

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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JULY CIRCULATION:
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States 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 50,142.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 14th day of August, 1913.
ROBERT HUNTER,
Notary Public.

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

If looks queer, you have to give it to Glyn over Sulzer.

Old Sol must find us a mighty raw lot to need so much cooking.

Yes, but would a lid-laden country club show a surplus or a deficit?

Folks who go around searching for afflicties take that means of looking for trouble.

Once upon a time Omaha had a base ball pitcher who could last the nine innings through.

Whether the fans want the base ball lingo changed or not, it is a cinch the umpire does.

No wonder watermelons can smile on the vine when they bring 60 cents the minute they leave it.

Johnny Bull will take part in that San Francisco exposition unless he wishes to play the baby act.

Maybe Huerta wanted to deport those American reporters because they scooped their Mexican rivals.

The joke of the season is Mr. Bryan being designated to tell Ambassador Wilson he talks too much.

Vardaman prates a lot about the perpetuity of the government. Wonder if he thinks lynch law helps it along.

It is just Secretary McAdoo's luck to offer that money to move the crops when there are not many crops to move.

Remember last winter how you talked to that faithful old furnace because it didn't heat up all the rooms alike?

That boy Ursur, who twists the bull's head off in "Quo Vadis," might be a good one to turn loose on the Tammany tiger.

The San Diego exposition is going right ahead as if it made no difference whatever whether the San Francisco exposition keeps school or not.

The gas franchise compromise is purely a business proposition: Is dollar gas now preferable to continuing a law suit with doubtful termination?

Still, it is sort of rubbing it in to offer a house or flat for rent right now at so much a month and \$5 additional for heating during the winter season.

The Knights Templar in conclave at Denver marched to the tune of "Onward, Christian Soldiers" just as if they were all unframed veterans of Armageddon.

After preaching "back to nature" all these years, some perverse folks begin to complain when the abbreviation of clothes has reached only the halfway station.

Medical experts assure us that the greater number of our insanity cases are preventable, but we keep right on enlarging our insane hospitals as if that were the only thing to do.

A man in Washington who has been a house employe for twenty years says he is going to tell the "unvarnished truth" of all he knows as to the events of congress in that time. But will he stop at what he "knows"?

American railroads are capitalized on an average of about \$62,000 a mile, which is only about one-third of the corresponding figures for Great Britain. It is because we have so many miles that our railroads look like such a tremendous lot of money.

Impachment, Suspension, Removal.

That no such situation as is presented in New York, where the executive office has two claimants, could follow an impeachment of a governor in Nebraska is made clear by reading of our state constitution. The section relating to the impeachment of a governor concludes as follows:

No officer shall exercise his official duties after he shall have been impeached, and notified thereof, until he shall have been acquitted.

Our Nebraska constitution further provides for the exercise of the functions of the governor during his incapacity by the lieutenant governor. In Nebraska, impeachment—that is to say, the bringing of a true bill of indictment charging misdemeanor in office—ipso facto suspends the officer impeached, subject to re-instatement on acquittal or removal on conviction.

Color Line in Office-Holding.

For twenty-five years the office of register of the treasury has been held by a negro; now it is held by an Indian. President Wilson proposed A. H. Patterson, a highly respected negro of Oklahoma, for the place, but the senate majority of southern democrats, with a good deal of inborn antipathy for the black man, anyway, rose up on its dignity and rejected the appointment. Patterson, showing himself far above the average in manliness, then requested the president to withdraw his name, which he did and substituted that of Gabe Parker, a full-blood Choctaw Indian of Oklahoma, who was confirmed.

It was such statesmen as Vardaman of Mississippi who defeated the negro's appointment—Vardaman, who says the perpetuity of the republic depends upon segregation of the races in all government service. But with Senator Owen, another part-blood Indian from Oklahoma, at his side, Vardaman is able to repress this ignoble sentiment when redmen are under consideration. Evidently it is only the black man whose elevation to office would undermine the government.

While nothing different is to be expected from a senator like Vardaman, it is most inconsistent for the senate to support such a precedent. The white race cannot afford to draw the color line so unfairly. President Wilson might have gone well to have insisted on the confirmation of his original appointment instead of giving way to the Vardaman influence.

A Few Milk Don'ts.

With true paternal interest, the Department of Agriculture has issued a bulletin on the handling of milk calculated to prevent mistakes dangerous to health in hot weather, particularly of children. It points out, what ought to be apparent to all that no matter how carefully the milk is guarded between the farm and the home, or in how sanitary a condition it is delivered to the ice box, it may be ruined as food by careless home handling. Above all else, stress is laid on keeping the milk cool to prevent bacteria multiplying. And here are some "don'ts" that might be helpful:

- Don't remove milk from the original bottle or the bottle from the refrigerator until needed for use.
- Don't let the milk stand on porch when delivered, but put it in the ice box at once.
- Don't let the ice box become unclean; wipe daily with clean cloth and scald once a week.
- Don't let the milk stand in a warm kitchen or dining room longer than necessary.
- Don't place the milk in a refrigerator compartment with onions and other food of strong odors.
- All of which is perfectly obvious, of course, but not perfectly adhered to. In the season of greatest disease hazard is the time for greatest precaution.

Despite the protests of our democratic senator from Nebraska, his colleagues have caucus-decreed against postponing consideration of the currency bill. The senator has said he is "irrevocably opposed" to legislating on the currency at the present session, but the prospect is he will have to come to a showdown when his name is called to vote "Yes" or "No."

The big glaring omission from that list of achievements is the redemption of the promise of 25-cent water rates. If this promise had been redeemed, the water board would not have had to waste their time in explanation of minor details.

Secretary of War Garrison says the chief need of the army is publicity that will enable the people to know what the army is, and what it is doing. The secretary will soon be here as a visitor, and we will be glad to help out with the publicity.

The wife of the secretary of the navy is distinguished as "the champion whistler of the cabinet family." Yet it is doubtful if she will be able to do all the whistling for the administration.

You Would Feel It, Too.
Washington Star.

"An oblong hot wave" is among the novelties mentioned in a recent discussion of the climate. The principles of cubist art cannot be applied with success to weather maps.

Helen's Weak Man.
Philadelphia Record.

Senator Maulsby has offered a bill to raise the salary of the vice president, but it's the secretary of state whose salary is insufficient.

Looking Backward
This Day in Omaha
COMPILED FROM BEE FILES
AUGUST 18.

Thirty Years Ago—
The U. P.'s scored a splendid victory in Chicago, where they beat the Unions on their home grounds by a score of 11 to 7.

Miss Modjeska, the famous actress, with her husband and son, were passengers on the eastbound Overland.

Stubendorf & Co. have purchased a corner lot on Douglas, where they will erect a four-story building.

A picked nine from Max Meyer & Co.'s score beat the Herald nine by 15 to 12.

J. H. McAlvin of the Union Pacific headquarters is back from Denver with a large collection of crystallized woods, minerals, etc., which the road will place on exhibition at the state fair.

The hunting party consisting of Judge Thurston, Henry Hogan, Dr. Peabody, J. S. Collins, Hollis Hogue and B. F. Troxel returned from their trip up the Loup valley, where they killed between 80 and 90 chickens, to say nothing of jackrabbits, etc.

The senior member of the firm of Wieg & Westberg is receiving congratulations over the birth of a son and heir, although he has three daughters, this is the first boy, and he says he is going to bounce Westberg and hang out the sign of "Wieg & Son."

Dr. George L. Miller, accompanied by his wife and Miss Helen Thomas, started for Europe. They will go direct to London, and then travel in various countries for five or six weeks.

Henry Yates and Warren Yates, who went up to Norfolk, returned with a prize-winning exhibit of prairie birds.

Miss Megreath and Miss Jennie Megreath are going to Cheyenne to visit Mrs. Robertson for six weeks.

Master Wier Coffman is visiting his grandfather at Indiana, Ia.

Twenty Years Ago—
Mr. and Mrs. John Young of Hanover, Pa., were visiting their son, Robert Young, and Mr. and Mrs. M. O. Maul.

Ex-Mayor Cushing came in from Los Angeles for a two-weeks' visit, intending then to return to the coast, where he had taken up his abode.

Officer Drumney and Block Watchman Stein arrested three men dragging a woman along Howard street at night, either for the purpose of kidnapping or worse. One of the men managed to elude the officers before they reached the station.

The good, old-fashioned summer mercury ranged from 78 to 84.

The death of Samuel P. Shears, the well known hotel man of Lincoln, proprietor of the Lincoln hotel, was reported as having occurred a day or two before. He was about 75 years old and died of heart disease.

Declaring that they believed silver should be used by the government as money and entered at the mints at the same rate of coinage as gold, a number of prominent citizens, including the following, issued a call for a mass meeting at Jefferson park to further the cause of silver: George P. Dennis, W. F. Gurley, J. B. Kitchin, W. J. Welshans, J. W. Edgerton, John Rush, V. O. Strickler, J. P. Frenzer, J. Hayden, Champion S. Chase and D. Clem Deaver.

Ten Years Ago—
Dr. Van Camp with his racing duck, Halapala, won the exciting duck race at the Field club and Arthur Albrecht Green of Chicago took second money with a perfectly ladylike duck named Dora. It was some event.

The latest announcement from the Auditorium company through its directors was that the building would be under roof before winter.

Misses Etta and Georgia Whipple were preparing for a vacation with friends in the windy wilds of Wyoming.

Lee G. Krats returned from his summer chaletauqua musical work, which took him to Fullerton, Neb.; Canton, S. D., and Lake Chatet, Wis.

Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Burkett and son left for Minneapolis, Mr. Burkett on business and pleasure and the others on pleasure purely.

Mrs. E. M. Bartlett received word of the death of her mother, Mrs. W. L. Filkins, 71 years old, at Albany, N. Y. She had visited frequently in Omaha.

It was announced that the Great Western would be running passenger trains into Omaha by September 1 instead of October 1, as at first announced after it won its fight for entrance to the Union station.

Around the Cities

Portland, Ore., will build a municipal garage to house its forty automobiles.

Jacksonville, Fla., is to utilize public playgrounds as evening recreation centers.

Los Angeles has just completed a municipal wharf fifty feet wide and 1,800 feet long.

Memphis, Tenn., water department daily supplies over 30,000,000 gallons of water.

St. Louis is to establish a dairy farm to supply milk for city hospital and other institutions.

East Orange, N. J., Board of Education has refused to admit a Japanese to the public schools.

Newburgh, N. Y., is discussing utilization of moving pictures for municipal advertising purposes.

Easton, Pa., has a school superintendent in W. W. Cottingham who has taught sixty years in the same position.

Editorial Shots

Baltimore American: New York democracy seems a bit dizzy. Strangely enough, the party wherever in power has a rare faculty for falling into trouble.

Chicago News: Reports indicate that the corn crop is recuperating and that there has been a record production of wheat. Also, the Mexican situation is improved. Let us all cheer up.

Louisville Courier-Journal: "There is nothing in Europe like a month on the farm," says a writer upon vacation topics. Which explains why steamers for Europe are crowded with Americans.

Kansas City Journal: The Missouri river may not be worth much for navigation purposes, but as a steadfast reliance in a year of drouth it is worth its weight in gold.

Boston Transcript: Lightning hit the Navy department the other day and blew up the ammonia tanks. It's a lucky thing it didn't strike the hot-air tanks over at the State department end of the building.

Washington Star: At all events, Ambassador Wilson will be remembered by the New York reporters as a man who did not repudiate his interviews as soon as he saw they were likely to cause trouble.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Boss Murphy of Tammany hall, interviewed some time ago, predicted for Governor Sulzer would win in the progressive party victory a year, and said: "I'll stake 'em to him, f. o. b." It now looks as if he had undertaken to guarantee delivery.

SAID IN FUN.

Stella—Why do cows wear bells?
Bella—To call the calves to dinner, of course.—New York Sun.

Pair Ones—Will your dog bite us?
Navy—I shouldn't be surprised, miss. "It's an uncommon sweet tooth"—London Opinion.

"Doctor, what's a good food for hot weather?"
"Personally, my dear madam, I prefer ice cream."—Chicago Tribune.

"So you got the opinions of two lawyers on the case. Were their opinions the same?"
"Yes; \$5 each."—Everybody's.

Willie—Paw what is a boy scout?
Paw—A woman of thirty who chases a youth of eighteen, my son.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Willie—Paw, what is the difference between genius and talent?
Paw—Talent gets paid every Saturday my son.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"Doctor, what's a good food for hot weather?"
"Personally, my dear madam, I prefer ice cream."—Chicago Tribune.

"Did he kiss you good-bye?" I asked her.
"How singular!" I was sarcastic.
"No; plural," was all that she said.

Rejected Suitor—And may I ask what the "sad circumstances" are that compel you to marry?
She—Certainly, sir they are—yours!—Dorchester.

"Hobby, buy me one of those \$35 handbags."
"All you carry is a powder rag and a few needles."
"Well!"

"Don't you enjoy the merry prattle of little children?" asked the sentimentalist.
"Yes," replied Mr. Droucher. "I like to hear them prattle. It seems a shame that so many of them are going to grow up and drop this innocent chatter in order to discuss the tariff."—Washington Herald.

"Well," chuckled the optimistic failure, "I've got one satisfaction."
"And what's that?" asked the sympathetic friend.
"It's that I succeeded I should probably have made a nuisance of myself telling people that I was a self-made man."—New York Free Press.

"Yes, indeed, my husband is a remarkable person for a vacation with friends in the windy wilds of Wyoming."
"I suppose nearly every woman has that opinion of her husband."
"But I'm sure my husband is an extraordinary man. I told him this morning where something was in one of the closets and he found it."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"Wombat is always willing to stay late," remarked the jocular partner, "to hear them prattle. It seems a shame that so many of them are going to grow up and drop this innocent chatter in order to discuss the tariff."—Washington Herald.

SUMMER WATERS TRAGEDIES

Carelessness and Needless Risks
Bring Sorrow to Many
Homes.

Out in the rural regions, and in the vicinity of cities and towns as well, torrid weather drives a large number of individuals to rivers, creeks and ponds for bathing purposes. Coincidentally it brings great increase of fatality.

A newspaper dispatch from a southern Indiana town says that for four consecutive Sundays there has been a drowning. Sunday is a day of rest and the old swimming hole is a popular place when the thermometer is in the nineties. Fishing, boating and bathing are in high favor as summer pastimes.

Most of the pleasure resorts have something to offer in that line—on paper at least. The bathing facilities may be both meager and primitive. The fishing and boating streams may be miles away. The boats may have no existence except on posters and advertising pamphlets, but the man who delights in such outdoor pleasures is not apt to find these things out until he has disbursed some of his hard-earned cash for railroad fares and hotel bills.

Summer fatalities of this character are much greater in volume than they would be but for the great American habit of carelessness. Men who cannot swim, for instance, persist in taking chances by going beyond their depth. Inexperienced persons venture into all sorts of dangerous places. Fishermen perch themselves on dead limbs and decayed logs. Boys plunge into cold streams while drenched with perspiration or immediately after partaking of a heavy meal. Bathing about the chutes over milldams or dive recklessly into the water without regard for hidden perils such as projecting rocks or snags. And high up on the list of casualty contributors is the inevitable "fool who rocks the boat."

Advice, of course, is merely thrown away when it is offered to individuals of this class. There are those who scorn caution and who are unable to prudence against any sort of disaster under any sort of circumstances. Unfortunately their number is legion and the damage they do is not always confined to themselves. The great majority of drownings are unnecessary. They occur for the sole reason that somebody takes a needless risk in some way and has thus lost his own life, or the life of some other person's life.—Louisville Courier Journal.

The Bees Letter Box

A Business Man's Reasons.

OMAHA, Aug. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: Shall we vote "yes" or "no" on the gas franchise? I am a business man and all I have in this world is invested in Omaha. I want to see Omaha go ahead; I am sick and tired of a lot of reformers and protectors of the dear public "slandering" every enterprise that comes along. I want every one of the good things which I am here on earth. I want the benefit of dollar gas and the extension of gas mains during the next five years, while I live, not after I am dead. I have carefully read the gas franchise and believe it is fair and reasonable. The only objection I ever heard worthy of consideration is that it took away the right of the city after five years to regulate the price of gas below a dollar. This objection is completely disposed of by the very able legal opinion of Stout & Stone, published in the newspaper yesterday. It is also fairly met by the positive statement in writing by President Hamilton of the gas company.

I am in favor of the gas franchise for the following reasons:

1. It protects the rights of the city and gives fair treatment to a company that has always given a square deal to the city and its people.

2. It gives us dollar gas at once and will give us without delay much needed improvements and gas main extensions. Who can fairly expect the gas company or any other concern to put in a lot of money making improvements on a five-year franchise?

3. It terminates expensive litigation and for a time at least ends all scheming for municipal ownership or talk about construction of another gas plant by the city.

We have had sufficient experience along this line with the water works. Who wants our streets dug up for a new line of gas mains or the operating of a gas plant by the city as well as the water works?

Our present burden of taxation is already too grievous to be borne. I hope and believe the gas franchise will be approved by an overwhelming majority.

J. L. KEMP.

Yes, But Who'd Trade Permanently.
OMAHA, Aug. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: Why bother for Omaha? A friend writes from Colorado, N. H., in a letter dated Monday, August 12, that she is sitting on the porch with a coat and shawl over her and a hot stove at her feet, while we are sweating with the thermometer above the 100 mark.

Maintenance Cost at Penitentiary.
LINCOLN, Neb., Aug. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: In your yesterday's issue you publish what purports to be the per capita cost of maintaining the penitentiary for the semi-annual period beginning December 1, 1912, and ending May 31, 1913.

You made the same error that the Lincoln paper made in their original publication of this matter. You took the one item, the deficiency appropriation of \$80,000, on which to base the per capita cost of \$12.15, which is entirely too high.

To correct this error and to correctly inform the public concerning the actual per capita cost during this period please publish the following official statement:

Statement of maintenance of the Nebraska state penitentiary for the semi-annual period beginning December 1, 1912, and ending May 31, 1913. Expenditures: From regular maintenance funds, \$5,522; From emergency appropriation, \$18,000; From cash fund items, chargeable to maintenance, \$424.

Total, \$22,946. Average population during this period, 278. Per capita cost, \$82.15.

If you wish to make any comparison between the cost of the penitentiary and the cost of the gas franchise, you may look up the cost of the gas franchise at the state house.

W. T. FENTON, Warden.

OMAHA, Aug. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: I had the pleasure of hearing an old beggar talk yesterday evening, and I desire to relate some parts of his story for the benefit of the young boys. Among other things he said:

"I am 54 years of age, half sick, dead broke and without a home; of course I am accustomed to this condition, yet I cannot say that it gives me any great amount of enjoyment. When a boy at school I was considered one of the brightest in the class, and I was honored and petted by parents, teachers and friends, so that by the time I reached the age of 15, I flattered myself that I possessed more wisdom than Solomon, and a better judgment than Napoleon. I might easily have graduated from a college and entered a profession, as my parents advised me to do, but my imagination was too rich to be wasted on text books, and having an incurable itch to see the world, I was persuaded to join a party of tramps. I soon became an expert beggar, and won the esteem of every hobo in the camp, and seeing that I possessed all the necessary qualifications, they elected me their grand master."

"My cheap dreams had at last come true, and I was living without labor and getting the world at cost, and I am beginning to think that I have paid too high for what I have seen. I am too old, however, to retrace my steps, so I live from hand to mouth, raid corn fields and chicken coops in the summer and break into lairs for the winter months. Right here, back railroad detectives and stand at dog doors with trembling humility and receive a package of broken victuals left after the house dogs have dined. But begging, I tell you, is hard work; to get whisky I must have money, so I stroll about the streets in towns and villages soliciting every man and woman that looks least-hearted. And now, my friends, if you will kindly slip me a couple of dimes, I will get a supper and catch a train for Sioux City."

The old beggar hobbled off toward the freight yards, and I sat reflecting upon the great number of unhappy lives and untimely deaths caused by that contagious and distressing malady known as "wanderlust."
E. O. M.

Right to Regulate Continues.
OMAHA, Aug. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: After careful consideration and examination of the proposed gas franchise ordinance as a whole, and especially Section 2 and the provision of the city charter of Omaha, giving to the council the power to fix and regulate prices for gas in Omaha and also the power conferred upon the city by the legislature under his police regulations, and the act of 1912, known as house roll No. 336, and other legal authorities, I have no hesitancy in saying that in my opinion, the adoption of the gas franchise ordinance would not prevent the council from exercising the powers conferred upon it by the legislature to regulate the price of gas in Omaha; also that the contract under its general police regulating

powers, would have the right to fix the rate of gas to consumers. The authorities hold universally that the powers granted to municipal corporations are continuing, that is, they are not exhausted by one exercise. City councils are entirely powerless to restrict the actions of subsequent city councils in regard to any particular subject of legislation, and the act of judgment of one council cannot bind its successors.

The city charter as it now exists, gives to the council, authority to fix the price of gas to the consumers and by no act of the legislature has this power been repealed or any limitations placed upon the same, except that it gives to the council and the gas company the right to enter into a contract by which the price of gas may be fixed for the consumers, and this is done by the act of the legislature of 1912, but this act does not in express words, nor by implication, repeal the present charter provision relating to the power of the council to fix the rate for gas.

Judge Dillon, one of the most eminent writers on constitutional law, says: "If upon the whole, there be fair, reasonable and substantial doubt whether the legislature intended to confer the authority in question, particularly if it relates to a matter which will be attended with taxes, tolls, assessments or burdens upon the inhabitants, or oppress them or abridge natural or common rights or divest them of their property, the doubt should be resolved in favor of the citizen."

Therefore, if there should be any doubt as to the power of the council, after the adoption of this gas franchise, to regulate the price of gas in case of a failure to enter into a contract with the gas company, under Judge Dillon's opinion, that doubt must be resolved in favor of the citizen, or rather the city; that would mean that the council would have the

right to fix the rate for gas to be charged to the consumers in the city of Omaha.
CHARLES T. DICKINSON.

Why the Gas Company is Willing.
OMAHA, Aug. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: The gas company contends that good faith with the city officials demands that the company and the city commissioners advocate approval of the franchise by the people. The real reason why the company is willing to accept the franchise is that it will confer a twenty-five-year privilege to control the gas business in Omaha and its suburbs. The franchise permits the company to charge no more than \$1 for gas. The company is also for the ordinance for the reason that the initiative and referendum cannot be applied affecting the rates and service of the company, statements to the contrary notwithstanding.

As was said by the attorney for the gas company, the reason the company is anxious to renew the franchise five years before its termination is to avoid future hostile council; the deduction being that the present council is not so very "hostile," and might in a pinch concede the gas company a favorable ordinance from the gas company viewpoint.

What things favorable to the gas company have been omitted from the proposed franchise? Can you think of any substantial thing protecting the people's right which is inserted in the proposed franchise? Why be misled by promises of extensions of gas mains by the gas company under the \$1 gas when economic condition has prevented extensions under \$1.15 gas?

M. O. CUNNINGHAM.

Ill Blow of Fortune.
St. Paul Dispatch.

Vice President Marshall lost a pocket-book containing a base ball pass and now the high cost of living is getting to him pretty.

Business Men of Omaha Favor the Gas Franchise Compromise

To the Users of Gas in the City of Omaha: We believe that the proper and speedy settlement of the gas controversy is of the greatest importance to the people of Omaha. Individually, and as citizens, we have given the proposed gas franchise careful consideration and recommend that the same be approved by the voters at the election August 19 for the following reasons: It is in effect an extension of the franchise rights of the gas company for but twenty years—the present franchise has over five years yet to run; it is immeasurably superior to the present franchise from the standpoint of the consumer, because it will secure an immediate reduction of 15 cents per 1,000 feet in the price of gas—a saving to the consumers of over \$700,000 during the remainder of the term of the present franchise; it is not perpetual; it is not exclusive; it will be neither bar nor obstacle to municipal ownership, because the city will be free at all times to build and operate a city gas works, or to condemn and appropriate the present gas plant; it will not increase the price the city will be required to pay for the present gas plant, if the city purchases or condemns the same, because it specifically provides that in such case "no value shall be allowed for the franchise;" it secures to the city the power of regulation over future gas rates by short term contracts; and it will enable the gas company to make extensions and additions as the growth of the city requires.

The growth of Omaha demands progressive public utilities. We cannot expect a utility corporation either to obtain or invest large amounts of capital unless it is fairly treated.

We know that the course of litigation in the federal courts is slow and the results uncertain. We know that at the expiration of the present franchise more than five years from now no court will uphold any effort which the city might make to force the gas company to sell gas for less than cost plus a reasonable return on the fair value of its property.

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