

THE OMAHA EVENING BEE

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ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO NEWS AND EDITORIAL MATTER TO OMAHA, BEE, EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

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.

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

Experts in political timber hereabouts have no kick coming on the score of quantity.

Naturalization fee grabbing is no joke, but the air of martyrdom attached to it is the funniest scream in the political movies.

Secretary Pool decides that W. J. Bryan is a democrat. Official assurances, however, do not solve the mystery: "What is a democrat?"

After figuring so prominently over here, Dr. Bernard Dernburg ought at least to keep us posted as to where he is and what he is doing.

The enlarged army bill will just have to go through now to make sure that every officer, who goes into Mexico, is rewarded with promotion.

Omaha still has the problem of garbage disposal to meet and it will not be solved by any temporary make-shift, for the benefit of hog feeding contractors.

Democrats should understand without delay that kicking against Brother Charley insures the same brand of cold storage to which gold democrats were assigned twenty years ago.

Only two offices in the whole county list are conspicuous by the absence of a double-header or better. The compliment is distinctly flattering to the county judge and county surveyor.

By the same method of computing, the benevolent railroads have saved their passengers millions by letting them ride for 2 cents a mile instead of charging 3 cents a mile as formerly.

Why are those new municipal judgeships proving so tempting as compared with the old judicial jobs? Can it be merely because their possibilities have not been fully explored and charted?

The fee graft business has scored a record breaking week. If "Bob" could only keep up that \$50-a-day clip a little longer, he would have a campaign slush fund big enough to swamp all competitors.

The first pledge that was to be redeemed when Omaha acquired its water works was the promise to divorce the management of the plant completely from politics—but the water office has been nothing but a political outfitting point ever since.

The voice of Charles Schwab joins the chorus of other steel magnates in protest against the United States manufacturing its own armor plate. No magnate cheerfully lets go of a good thing, and Schwab is no exception to the rule.

Speaking of gas, if the Hitchcock-brewery combine can inflate the "Who-is-He" balloon enough for a successful flight in the primaries, it will be proof that artificially fermented dough-bubbles have more propelling power than an airtight hot air.

Our democratic friends seem to be particularly apprehensive lest Nebraska send a Hughes delegation to the Chicago convention. The one thing our friends, the political enemy, do not want is the nomination of Hughes because they know that then it will be over for the democrats excepting the mourning.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

Compiled from See Files.

Prof. Simon G. Pratt of Chicago, well known musical director, is in Omaha making arrangements for a grand opera festival here in June. He had a session with the managers of the Exposition building and proposes to furnish the music, the soloists, a part of the orchestra and drill the chorus for a guarantee of \$5,000. Among those whom Prof. Pratt proposes to bring to Omaha for the festival is Miss Emily Wynant. He is figuring on four performances, including a matinee.

C. E. Russell, formerly advertising editor on The Bee and now editor of the Detroit Tribune, is here on a visit with his wife.

Bank clearings for the last week, as reported by Manager Hughes of the clearing house, aggregated \$3,868,491, as compared with \$1,785,087 for the corresponding week last year, being an increase of \$2,083,404.

The Union Pacific is advertising for bids to build bridges over the Blue river and Fancy creek. C. E. Mayer, the real estate man at Fifteenth and Farnam, is advertising sixteen lots in Redick's Grove for \$4,000.

Thomas Neesham, chairman of the executive committee of the Knights of Labor, is in the city, registered from Denver. The Young Men's Hebrew Social club had a pleasant dancing party at Lytle's hall, attended by about seventy-five couples.

Along the Southern Border.

The presence of the American army in Mexico has lightened the tension that has existed along the southern border for several years, but has so far engendered nothing of friction that might have been expected. The Carranza authorities have succeeded well in keeping order, even the more turbulent of the Mexicans seeming to be under due restraint for the time being, at least. Many stories are being sent north, commenting on the situation and containing vague hints of lurking trouble, but in the consideration of these statements due allowance must be made for exaggeration natural under conditions that exist. Most of them are based on partial or one-sided statements, and while all contain some elements of fact, none of them are more than indicative of an extremely unfriendly feeling, an experience the border has known of for nearly a century. The Gringo has never been a popular figure in Mexico.

Another point must not be lost sight of. Interests concerned in the defeat of Carranza were not placated by the official recognition given him, nor have they ceased their activity because of such action by our government. Whatever influence these factions have is likely to be for the time exerted in fomenting strife. It is unfair to the scientists to insinuate that they are in any way responsible for the mad acts of Pancho Villa, but it would be more than human if they did not take advantage of the chance thus presented to embarrass Carranza. Mexico is far from being pacified, and the first chief yet has a great deal of earnest work ahead of him to quiet his country.

Both Mr. Wilson and Senor Carranza will earnestly strive to keep the peace, and a little patience on our part now, after years of trial, may result in avoiding a serious clash with Mexico.

Not Nagging—Just Insisting.

A valued reader of The Bee who has been retired on a pension by the Union Pacific, writes to ask: "Why is it your paper keeps nagging the Union Pacific Railroad company? Would it not be a good idea to drop this nagging and get a live wire after some other railroad lines entering Omaha, who claim to be Omaha's friends and ask for Omaha's business, but, at the same time, are assisting the building up of small, nearby, rival towns?"

We fear our correspondent has wholly misconceived the agitation for a new depot, which is primarily directed at the Union Pacific only because, as the landlord for all the other railroads, it must take the responsibility for making Omaha put up longer with the present inadequate and outgrown station.

It is true the Union Pacific has done a great deal for Omaha, but so has Omaha done a great deal for the Union Pacific. Our people voted a bond subsidy that built the bridge across the river and donated the depot site and trackage which the Union Pacific has been cashing in ever since in the form of rentals from the other roads. The revenue which the Union Pacific has had from its Omaha terminals in the last fifteen years would more than pay for the new depot and help pay for the new bridge besides.

If other railroads, which have done as much for Omaha, also got business out of Omaha, that still does not justify the Union Pacific any more than the others withholding what we are entitled to. On the contrary, the fact that other cities are having better treatment at the hands of the railroads really strengthens our claim.

If the Dutch Go to War.

The talk of war between Germany and Holland over the sinking of the Tubantia may end in talk, but the presence of Holland in the war on the side of the Allies would be a matter of serious concern for Germany. So far the strict neutrality of the Dutch has been a factor of supreme importance in the course of the conflict, as it was a most vital and even determining influence at the outset. The strategic importance of the mouth of the Scheldt is understood by all, and its passage in August, 1914, would have turned the course of the war. But the Dutch preserved their integrity and maintained their neutrality. This has been done at considerable expense, for their army has been mobilized since the opening of hostilities, and at present it is estimated that the additional expenses of Holland because of the war have reached a total of \$140,000,000. The Dutch have felt this, and are not in a mood to lightly brook offense from a belligerent neighbor, especially one that has profited through their neutrality as Germany has.

Moreover, the Dutch frontier would make accessible to the Allies the heart of Germany, and would seriously modify the entire situation so far as defensive operations by the Kaiser's army are concerned. To add that length of front to the trenches, as well as to expose all the industrial centers of the Rhine valley to attack would greatly increase the German task. None understand this better than the Germans, and none will likely do more than the Germans to avoid a rupture with a neighbor on whose friendship so much depends.

Tom Taggart and the Toga.

"Tom" Taggart will soon be sworn in as a senator of the United States, the death of Senator Shively having cleared the way for the appointment of the big boss of Indiana to that high office. His presence at Washington in his new capacity will certainly be an inspiration to all who have the good of free government at heart. As great a champion of the doctrine of "let the people rule" as any, he is chief engineer of the most active and corrupt political machine that ever operated in Indiana. His record is written in the annals of the courts of his state, which show the most flagrant abuses of the franchise ever exposed by prosecution, committed by the machine of which Tom Taggart was the central and controlling figure. It is only a few days since he was indicted because of personal participation in these acts. When he dons the toga, Daniel W. Voorhees, Thomas A. Hendricks, "Blue Jeans" Williams and other fathers of the democratic party in Indiana will turn in their tombs. But Taggart has been as "regular" as Mr. Bryan, and he is quite within the Bryan definition of "a deserving democrat."

The appointment of Tom Taggart to the United States senate is a deserved recognition of a party huster skilled in the peculiar methods for which Indiana politics is famous. The promotion is much more desirable than that which the Marion county grand jury sought to confer on him.

Great Caesar Did The Greatest Thing

By Garrett F. Serviss.

THE Julian year is a period of 365.2422 days, which was adopted by order of Julius Caesar upon advice of Astronomer Sosigenes to represent the true length of the year. Before Caesar's time the Roman calendar was in great confusion, largely because the priests insisted upon reckoning time by the moon, and upon trying to adjust the months, measured by the motions of the moon to the year, measured by the apparent motion of the sun. But the two systems could not be geared together. The seasons were thrown into confusion to satisfy the demands of superstition, and whole months were arbitrarily inserted into, or dropped out of, different years in a vain effort to make inconsistent things fit. Then came Julius Caesar, one of the greatest exercisers of common sense that the world has ever seen, and brought order out of confusion.

After having the astronomers clearly explain the sources of the trouble to him, he commanded, to begin with, that the moon should be thrown out of court as a common disturber, and that the length of the year should henceforth be reckoned solely by the apparent annual revolution of the sun, which, as we know, is a result of the real revolution of the earth around the sun as a center of motion.

The astronomers already knew that this period was about 365.2422 days, and Caesar decreed that that should be taken as the basis of a new calendar. To avoid the inconvenience of using a fraction of a day he fixed 365 days as the length of ordinary years, adding one day to every fourth year, and thus making that year 366 days, to strike a balance. This was the origin of "leap year." Then he swung the whole year round so that it should begin on the 1st of January instead of in March, as had been the custom theretofore. He also arranged the length and order of the months, although some of his successors also took a hand in this. The number of the months was twelve, but they were divorced from the incompetent moon, which was left to rove romantically among them as she is doing today. In shifting the year backward, so that the beginning of spring might fall in March, when the flowers come forth, Caesar had to insert two temporary months, between November and December, in the first year of his calendar, and that produced, for the time being, confusion and grumbling, but the man "who did bestirre the little world like a colossus" paid no attention to the grumblers.

But now Caesar did something which betrayed the fact that after all he was only a man, with some of the common human weaknesses; he seized upon the month which had been called Quintilis (the fifth when March was the first) as a perpetual memorial of himself and ordered that its name should be July, from Julius.

And just as when one boy takes a slide another immediately follows in his tracks, so Julius' successor, Augustus, considering what his uncle had done and believing himself to be an equally great man, determined to have a month also, and he took the next in order, Sextilis, and named it August. But, since July had thirty-one days and his month only thirty, Augustus flied a day .com February and added it to August, so that his name should cover as broad a space on the year's face as did that of the man who had founded his empire.

So, when we wonder how February came to be so short that even in leap year she cannot attain the full stature of her sisters, we read the explanation in the vanity of a Roman emperor.

The Julian reform of the calendar embodied a slight error. The true length of the year is not 365.2422, or 365 days 6 hours, but it is 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes and 46 seconds, so that the Julian year was 11 minutes 14.6 seconds too long. In 1582, which was 1,627 years after Caesar had reformed the calendar, the vernal equinox, marking the beginning of the astronomical spring, had fallen back on the calendar ten whole days. Then a pope, Gregory XIII., took the matter in hand, and with the advice of the astronomer Clavius made a new adjustment, which serves us yet today.

Twice Told Tales

What Ministers Heard.

Some of the visiting ministers have told some good stories about one another during the Laymen's Missionary Movement convention here. This is one that was "handed" to Rev. Hugh L. Burleson: A young couple came into his rooms just as he was going to begin service in the church and asked him to marry them. He said if they would wait until after the service he would give them a public wedding. After the benediction, he announced: "Now, while those persons wishing to be married please come forward." It is recorded in the story that eleven women and one man answered to the call. An offset to that story is one told by Dr. Alonso R. Petty of a woman who was before a judge asking for a divorce. The judge leaned over his desk and said to the woman: "Madam, how long did you know this man before you were married?" "Four months," she said. "I was acquainted with him for eighteen months, but I never really knew him until I asked him for a dollar."—San Diego Union.

Against Union Rules.

The soldier was telling the workman about a battle that he had once been in that had lasted from 6 o'clock in the morning until 7 o'clock at night. His description was most graphic, and he became very enthusiastic. "There's one thing I can't understand about the story," said the workman, slowly, when he had finished. "You say that the battle began at 6 o'clock in the morning and lasted until 7 o'clock at night?" "Yes, that's so," was the reply. "Well," returned the workman, "the unions wouldn't stand for such hours nowadays."—San Francisco Argonaut.

People and Events

A bunch of bad boys in a small Jersey town, caught in the act of making a bonfire of a barn were penalized by doing six days' work sweeping streets, picking up rubbish and sprucing up the school yards. The job shriveled their pride and banished the heroes of emulation. A long and a hot chase by university students resulted in the capture of Philadelphia's notorious "peppin' Tom," Robert Ferrow. When pebbles tossed against bedroom windows failed to bring the scenery desired, Ferrow gave an imitation of a cat fight, which invariably brought the goods to the windows. Sartorial artists of St. Louis some months ago invited the rest of the world to contemplate cosmopolitan Missourians arrayed in purple trousers, lavender vests, drab Tuxedos and neckties to match. For some unknown reason the exhibit has been deferred. At least it is not yet visible in St. Louis. An expert tells the local residents they dress about as well as "hod-carries in the east," a humiliation that has provoked "dress-up week," beginning April 3.

The Bee's Letter Box

Preparedness.

OMAHA, March 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: While arguing on the question of "preparedness," I am always asked this: "What will we do if a foreign nation would send a large army over to the United States?" I always wondered how far a foreign army would get in our country after attacking us. Now, for instance, if a foreign nation took a notion to attack the United States, the enemy would have to leave about half of its forces at home in order to protect its citizens there. When the hostile army should come near the coast of the United States, the army would be between 2,500 and 3,000 miles away from home. Then how long do you think the enemy would be able to keep up the fight with its supplies and ammunition at this distance away?

I have also heard some speakers say that we have to fear England because of its large and strong navy. If England has such a powerful navy, why does it not attack the United States? There is a reason, and all Americans know it.

Our country is probably not prepared to go to Europe and fight, but we are certainly prepared to defend our own country. MEREDITH KENYON.

Testimonial to Retiring Official.

VALENTINE, Neb., March 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: At a meeting of the Board of Education, Superintendent J. Lothrop of Long Pine, was elected superintendent of Valentine public schools. G. Green, the retiring superintendent, was not a candidate for re-election, although during the three years of his administration the Valentine schools have made remarkable advancement, perhaps more than during any equal period in their history. In losing Superintendent Green, the Valentine schools are losing a gentleman and a superintendent of very rare ability. J. H. HOWE, Secretary, Board of Education.

Milk Inspector in Defense.

OMAHA, March 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: In reply to the letter of Nathan Straus, I was indeed surprised to note that the famous philanthropist was unaware of the publication of infant mortality rate of his home city for 1915, also at misleading figures quoted by him for 1914. In giving the infant mortality rate for New York City, as 117 per 1,000, I erred. I used unofficial figures published in a New York paper. I have the weekly bulletin of the Department of Health of New York City of January 3, 1916. This bulletin gives the death rate among infants under 1 year of age as 99 per 1,000 during 1915, or eighteen less than I stated. As to the 1914 figures the death rate as stated in Mr. Straus' letter was 23.9 per 1,000, the true figure as shown by this bulletin (No. 2 of New Series, Vol. V) were 96 per 1,000 in 1914, or nearly three times as great as stated by him. He stated further that since 1902, when he first began supplying New York City with pasteurized milk, there has been a steady decrease in the death rate among infants, which at that time was, according to his figures, 95.3 per 1,000. This is contradicted by the increase in 1915 to 99 per 1,000.

Regarding the mistake made by me as milk inspector in putting pasteurization in a bad light and placing obstacles in the way of the noted gentleman in promoting his propaganda, I was unaware of his interest in the milk supply of Omaha until reading his telegram in The Bee. Possibly he is not aware that the average bacteria content of over 1,300 samples taken during 1914 in Omaha was less than 60,000 per c. c. and of 1,200 in 1915, was less than 60,000 per c. c. lower than allowed Grade A pasteurized milk in New York City, which I believe has been reduced to 60,000.

I admit daily inspection of dairies is impossible, but co-operation of press in publishing dairy scores and bacteria count monthly has made this possible, averaging lower than that of pasteurizing plants. Milk produced 200 to 300 miles from a city, on unimproved dairy farms, hauled in cans to a crossroad or railroad station, exposed, probably, hours to the rays of the sun, brought to the city in uniced cars, then pasteurized and delivered to the consumer in from thirty-six to forty-eight hours after drawn from the cow can hardly compare with a product under constant inspection from tuberculin-tested cows, cleanly milked, cooled and aerated promptly, bottled, stored and delivered at approximately 45 degrees Fahrenheit, all within a period of an average of twelve hours.

As our city grows and dairymen are compelled to move far away from the city, the pasteurization of milk may become necessary to provide sweet and wholesome milk. Then (if still in the inspection service) I will recommend that milk be pasteurized in the original container, as it is known that through carelessness of employees it is possible for milk to become contaminated after pasteurization by running same over coolers and through pipes and bottling machines not properly sterilized.

In Omaha, without compulsory pasteurization, infant mortality has been reduced nearly 70 per cent in the last five years, 1915 showing 47 per 1,000, as against 99 per 1,000 (more than double as many) in New York City for the same year, under compulsory pasteurization. CLAUDE F. BOSBIE, Milk and Dairy Inspector.

Tips on Home Topics

Washington Post. Doubtless there wouldn't be a single objection from any quarter against twisting the March lion's tail.

Boston Transcript: The difference between republican economy and "democratic economy" is that the latter is always credited on the debit side of the ledger.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: The seed catalogues are coming in nicely now, and the rakes and hoes in the shop windows tell us that spring is at hand. Otherwise we wouldn't know.

Louisville Courier-Journal: A captious contemporary criticizes the English of Mr. Mondell of Wyoming in a speech in congress. Anyway, he's far the best dressed man who ever came from Wyoming, and a man cannot study all kinds of style simultaneously.

Indianapolis News: General Fred Funston shows appreciation of the Mexican situation, when he suggests that the movements of the troops be made secretly. In other words, he does not want to fight Villa in the newspapers. Go to it, Fred! The newspapers will try to preserve peace at home if you will suppress the disorders on the border.

SUNNY GEMS.

"I see the Jiji is a leading Japanese paper." "Is it a humorous publication?" "A humorous publication would hardly be called Jiji. More likely to be called Hawhaw."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"They say," remarked the astute boarder, "that the woman who hesitates is lost." "Lost is not the proper word for it," growled the fussy old bachelor at the pedestal extremity of the table. "She's extinct."—Indianapolis Star.

BEAR MR. KABIBBLE, SHOULD I ACCOMPANY MY FIANCE TO THE DOOR WHEN HE LEAVES?

YES—SOME FIANCES HAVEN'T SENSE ENOUGH TO CLOSE A DOOR WHEN THEY DEPART!

Edith (still blushing)—Am I the first girl you ever kissed? Jack—No, darling, but you are the last. "Ritual"—Am I really? Oh, Jack, it makes me so happy to think that.—Boston Transcript.

"They're a sensible married couple." "Which means, I take it, that they are robbing each other of the fun of giving one another birthday presents that neither can afford."—Detroit Free Press.

"Some philosophers say that objects which we call inanimate have thoughts and feelings." "Maybe they have," rejoined Mr. Currox. "If such is the case the piano my daughter practices on is a mighty patient brute."—Washington Star.

The following is a bona fide statement made by a 7-year-old girl who had listened to medical talk all her life. Being asked her father's business, she replied: "My father is a doctor, but he isn't a quack! My father's got a license, so if he kills anyone they can't arrest him!"—New York Times.

"So poor William has been caught by a leap year proposal and the bride-to-be wants it announced. What part of the paper shall I put it in?" "If you want my opinion of William's preference, I'd put it in under 'Help Wanted.'"—Baltimore American.

Supreme Court Justice—(in grammatical error)—Fix me up in good shoes, honey! I've got to address the lawyers' club this evening. Instructor (smiling)—Want to practice slipping on the bar?—Puck.

Hokus—Scrabbler has had no less than nine plays rejected. Hokus—What is he doing now? Hokus—Writing essays on the decline of the drama's life.

DEMOCRATIC HARMONY.

The democrats are having Omaha agitation. Calling names and backing each other's battle line. The fellows who are praying for peace upon this earth are fighting like the mischief and tipping up the turf.

Bill Bryan says he'll fight like sin to drive the boozey crew, and then pulls for Jim Dohman (he doesn't pull out loud). There's Brother Charley, looking wise, 'Cock of the demo walk', thinks he had an "idea"—name—So shakes himself with talk.

And Hitchcock says that Morehead is just the candy boy, so long as he is running. For warriors cannot have their pay. Once Howard pulled for Mister Berge and shelled the woods for (air), but now he pulls for Howard—Tooth, toenail, shirt and hair.

Neville, the new What-is-it, From out the golden west, Is getting Chuey's Sewerbranch To help him fill his vest. And many more have won renown Whose names I cannot mention, Heals wounds, and gives The stork old mule attention.

The "Little Giant" Thompson Thinks crabbins is a "sin", It makes the federal lightning Hit miles away from him. It is a story, say my naiss, That victory and reason Can't keep those hungry demopops Filled up but for one season.

So let the merry war go on, And let our crust walk on peas, For warriors cannot have their pay. Till crust wars shall cease, A secret I'll confess— Until the voters vote this fall And skin the whole blamed mess.

Omaha. L. R. EMITH.

THE OLD RELIABLE ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure MADE FROM CREAM OF TARTAR

Time Determines Opportunity WESTERN UNION Telegraph Service always available almost everywhere, gains time, restores time lost, overtakes escaping opportunity. Hundreds of vital situations are saved daily by timely use of Western Union Telegrams, Day Letters, Night Letters, Cablegrams and money transferred by telegraph. Full information at any Western Union Office. THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO.

HASTY LUNCH--THAT'S IT SAVES TIME Promotes friendly intercourse with the very men you might otherwise seldom see. This hotel is a rendezvous of the business man, the man of affairs and the man about town, at the noon hour. They may be enjoying the Hasty Luncheon in the Men's Cafe, patronizing the Barber Shop which, by the way, is the best in the city, or playing a friendly game of Pool or Billiards. That's why the Fontenelle is Headquarters for "Everybody Worth While." "Built For You to Enjoy." HOTEL FONTENELLE A. Burbank, Managing Director.

Persistence is the cardinal virtue in advertising; no matter how good advertising may be in other respects, it must be run frequently and constantly to be really successful.