the gambling business of France. Besides the seasonal casinos there are 4,800 licensed clubs, besides the various ways of playing the ponies at race tracks. It present the state takes 15 per cent of the gross receipts, which have increased four-fold in seven years. The vastness of the business in France may be guessed from the one statement that the Paris mutuels machines at race tracks last season took bets totaling \$20,000,000. Gambling is carried on extensively in Germany, particularly in Berlin, but is less obtrusive, and obtains little publicity. In Austria a gambling concession granted by a clique of politicians developed into a huge graft scandal which so affected the integrity of the ministerial party that Premier Count Tizza refunded \$50,000 out of his own pocket to placate investors roped into the deal. Only last month a case revealing the prevalence of gambling among men and women of the West End of London came before a local court. The woman involved in a gambling debt admitted having an average yearly income of \$15,000 from games played at her home.

Chicago Record-Herald: Apparently Asquith has no alternative but to press the home rule bill and abide by the consequences. Will Ulster fight when it has a chance to vote itself out of the home rule scheme for six years? St. Louis City Journal: Opposed to further concession, however, is the fact that it must mean the knocking down of a large majority to a small minority. The incentive to further compromise by the nationalists also is discounted by the understanding that, however brave a fight the Ulster minority might put up it must prove hopeless against the full military strength of the United Kingdom. Philadelphia Ledger: Both the nationalists and liberals have gone to the limit of reasonable concession to the fears of the Ulstermen. Every guarantee has been offered them against religious oppression, and now they have been given the option of voting on the question whether they shall immediately come under the operation of the home rule bill or retain for a six-year period their political connection with the Imperial Parliament. All these overtures have been rejected. The Ulstermen will have everything or nothing, and the curious anomaly develops of loyalists willing to go to war against the government, toward which they profess such unshaken loyalty. Pittsburgh Dispatch: It looks as if the matter had gone too far to be ended without an attempt to raise an insurrection; but there are very strong indications that it will be short-lived. In the first place Belfast and Londonderry themselves do not expect it. A correspondent of the Westminster Gazette who has been investigating the matter says that no Belfast business man is preparing for it, and he has heard in that city more talk of football in one afternoon, when a match was played, than he would hear of civil war in a week. Then, too, the fight being made to arouse conservative enmity throughout the kingdom has failed. Many of that party believe that a grave mistake was made in rejecting Mr. Asquith's compromise. It is quite plain that while there may be sympathy for the Ulster rebels outside of Ulster, it will not be shown in overt acts.

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CHEERY CHAFF.

The Ulster Shindy

New York World: The Ulster men in their enthusiasm "shot" Belfast with their revolvers. In the old days our cowboy boys did in Dodge City and other frontier towns without any menace of civil war. Chicago Record-Herald: Apparently Asquith has no alternative but to press the home rule bill and abide by the consequences. Will Ulster fight when it has a chance to vote itself out of the home rule scheme for six years? St. Louis City Journal: Opposed to further concession, however, is the fact that it must mean the knocking down of a large majority to a small minority. The incentive to further compromise by the nationalists also is discounted by the understanding that, however brave a fight the Ulster minority might put up it must prove hopeless against the full military strength of the United Kingdom. Philadelphia Ledger: Both the nationalists and liberals have gone to the limit of reasonable concession to the fears of the Ulstermen. Every guarantee has been offered them against religious oppression, and now they have been given the option of voting on the question whether they shall immediately come under the operation of the home rule bill or retain for a six-year period their political connection with the Imperial Parliament. All these overtures have been rejected. The Ulstermen will have everything or nothing, and the curious anomaly develops of loyalists willing to go to war against the government, toward which they profess such unshaken loyalty. Pittsburgh Dispatch: It looks as if the matter had gone too far to be ended without an attempt to raise an insurrection; but there are very strong indications that it will be short-lived. In the first place Belfast and Londonderry themselves do not expect it. A correspondent of the Westminster Gazette who has been investigating the matter says that no Belfast business man is preparing for it, and he has heard in that city more talk of football in one afternoon, when a match was played, than he would hear of civil war in a week. Then, too, the fight being made to arouse conservative enmity throughout the kingdom has failed. Many of that party believe that a grave mistake was made in rejecting Mr. Asquith's compromise. It is quite plain that while there may be sympathy for the Ulster rebels outside of Ulster, it will not be shown in overt acts.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. When we were happy days! How sweet the merle and mavis sang along the woodland ways; How gayly robin piped his lay across the dewy lawn. A joyous, jocund greeting to the scarlet, streaming dawn; How brightly flamed the crimson morn above the verdant hills; How lightly laughed among the reeds the little, lilted rills. With what blithe bearing then did we greet the upward mounting sun, And kindled us with strength and joy the day's swift course to run. How silver bright the moonlight shone upon the gliding stream, In those dear days of long ago when we did little dream. That youth would swiftly glide away upon the stream of life, And bear us on to sterner years, replete with storm and strife. Until our locks were white as snow, and baking in the sun, We'd fondly dream of long ago, when we were twenty-one.

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