

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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MARCH CIRCULATION: 51,641. State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss. Dwigth Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that average daily circulation for the month of March, 1914, was 51,641.

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

Wake up, and clean up. The clean-up campaign should embrace both the seen and the unseen.

The backyard of a home should be as far above suspicion as the front.

There is some warrant for the assumption that a spring regatta of blue, from shoes to lid, indicate a serious attack of the blues.

Wonder if Secretary Daniels had this naval demonstration in mind when he delayed the operation of that dry order until next July.

Omaha's formal protest against the reserve bank location has been duly presented by our Congressman Lobeck. Stop, look, wait, watch and listen!

It is refreshing and reassuring to know that the Wilson foreign policy is not "spineless." Just what adjective really fits it will gradually be disclosed.

But seizing and holding a Mexican port would be an act of war, and under our constitution the power to declare war is vested exclusively in congress.

Astonishing in its suddenness is President Huerta's desire for the social uplift of Mexico's poor. The approaching rumbles of the crack of doom evidently touch a sympathetic chord.

In Nebraska the bull moosers, who are specially consecrated to publicity and reform, show their consistency by transacting all their business in star chamber behind closed doors.

Auto drivers tempted by the speeding habit should recall not only that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, but that it also is much cheaper to slow up than to pay damages.

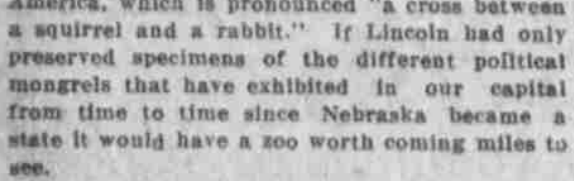
Two judges of our district court are specifically accused by our local democratic contemporary of "befouling their own nest." We know of jurisdictions where that would spell contempt.

Government inquiries into the ground floor deals of railroad corporations doubtless is very annoying to the managers. But the annoyance is far less damaging to the managers than the clumsy attempts to cover up sly trails.

A noted medical scientist sees in the Panama canal an open door for all the oriental and tropical diseases and scourges. It is more likely, however, to open the door for medical science to grapple with and eradicate these diseases.

Count Okuma, the new premier of Japan, represents the advanced section of the empire's political life. He is the popular idol of the jingoes, the father of the new navy and an educator of distinction. His leadership signifies a broadening of representative government and the eventual abolition of hereditary caste in the upper chamber.

Lincoln's public park has been presented with a strange animal brought from Central America, which is pronounced "a cross between a squirrel and a rabbit." If Lincoln had only preserved specimens of the different political mongrels that have exhibited in our capital from time to time since Nebraska became a state it would have a zoo worth coming miles to see.



Mr. Thomas Anderson, entertained his friends at Clark's hall on the occasion of his thirtieth birthday. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen presented him with a tin snail. Mr. Goldman presenting the same in a beautiful little speech. An elegant emerald brooch was the gift of Miss Alice Henney.

Articles of agreement have been signed for a standup fight between Jack Hanley and James Fell for a purse of \$400, the fight to take place Tuesday, May 13, within 150 miles of Omaha. Jack Nugent is backing Hanley and Mike Phalen is backing Fell.

John W. Honan will succeed Louis C. Schwabach as distributing clerk in the postoffice, resigned.

The Omaha Law Library association has amended its bylaws, reducing yearly dues of stockholders to \$10, and permitting attorneys not stockholders to have use of the library for \$20 a year.

General William Meyers is in the city to make arrangements for erecting a three-story brick on his lot, northeast corner sixteenth and Davenport.

Mrs. A. P. Nicholas is back from a brief visit to Kansas City.

Mrs. F. R. McConnell came in from Salt Lake City and is stopping with Mrs. W. O. Taylor.

A Program of Municipal Needs.

A recent survey made for the city of Toronto by the Bureau of Municipal Research offers recommendations of things needed for bringing about "a cleaner, better city," which are enumerated as follows:

- Stricter measures against overcrowding in tenements. A general "cleanup day." A municipal lodging house. Stricter enforcement of smoke nuisance regulations. A house-to-house sanitary inspection. Elimination of railroad grade crossings. "Follow-up" inspections to enforce sanitary reforms. Removal of unsightly, abandoned buildings. Improvement of roadways in streets occupied by municipal tramways. Surrender of railroad property desirable from a "city beautiful" standpoint.

This program of municipal needs is, with few exceptions, as good for Omaha as it is for Toronto, although if making it up originally for our own city we would change the order and add a few salient items. It would be mighty good practice and help focus attention upon the points where progress or reform is urgent, if every citizen and taxpayer would take the time to make up a program like this, setting forth the ten things in the way of material improvements or administration betterments most needed by Omaha.

The Recruiting Office Test.

That is an interesting news item which tells how the dispatch of the fleet is serving as a signal for a rush of recruits to enlist in army and navy. It is not a novel or unexpected incident, for the same experience has been had upon other occasions. The fact is that neither the army nor the navy is sufficiently attractive in ordinary times to draw energetic, active men from their every-day occupations and pursuits. In times of peace the problem is constantly acute to keep the enlistments up to the minimum requirements. The ordinary humdrum life of soldier and sailor is so wearing that desertions are commonplace. But add a spice of war, or the mere prospect of war, and no other inducements are needed to crowd the recruiting office and stop the runaways. It is just human nature to like adventure, and to embrace an opportunity for "a scrap," which, added to the element of patriotism, may be implicitly relied on in every such emergency.

Value of Scaffold Confession.

Despite the "confession" of one of the gunmen insisting that the notorious Rosenthal murder was merely part of a gambler's fight in which the police were in no way involved, the prosecution of Lieutenant Becker, once convicted as the instigator of the crime, and now granted a new trial, is to go on. District Attorney Whitman is quoted as saying that the confession at best is only hearsay evidence, and further, that he would place no reliance in it so far as it contradicts charges supported by other evidence.

The value of the scaffold confession, or, to be more exact in this case, the electric chair confession is, on general principles, open to grave suspicion. To the unthinking the presumption favors the truth of a declaration made in the face of execution when the doomed man is definitely resigned to the belief that there is no further earthly help to soul salvation, and no direct benefits possible from further falsifying. At the same time, it is of record that most of the scaffold confessions are either vainglorious exaggerations or distorted perversions. A man facing death is just as apt to be mistaken as the innocent bystanders who tell conflicting stories on the witness stand, and is much more likely to twist his statements wilfully to shield a confederate or to get even with an enemy.

In this particular case the prosecuting authorities in New York, therefore, feel fully warranted in accepting the gunman's confession only for what it is worth in corroboration, and rejecting it wherein it stands alone. That, too, we believe is the proper estimation of it.

Platform Repeal by Polling Delegates.

Of all the queer developments of the free tolls proposition, perhaps the queerest is the attempt to get away from the plain declaration in the platform by procuring a disavowal from the delegates who voted for it in the Baltimore convention. It is asserted that a majority of these delegates have gone on record in response to inquiry as now favoring toll exemption repeal. Assuming this to be true, it still remains open to question whether the delegates who have changed, or have been changed, pretend not to have known what they were voting for, or regard the free tolls plank as "a little one" that does not count, or recognize no binding effect of platform pledges either little or big, or have merely changed their minds because President Wilson and Secretary Bryan have changed theirs.

To have been of any value the poll of the convention delegates should have been made before the president announced his position and personally urged it upon congress. Had the delegates been questioned a few weeks ago without knowing or suspecting the change of heart of the president, it is an absolute certainty that the large majority would have stood by their guns and insisted that the platform plank means what it says, and constitutes a binding contract with the people whose votes were obtained on the strength of it. The notion that party pledges may be repealed by polling the delegates who adopt the platform is a brand new one in American politics which, if it becomes an accepted practice, is fraught with vast and prolific possibilities.

Putting an instructor of agriculture on the federal payroll at \$1 a year in order that he may draw traveling expense money from the Rockefeller foundation, and use the franking privilege of the mails, may be all right. But if a privileged person were connected with the railroad payroll at a dollar a year in order to ride around on free passes it might be open to question.

"Justice tempered with mercy" fell to the lot of the Missouri who was sentenced to ten years in a federal prison for having accumulated sixteen wives. Doubtless the court gave due weight to the culprit's unavoidable punishment in fashioning excuses for sixteen households.

It is the secret plan, publicly announced, of the bull moosers to "draft" candidates for their state ticket. Let the patriots who have picked themselves out for this self-sacrifice be ready to respond to the coming "spontaneous popular uprising" when it breaks.



For Governor and in Earnest. BURWELL, Neb., April 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: Permit me to inform the public that last week the Pokrok Zapadu was feeding his readers with chaff; but still he is innocent because he did not know that I have paid solid money prescribed by law which misled the voters that I have a small chance to have my name placed on any party ticket. My name will be placed as a republican candidate for Governor. Please publish these few lines and I will be ever so much obliged. JOHN CEPLERCHA, P. S.—If you wish to get my photograph I will have it ready in about one week.

First Born of Omaha. OMAHA, April 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: Referring to attached clipping from The Bee, I like to say that Mr. Reinhardt is greatly mistaken regarding being the first white child born in Omaha, as Mrs. J. H. Hunter, nee Louise A. Harman, was born in Omaha in 1858. J. H. HUNTER.

An Expensive Case of Gasoline. OMAHA, April 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: Our secretary of state and our president were satisfied with "watchful waiting" as long as the Mexicans simply murdered American and foreign citizens, outraged their womenfolk and confiscated millions of dollars worth of property belonging to American and foreign citizens. But when the navy could not get a can of gasoline they are ready to plunge the nation into a war.

It does look to me as though our "honor" is a mighty peculiar thing. To go to war because a stupid squad of civilized Mexicans, whom did not know any better than to march those soldiers up to the commandant's office to find out what they were to do seems straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. It does look as if that boat load of soldiers who wanted a can of gasoline had used ordinary horse sense this trouble could have been avoided. Wouldn't you naturally suppose that before they landed they would say to the coast guard on duty, "We want a can of gasoline—can we get it?" And if the reply had been "no" they could have paddled away without any damage being done.

After letting Huerta and Villa spit in our face (figuratively speaking) all along, it is scarcely consistent to make such a persistent demand to have our flag saluted. Huerta had already apologized, which is going some for a man like Huerta, who has real troubles of his own. If we go to war over a can of gasoline it will be to our everlasting disgrace. If the women of the United States had the right to vote no administration would dare to go to war on so silly a pretext as this. The honor of military gentlemen all over the world is a fit subject for ridicule. T. C. BECK.

Editorial Viewpoint

Houston Post: The Omaha Bee says there is to be no liquor issue in Nebraska this year. Is it the purpose of The Bee in making such a statement to fill Texas with envy?

Philadelphia Ledger: Trade does not follow the selection of cities arbitrarily as reserve centers. It is probable that the permanent reserve board will adjust the districts to business necessities gradually, and it is not at all certain that the financial map will remain exactly as has been planned.

New York Sun: The disclosure by the editor of the Commoner, on the authority of the secretary of state, that the Panama canal tolls plank was put into the democratic platform by subterfuge, indicates that William Jennings Bryan is a mighty poor man to serve as chairman of a committee on resolutions.

St. Louis Republic: The parcel post is being put to lugubrious uses. A coffin completely dressed and sealed was sent out from Lufkin by parcel post for an infant's burial Friday, the postage amounting to only 21 cents. Perhaps the service will be further extended to the transportation of corpses.

New York World: Speaking of political influence in the selection of the reserve bank cities, how about Mr. Bryan's Nebraska town of Omaha in the Kansas City district? Could "a Wall street shark" or "an eastern plutocrat" have perpetrated a greater outrage than that? The news from Omaha on the night of the next election may be appalling.

Philadelphia Record: The New York Central railroad will have to pay a judgment a second time, because it did not take sufficient precautions to insure the money reaching the beneficiary. No one supposed that the railroad company let go of money too easily, but that sometimes happens. A boy who had been injured on the railroad got a judgment for \$3,000, which the railroad company paid to his guardian. The latter embezzled it. The boy has attained his majority and sued again for the money, and the court holds that it is better that the corporation should pay twice than that the boy should get nothing, and that the railroad company ought not to have parted with the money till the guardian had given a bond to protect the boy.

Waste of National Products. Philadelphia Ledger: Director Holmes of the bureau of mines estimates that there is an annual waste of 250,000,000 tons of coal. He declares that in Oklahoma alone there is an annual waste of natural gas to the value of \$2,000,000 and in the whole country of \$20,000,000. We waste in the products of mines every year almost as much as inefficient administration wastes in the treasury funds of the nation, or more. There is a chance for real as well as fake conservation.

New York World: The young man who telegraphed to his father, "I have eloped; please rush \$50 for the honeymoon," spoke in a perfectly innocent way for a considerable proportion of the rising generation. Parental authority, home influence, family pride, domestic economy, future prospects—what are these to an up-to-date youth who has eloped and who contemplates a honeymoon at the expense of somebody else?

Adam Bredde, the bachelor editor of the Hastings Tribune, announces that he is ready to enlist in Edgar Howard's regiment of Nebraska editors that is to invade Mexico when war is declared.

E. J. Long of Ragan has leased the Wilcox Herald from T. F. Ashby and takes possession this week. He succeeds Charles Wright and Robert Lamborn, who have had charge of the paper for the last six months.

State Tax Commission

Signed Article by C. W. Sears, One of the Members.

The primary purpose of government is to regulate the conduct of individual members of society in their relations with one another and with the government itself, thereby preserving the integrity of organized society and protecting the life, liberty and property of the individual. Revenue is the motive power of government—without it no government can endure and without government chaos will prevail. How important, then, that the individual members of society should be informed on this vital subject of state and local revenue.

From questions propounded to the Nebraska State Revenue and Taxation commission it is apparent that the public has no very accurate idea of the creation and purpose of that commission.

The commission is nonpartisan and consists of five members, namely, John H. Grovernor, a lawyer of Aurora; C. A. Schappell, county treasurer of Pawnee county; George O. Virtue, professor of political science, University of Nebraska; Earl B. Gaddis, Lincoln newspaper man, and Charles W. Sears, a lawyer of Omaha. They were appointed in July, 1913, by Governor Mordecai, pursuant to an act of the 1913 legislature, introduced by Senator Ollis.

In the language of the act the purpose of the commission is:

To make a careful study of the subject of revenue and taxation; to make special reference to the problems presented in Nebraska; to investigate and study the systems of raising revenue and administering the same in other states and countries; prepare and submit to the governor by July 1, 1914, a complete report in popular language, presenting to the public the principal improvements suggested by experience elsewhere.

You can readily understand that until the commission, as a whole has determined its position upon any question, I, as a member, of that commission, could not in good conscience discuss any such question to a final conclusion. I feel, however, that I may with propriety state the conclusions reached by the commission as a whole, and state general propositions that have been presented to the commission, but upon which no final conclusion has been reached.

Three points I believe the commission to be well settled on:

First—That it is not its purpose nor within the scope of its authority to provide or attempt to provide the means of raising any greater revenue in state, county, municipality or school district than is already being raised.

Second—That there are defects in the present revenue system, either in the system itself or in the machinery by which the system is applied, which result in inequalities in taxation and for which the commission must, if possible, seek out and recommend a proper remedy.

Third—That under the present system of administration of the affairs of the state, county, municipality and school districts, the expenditures are extravagant and should be curtailed. The existing sociological problems create new demands on organized society and as a result and in order to meet those demands the individual members of society either singly or in class apply to the legislature for relief, which when granted carries with it an appropriation of public money. Thus we, as individuals, in our zeal to uplift society and to regulate these social conditions become directly responsible for a part at least of the increased expenditures of public funds of which complaint is made.

For example, I quote from the report of the auditor of Douglas county, dated November 8, 1911, showing some of the acts of the legislature and the amount expended under each up to the date of the report:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Items include Probation officers and juvenile court, 1906-1911 (\$23,377.53); Detention home, 1906-1911 (\$9,214.52); Voting machines, 1906-1911 (\$20,950.87); Local registrars of vital statistics, 1906-1911 (\$9,034.59); Dipomaniac act, 1906-1911 (\$2,211.05); Drainage laws, 1906-1911 (\$4,000.15); Law library act, 1911-1912 (\$7,787.84); Increase in jurors' fees, 1911-1912 (\$6,711.00); Suburban, South Omaha, 1911-1912 (\$7,700.00); Mothers' pension act, 1913, estimated per year (\$5,000.00); Election commissioner act, 1913, estimated increase per year (\$10,000.00); Increase in aid to Agricultural society, 1913 (\$3,000.00); Total (\$128,148.35).

The local officials are not necessarily responsible for these increased expenditures—they are required to administer the laws enacted by the legislature.

The legislature is not necessarily responsible for these expenditures—they in the main pass only such legislation as the people demand.

An apt illustration of the constant tendency toward increased expense of government is that of a certain county in the state, where, when the telephone first came into general use, a controversy arose among the county commissioners as to the propriety of an expense of \$3 per month for one telephone in the court house for the general use of all court house officials and employees. That controversy extended over a period of three or four months. The newspapers became involved in it as well as the general public and much ill feeling was engendered.

The one 'phone was finally installed. Today every office in the court house in that county has a telephone and in some offices in addition to the general phone there is an extension desk 'phone at the elbow of the official himself in his private office.

County bridges are now of steel construction, where formerly they were of wood. Culverts in country roads are now of concrete, where formerly they were of plank. Naturally these steel and concrete culverts increase the expenditures, but whether such construction will in the end prove economical, perhaps remains to be determined, although we are informed that such is the case.

If the people of Nebraska constantly require greater conveniences, better roads, extended school facilities and a greater supervision of society, it is inevitable that just as their demands increase, so will their taxes be increased.

Twice Told Tales

Speaking of the new French dresses now on exhibition in the large department stores throughout the country, Eleanor Gates said in Boston:

"I am glad to see that the slit skirt is abolished. The slit skirt was too modest, especially when it was shockingly long slit."

"A Philadelphia debutante, provided with a beautiful wardrobe, in which the slit skirt in its most exaggerated form figured extensively, spent the winter at Palm Beach."

"One morning, in her white serge gown from Calcutta, slit almost to the knee, she was leaving her hotel for the beach when her sister called her back and said:

"Oh, Mary, you've got a big black smudge on your nose!"

"With an indifferent toss of her head the debutante answered: 'What difference does that make? Nobody ever looks at my face when I've got on one of my slit skirts.'"—Washington Star.

The Pipe of War.

The family doctor was paying a semi-social visit. As he took a leisurely departure he paused to discuss with Margaret's mother the general health conditions of the city.

GRINS AND GROANS.

"There are two sides to every question," said the ready-made philosopher. "Yes," replied the man with political ambitions. "Sometimes it's hard to tell whether an answer is going to put you on the inside or leave you on the outside."—Washington Star.

"Pa, did you eat any of the cook's dough?" "Of course not, child. What makes you ask that?" "Because I heard ma say she was going to make you cough it up."—Baltimore American.

"If you buy an automobile, be sure and get the best make." "But how am I to know which is the best?" "Oh, any of the advertisements will tell you which that is."—Boston Transcript.

"Auntie, if you are a real prohibitionist, you ought not to be giving the drink suggestion." "How do you mean?" "By wearing corkscrew curls."—Chicago Post.

First Shopper—So your husband refused to wear that lovely blue and mauve waistcoat you bought for him last week. Second Shopper—Yes; he declared it went against his stomach.—Indianapolis News.

"There are some occupations that a woman can't follow successfully. For instance, you couldn't expect her to be a sailor." "She might," replied the old salt, thoughtfully; "especially if she was a member of the Woman's Christian Temperance union."—Washington Star.

"What's this eugenic movement I've been hearing about Dan?" "Oh, a lot of left-over and a few slighted, some quack doctors and a few clergymen think they know more about mating than I do."—Life.

"The two airmen had a dispute about the steering, and flew into an airhole." "What happened then?" "They flew into a passion." "Then what?" "Nature, they had a falling out."—Baltimore American.

"Do you have matins in this church?"

A POE-TICAL POEMETTE.

See the ladies in their robes, New spring clothes; What long days of anxious planning all their elegance now shows; How they crinkle, crinkle, crinkle in the fitful morning breeze; Dimples, swinging, shimmering, bobbing, round the knees, knees, knees; Keeping up a lock-step meter With a whirl, a la egg-beater; And a constant flap-flap flutter around about the tiny toes Of the clothes, clothes, clothes; Oh the shimmering and the glimmering of the clothes.

See the ladies in their robes—Easter robes; In the yellow sunlight whirling like so many silken globes; How they swell, swell, swell with the rising of the breeze; While the flounces dive and dip As they circumscribe the hip; How they tantalize and tease As they swirl and swirl and swirl 'Round the figure of the girl; While a sea-foam fabrication froths below the whirling globes; Giving ultra-up-to-dateness to the robes.

See the ladies in their gowns, Stylish gowns; What a blaze of blues and yellows, reds and orange hues and browns; How they flutter, flutter, flutter, Tones of tangerine and butter; Smothering all kinds of shapes with their generous slash-slash slashes, Which no modern maid abashes; Bunching, bagging, slouching, sagging, Braving gusts of disapproval, braving ridicule and frowns; Oh, the gowns! Oh, the gowns! Oh, the dams and dire extremeness of the gowns. Omaha. —RAYOLL NE TRELS.

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