THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.

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FEBRUARY CIRCULATION.

54,328 Daily—Sunday 50,639

Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the average circulation for the month of February, 1916, was 54,328 daily and 50,639 Sunday.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 3d day of March, 1916.

ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

Common sense and safety urge that joy-riding be done at home.

Although Mr. Bryan was born March 19, he can celebrate his birthday most any day.

It goes without shouting that the preparedness dough needs an experienced Baker.

The early robin will be a lucky bird if its feathers are not whisked by the tail of the lion.

From Diaz to Diaz in Mexico is an indefinite span, but the desolation and the graves are measurable.

The presumable moral of that explosion of disinfectants in the El Paso jail is to stop using anything to disinfect jails.

As an example of sustained efficiency the voiceless faculties of Colonel House hold the blue ribbon against all comers.

It will take a long pull, and a strong pull, and a pull all together, to pull a new passenger station across for Omaha—but it can be done.

If old Logan Fontenelle could come back to Omaha and see himself in the monumental hotel that has been named after him he would not want to return to the Happy Hunting grounds.

The prospects of democratic politicians agreeing on a party proposition beyond the pie counter are about as good as rival war bulletin editors agreeing on the outcome of a battle.

The active life of a battleship ranges from fifteen to twenty years, but the style is as prone to change as feminine garb. Naval architecture's "last word" of this year becomes a byword in the next.

A Chicago bachelor judge has quit his job rather than listen to the continuous outpouring of tales of matrimonial troubles. No danger that any of our divorce court judges will follow this example—they have all been married.

Brother Metcalfe, who used to trade upon the fact that he was an echo of Mr. Bryan, is now trading upon the fact that he has broken with his former employer and differs with him on vital issues. Catch 'em coming, and catch 'em going.

Dancing dervishes comprise the chief trophies of war captured by the Russians at Bitlis. To these exponents of ancient terpsichore a modern dance is a profanation, yet they quickly yielded to the dreamy lure of the bearcat hug.

Sioux City's packing house strike touched electric buttons in Omaha and set off the alarm clocks in Chicago, resulting in an all-around wage increase. Managerial talent which readily interprets the signs and heads off trouble tags the cushioned chair in the high salary class.

Political history repeats itself. President Cleveland was obliged to lean on republicans for support against his own party knockers. President Wilson is forced to do likewise. In this, as in all other emergencies, republicans stand up for the nation regardless of the political complexion of the administration.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

Compiled from Bee Files.

The rapid thaw in progress since the storm received a sudden check by the coming of a cold wave and a drop of 20 degrees on the thermometer.

Writing from Boston, George P. Bemis tells of meeting J. H. Millard, Guy C. Barton, Judge Savage and Paul Vandervoort in the Hub.

Attorney James English presented a petition to the county court asking for the appointment of a guardian for an old man named Fenton Thompson.

The Ladies' Musical society has arranged for a recital under its auspices by William H. Sherwood, who is announced as America's greatest pianist.

Attention generally is focused upon the Lauer trial, which is on the board at the court house, but which so far has not gotten past the impanelling of a jury.

Hake & Palmer announce that they will open on April 1 a horse and mule market at the corner of Fourteenth and Howard.

The secretary of the Woman's Christian Temperance union reports on the work done, declaring incidentally that the Fifteenth street lunch room has given meals to sixty-two men out of employment, assisted fifty-two girls out of work, helped people to redeem valuables in pawn, helped five sewing women, strangers in the city, to get work, and furnished one man a pass to go to friends in Kansas

Rights of Noncombatants.

In the turmoil and stress of the war, with belligerents striving for advantage, certain fundamentals are in danger of being lost sight of. One of these is that noncombatants are entitled to immunity from attack, no matter where situated. Unfortified towns are not to be bombarded, merchant vessels are not to be destroyed without first having the safety of those on board made secure, and in other ways the rules of warfare, established under agreement and supported by international law are supposed to protect those who for any reason are not actually engaged in the conflict. These provisions generally have been ignored in the present war, and noncombatants have been exposed almost as if they were active participants in the conflict.

It is not alone a question of neutral rights that is involved in the debate now in progress at Washington, but a question of the safety of the innocent and the helpless. The submarine brought the question to its acute stage, but the air craft is quite as incapable of distinguishing between armed and unarmed cities as the submersible is to make its choice between ships. Raids across enemy lines by air craft, dropping bombs indiscriminately, have done much damage and cost many lives, almost invariably among those who have no part in the war except to suffer. That these operations have been confined exclusively to territory of belligerents can hardly be taken as justification of the practice.

The submarine in its unrestricted operation is a menace to neutrals as well as to noncombatants. Unless it can be restrained by rules that reasonably can be applied the terror and waste of war will be immeasurably increased. The right to "joy ride" on an armed ship is not the main point involved. It is that belligerents be compelled to respect the lives and property of noncombatants, who are now getting scant consideration.

Keep the Courts Together.

It would be a great accommodation to the public as well as facilitate the work to be done, if the new municipal court could be located in the county building in close proximity to the county and district courts. Under the law creating the municipal court, it devolves upon the city authorities to provide the necessary quarters, which in this case means to foot the rent bill, for it seems impracticable to find space for the court rooms in the city hall except by ejecting some of its present occupants, while by a little rearrangement the court house could doubtless be made to take care of a few new inhabitants without serious inconvenience. If this be possible and practicable it behooves the mayor and the council to get together with the county board and work the problem out, remembering all the time that both represent the same set of taxpayers out of whose pockets comes the money for the expense account.

Hawaii and the National Defense.

Governor Pinkham of Hawaii expresses some gloomy views of the predicament of that island territory in an address recently delivered before the National Guard at a banquet. In urging the need of better provision for the defense of the islands, he refers to the possibility of Hawaii being "starved to death," by which he is supposed to mean the complete cutting off of commerce. Whatever apprehensions the governor may have are founded on conditions that will soon be remedied. In both the senate and house bills, creating a new army for national defense, more adequate provision is made for Hawaii than for the mainland.

The importance of Hawaii in connection with the military problem of the Pacific ocean and the western coast of the United States is not underestimated, and its exposed condition is also well understood. Pacifists have suggested that it be abandoned, along with the Philippines, but this proposition has deservedly been scouted. It is not to be thought of, unless we are willing to risk the exposure of the Pacific coast to easy attack from a foe operating with Hawaii as a base. The problem of defense of the islands has been well considered, and will be carefully worked out. Order and good government must be maintained there, as well as elsewhere in the United States, and proper attention paid to the military and naval exigencies of the case.

As to the commerce of Hawaii, it is better provided for than any other division of Uncle Sam's sea borne traffic. A splendid fleet under the American flag plies regularly between Hawaiian and Pacific ports, and this is being increased. If the other sections of the country were as well looked after as is Hawaii, little cause for complaint would exist.

Fontenelle With a Feather.

The painting of Logan Fontenelle, famous chieftain of the Omaha Indians, arrayed in a robe and wearing a feather, may be something of a shock to those who have accustomed themselves to thinking of him as wearing only white man's garb. Nothing could be more appropriate than to show this great man in the costume that correctly designates his standing among his people. The warrior wore a feather in his hair to show that he was a warrior; the chieftain wore the robe of office to show that he was a chieftain. Logan Fontenelle was an Indian, and he was also a warrior and a chieftain, and as a leader among his people he must have worn on proper occasion the costume that bespoke his rank and dignity. No tribe of all the American Indians possesses a richer fund of legendary lore, nor more impressive ceremonials than the Omahas, in all of which it was required that Fontenelle be deeply versed. No great service of his to his own and to an alien race can be correctly gauged by his garb. Fontenelle was a man in his day, and as such will long be remembered by reds and whites alike.

The law governing our Omaha Water district still declares its intent and purpose to be "not only to remove the Water board, but also its employes, from the influence of partisan politics." If the purport of this is not to prohibit Water board employes from running for political offices while on the Water board pay roll, what does it mean?

The settlement of the wage dispute between operators and miners in the bituminous coal fields materially increases the prospects for a settlement in the anthracite fields. With peace assured in the coal fields, public attention will be centered on the demands of trainmen, which remain the chief ominous cloud on the country's horizon.

Aimed at Omaha

Tekamah Herald: The $40,000 damage suit against The Omaha Bee was defeated in the court in Omaha last week. It shows that public sentiment is in favor of throwing the light of publicity on all shady deals and transactions, and the editors are performing a public service by giving the publicity.

Aurora Sun: The Omaha Commercial club is starting a giant campaign for good roads, not alone in Douglas county, but hopes to have the work become epidemic throughout the state. At a meeting Monday Chairman Powell of the good roads committee stated that while Nebraska now ranks among the very first as an agricultural center, it is but third from the bottom of the list in the making of good roads. Well, the good roads problem is here to remain, and it is gratifying to know that Hamilton county is not the last to engage in the work. Nor are we third from the bottom of the list of counties in the matter of good roads, either, although the state may occupy that unenviable place in the catalogue of commonwealths.

York News-Times: The Bee urges the suffragettes to make "abolition of alimony" the cardinal plank in their platform and thinks that such an action will result in victory at the polls.

Pender Republic: Visitors to the various conventions and the show in Omaha automobile week were given an opportunity to inspect the various displays of political wares and candidate booms as they were to view the samples of art of the gasoline buggy makers' skill. Candidates for senators, governors, legislators and other offices within the gift of the great common people flocked at the show and in the corridors of the several hotels distributing the ancient brands of political handshakes, cigars and conversation.

Emerson Enterprise: And now comes the once wild and woolly James Dahlman, Omaha's cowboy mayor, and licks the hand that smote him. He has joined the grape juice brigade and is seeking the national committeemanship from Nebraska with the full endorsement of the Bryan element. O, consistency, thou art a jewel.

Tekamah Journal: The Omaha Bee is right in its campaign against the attorneys that infest Omaha with the only object in view of gettitng hold of unworthy clients and lining them up in personal injury and damage suits. Their object is not so much to get the amount of the damages claimed, but to make the matter so uncomfortable for the defending parties that they will offer a settlement. Te Bee won out in a suit brought against it in such a case. The worst features in these cases is the unscrupulousness of the attorneys and the wholesale perjury that is committed in such kind of cases. If The Bee can aid in cleaning out that class of disreputables it will have done a very worthy thing for Douglas county.

Patriotism

Lyman Abbott.

A NATION is made great, not by its fruitful acres, but by the men who cultivate them; not by its great forests, but by the men who use them; not by its mines, but by the men who work in them; not by its railways, but by the men who build and run them. America was a great land when Columbus discovered it; Americans have made of it a great nation.

In 1776 our fathers had a vision of a new nation "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." Without an army they fought the greatest of existing world empires that they might realize this vision. A third of a century later, without a navy, they fought the greatest navy in the world that they might win for their nation the freedom of the seas. Half a century later they fought through an unparalleled civil war that they might establish for all time on this continent the inalienable right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. A third of a century later they fought to emancipate an oppressed neighbor, and, victory won, gave back Cuba to the Cubans, sent an army of schoolmasters to educate for liberty the Filipinos, asked no war indemnity from their vanquished enemy, but paid him liberally for his property. Meanwhile they offered land freely to any farmer who would live upon and cultivate it, opened to foreign immigrants on equal terms the doors of industrial opportunity, shared with them political equality, and provided by universal taxation for universal education.

The cynic who can see in this history only a theme for his egotistical satire is no true American, whatever his parentage, whatever his birthplace. He who looks with pride upon this history which his fathers have written by their heroic deeds, who accepts with gratitude the inheritance which they have bequeathed to him, and who highly resolves to preserve this inheritance unimpared and to pass it on to his descendants enlarged and enriched, is a true American, be his birthplace or his parentage what it may.

Hughes

Leslie's Weekly.

HUGHES! Our wide-awake friend, the Hon. Victor Rosewater, former chairman of the Republican national committee, reports in his Omaha Bee, after a political survey of thirty leading states, a strong undercurrent for Justice Hughes for the presidential nomination. This eminent jurist has said several times, most emphatically, that he was not a presidential candidate and he has forbidden the election of Hughes delegates to the national convention. There he rests. And there he can afford to rest. It is generally conceded by political leaders that Hughes would be the most formidable presidential candidate the republican party could choose, with chances in favor of his election. He has steadfastly and consistently maintained that he is out of politics and, like a sensible man, he has rested his case there. When the republican national convention meets, if it should be swept off its feet by a unanimous demand for the nomination of any man for the presidency, we do not see how such a nomination could be declined. It would be a call to duty. The anxiety of some of our democratic friends who are warning Justice Hughes that he must not permit his name to be discussed is accompanied by such profuse expressions of high appreciation of his dignity and independence that one surmises it is not wholly without motive.

Twice Told Tales

Sensitive.

Here's a story of a London "nut" who had mounted guard for the first time:

The colonel had just given him a wigging because of the state of his equipment. A little later the colonel passed his post. The nut did not salute. The indignant colonel turned and passed again. The nut ignored him.

"Why in the qualified blazes don't you salute?" the colonel roared.

"Ah," said the nut, softly, "I fawncied you were vexed with me."—New York Globe.

Preparedness.

Mr. Tompkins was obliged to stop overnight at a small country hotel. He was shown to his room by the one boy the place afforded—a colored lad.

"I'm glad there's a rope here in case of fire," commented Mr. Thompkins, as he surveyed the room, "but what's the idea of putting a Bible in the room in such a prominent place?"

"Dat am intended foh use, sah," replied the boy, 'in case de fire am too far advanced foh you' to make yo' escape, sah."—Harper's Magazine.

The Bee's Letter Box

As to Public Utility Competition.

OMAHA, March 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: On the question of competition in public utility service, which every city has raised periodically, the following extract from a paper read before a recent meeting of the National Electric Lighting association by C. B. Aitchison, member of the Public Service commission of Oregon, is in point and should be suggestive to Omaha people:

If the state is to invite private enterprise to perform its governmental functions, it must deal as fairly with the utility as it expects the utility to deal fairly with it. The investment invited must, to the extent that it is prudently and honestly made, be given such reasonable safeguards that in the long run capital will continue to be invested in such enterprises. It has often been pointed out that public utility investments are of a fixed character; the property stays where it is put, and the owner cannot load it upon the cars and take it elsewhere when market conditions do not suit him in the locality where he has made his investment. In no way can the permanency and attractiveness of the public utility service be impaired more quickly than by unnecessary and useless competition admitted or permitted in an already insufficient field. There is no denying that competition often brings temporary gains to present consumers, and there can be no doubt it is sometimes necessary as a disciplinary measure for a utility which has failed in its duty and for the protection of the public. Likewise there can be no doubt that unnecessary or destructive competition ultimately does the community more harm than it accomplishes temporary benefit; that even for temporary benefits there comes a time of repayment with interest, and that the effects on the state as a whole are deleterious. The most aggravated case of all enters into competition—an unregulated free lance—against a regulated, privately owned utility. This situation is met elsewhere, and can be met here by proper certificate of convenience and necessity law, which will permit the working out of a central, well rounded policy, and simultaneously secure to the local communities permanently all the benefits they now secure temporarily through barbaric competitive welfare. It can be conservatively stated that the rate of return which the utility investor might expect and could lawfully demand in protection of his investment as against a schedule made by a rate regulating body, would be lessened in this state at least 1½ per cent per annum. An amount roughly equal to 10 per cent of the total existing utility rate schedule is now being paid needlessly as a premium for the privilege of setting utility corporations onto each other to see which can first be bankrupted. The state is strewn with financial wrecks left after such unnecessary competitive storms have ended, and even the beachcombers have nothing to show for their accumulations.

It seems to me this is sound regardless of whether one favors public or private ownership. CIVIC.

Brutal Punishment of Children.

OMAHA, March 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: Referring to the edifying report from Lincoln to the effect that one Etta Caton, superintendent of the State Home for Dependent Children, had ordered a boy's fingers burned to "cure" him of stealing. The burning, it is alleged, was accomplished by one of the woman's lackeys, after she herself had failed, owing to the child's struggles.

Is every act justified that is perpetrated in the name of "punishment"? Are we going back to the sanctified tortures of the so-called "holy" inquisition? Will the Board of Control disgrace the state by retaining this creature in its employ?

If guilty of such an act she and her accomplice should be promptly dismissed, and then so thoroughly blacklisted that they will find it impossible to practice their orgies elsewhere. But, bless your soul, they will not be dismissed. No doubt they will be whitewashed, and the matter hushed up. It was ever thus. I am not sure that even this letter will be published. Hush! Let us not rail on the Lord's anointed.

FRANKLIN KEITH.

A Hundred Per Cent Investment.

CHICAGO, March 6.—To the Editor of The Bee: All over this country the farmers' wives are asking for help. We are sending money and food to Belgium, why not start a great movement to bring the mothers and children over here and put them out on these farms? The children would grow up to be good American citizens and farmers. No doubt such a movement would find hearty response on the part of farmers all over the union. It would pay 100 per cent on the investment.

C. S. HAMMOND.

6200 Kimbark avenue.

Challenge to the World.

HEARTWELL, Neb., March 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: As to who started the great war has been a vexing subject. For the sake of being neighborly many of our best citizens have held aloof and refrained from discussing it. Their reward has been to receive only more of insult. There are many of German birth that are good Americans, but also many are not. Those who praise the German government, German prosperity and German efficiency are the very ones that scoff at American ways and usages, and would have the United States adopt a course that compared with German methods would be inefficient.

Germany started the great war—of this the world has never been in doubt. Its forty-four years of construction, its sudden ultimatum and manner of procedure at the outset of hostilities left nothing for a guess. England was prepared to master the seas and hold what was hers, but it has been asserted that England and France ere this would have been subdued on French soil if no munitions had reached them from abroad. If so, it was an easy game for Germany after many years of premeditation, careful and elaborate preparation, if contrary to all past usages, a traffic in which it had indulged could be stopped at a time when it would overbalance the scales in its favor.

The next ten years may bring little of glory to this country, even if the entente allies win, but we don't want to see Europe turned into a despotism to tarnish the rest of the earth. Germany's and Austria's acts of torpedoing ships without warning and search made it imperative for ships to arm. The right, if allowed, to torpedo armed merchantmen without warning gives them every advantage of a doubt, and to make sure that nothing escapes, torpedo any ship they desire and leave it to its fate; thus every vessel that crosses the sea is placed in jeopardy. This will bring all merchant vessels to arming. Germany's declaration of a new submarine policy is in inner substance a challenge to the world. Maybe the Teutons would like to have America enter the fray to make surrender appear better and lay the blame for defeat on the western hemisphere. It may not be necessary to declare war that would take our navy and soldiers into European battle line, but we should protect our citizens and commerce on the seas, which might be done by sending cruisers, destroyers and motor boats to accompany ships and protect them from attack by submarines.

W. BARTO.

SUNNY GEMS.

"Are you going to the musicale at the Robinson's tonight?"

"I don't know. Are they going to have music or is Josephine going to sing?"—Pittsburgh Post.

"Do you believe," asked the interviewer, "in maintaining obnoxious ties?"

"Well," replied the barnstorming actor, cautiously, "if you are on a railroad, I spurn them with all my sole."—Baltimore American.

"I see the new stylish costumes from Paris are sensible."

"That's impossible."

"Why?"

"If sensible, they couldn't be stylish."—Baltimore American.

The Self-Made Man—Forty years ago I got my real beginning. I started out in New York with $100. What do you think of that?

New Yorker—Well, it all depends on where you were going.—Judge.

"THE BEST."

Nelson Robins in Youth's Companion.

Did you fall in the race?
Did you faint in the spurt
Where the hot dust choked and burned?
Did you breast the tape midst the flying dirt
That the leaders spikes had spurned?
Did you do your best—
Oh, I know you lost. I knew that your time was bad.
But the game is not in the winning, lad.
The best of it since the beginning, lad,
Is in taking your licking and grinning, lad,
If you gave them the best you had.

Did your tackle fall short?
Did the runner flash by
With the score that won the game?
Did it break your heart when you missed the try?
Did you choke with the hurt and shame?
If you did your best—
Oh, I know the score; I followed you all the way through.
And that is what I am saying, lad,
That the best of the fight is the staying, lad,
And the best of all games is the playing, lad.
If you give them the best in you.

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Via Western Pacific — **4.20 pm from Omaha**—Through tourist sleeper service daily, by daylight through Scenic Colorado, Salt Lake City and the Feather River Canyon. Personally conducted, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Via Southern Pacific — **4.20 pm from Omaha**—Through tourist sleeper service daily to Los Angeles via 'Frisco and Coast Line; by daylight through Scenic Colorado and Salt Lake City. Personally conducted, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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