THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.

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MARCH CIRCULATION,

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State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss.
Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the average circulation for the month of March, 1915, was 52,092.
DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager.
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 2d day of April, 1915.
ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

May 1

Thought for the Day

Selected by Mrs. Wm. Doolittle

"O girl of God! O perfect day!
Wherein shall no man work but play,
Wherein it is enough for me
Not to be doing, but to be."
—H. W. Longfellow.

Remember that boosting goes further than knocking.

Cheer up! Political windjammers will be interned in two more days.

Beaten down to brass tacks, the electric light question looks like a choice once more between really reducing the rates or merely buying a lawsuit.

Down at Lincoln there are five municipal referendum propositions before the voters as against Omaha's three. Here's one place where Lincoln beats us.

Just what bearing the appointment of Sam Patterson has on the political fortunes of Brother Charley cannot be determined until the Lincoln returns are all in.

Athletic training is not only desirable, but necessary for youth. As an attractive preliminary course, gardening and digging dandelions beats every system in sight.

Yes, but what has woman suffrage to do with our present Omaha city election? The people thought that issue was adjudicated for at least four years by the vote taken last fall.

One juicy federal plum has fallen from the tree, but that will not satiate the hunger of long-waiting Nebraska democrats. Let them comfort themselves with the thought that the tree that can be shaken once can be shaken again.

The south professes to be thankful for the jolt of war which overturned the throne of cotton and forced a diversification of crops. On another historic occasion war let in considerable light in the same section.

None of the accounts of Colonel Roosevelt's departure from the witness stand record his characteristic exclamations. The absence of "a bully time" and a "corking good time" is the one lacking color in the picture.

The once noted Sheepshead bay race track on Long Island is being converted into a motordrome. Lovers of speedy horseflesh in Omaha plan to build a race track within the oval of the motor speedway. Two pathetic acknowledgments of the supremacy of the motor in speed and public favor.

The Riggs bank attack on the administration of the Treasury department evidently strikes a tender spot in the federal system of bank supervision. The employment of Untermyer and Brandeis as special counsel for the government foreshadows a more serious situation for treasury officials than their statements at the outset indicated.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

COMPILED FROM BEE FILES

The first grand shopping excursion put on by Loyal L. Smith was pronounced a grand success. A special excursion train came on the B. & M., chartered for the exclusive use of the patrons of Smith's dry goods store, and the enterprise is said to be unprecedented in the history of the city.

A large audience attended the May day concert at the Young Men's Christian association, Mr. McDonald and Miss Ella McBride carrying off special praise among the performers.

Omaha squeezed in a victory over the Clevelands on the base ball grounds today. Score, 4 to 3.

The contract was let by the county commissioners to John P. Coots to build the retaining wall around the court house. The price named is $10,900, and the work is to be completed in ninety days.

Mr. and Mrs. George N. Smith and family, formerly of Plattsmouth, have come to Omaha to reside permanently.

Barney Hughes, an old-time telegrapher, is here from Memphis, visiting his cousin, John A. Creighton.

C. F. Harrison, room 20, Omaha National Bank building, wants to sell a good family driving horse.

Another strike is threatened among Western Union telegraph operators.

Arrangements have been made to locate the city treasurer, city clerk, auditor and engineer in rooms in the new county court house until other quarters are available.

Keep It Before the People.

Keep it before the people that the city of Omaha is a great business corporation, with many and varied activities, for the benefit of its people, who foot the bills.

Keep it before the people that this corporation represents assets of nearly $200,000,000, with annual income and outgo of upward of $1,500,000.

Keep it before the people that the active management of this great co-operative business devolves upon a board of directors of seven men chosen to serve for three-year terms.

Keep it before the people that the choice of stockholders has been limited to the fourteen men whose names will appear on the oficial ballot, and that seven of these men will be chosen as managing directors at the election next Tuesday.

Keep it before the people that the real responsibility is theirs to choose directors for the municipal corporation who will run its business economically and efficiently, and the way the stockholders want it run.

England Not Yet for Prohibition.

A doubled excise tax on alcoholic beverages will take the place of prohibition in the British kingdom, and the danger point in the war is again passed. Lloyd-George has taken advantage of the agitation to turn a little more revenue into the royal exchequer, but the debate shows the cause of prohibition to be hopeless. Even the clergy declined to take the pledge of total abstinence, even with the example of the king to sustain them. The good archbishop of Canterbury said he had once tried abstinence and found it did not agree with him, and this view seems to be the more popular.

The outcome of the agitation is not surprising. The Bee at the beginning pointed out that the British public was not so amenable to royal command as the Russian, and the national habit of taking a drink was too deeply rooted to be easily eradicated. In making the final announcement of the disposition of the question, Lloyd-George told the House of Commons "I am prepared to take a pledge never to politically touch drink again." His sincerity in this will hardly be questioned. It is quite easy to understand that the present chancellor of the exchequer, as well as the other members of the cabinet, will be very willing to retire when the burden of their present task is lifted from them.

Methodists Talk of Union.

A council of Methodist bishops, sitting at Des Moines, has named a committee to take the preinary steps looking to the union of the three branches of the church in the United States. How to approach the task will be for this committee to determine, and, when the clearing away process has gone far enough, the actual work will be undertaken. This is not going to be accomplished in a little while. It is one of the peculiarities of religion that it only takes a little thing to start a schism, but once it is started, it seems all but impossible to remove it. The fine shades of distinction that separate the sects are a continual source of wonderment to observers from the outside, but to those who are on the inside these apparently insignificant differences are all but impassable walls.

The step proposed by the Methodists is a wise one. It will not only have the effect of simplifying the religious practices of the church, but it will make possible a more effective administration of its material affairs, by removing such impediments as the duplication of effort, lack of uniformity and similar defects in management. Even this is not so easy of accomplishment, as the Presbyterians have discovered, in the course of their movement for consolidating the church in America. Property interests have arisen, out of which certain vested rights have developed, and the adjustment of these is a most vexatious undertaking.

However, the Methodists may be able to escape some of the embarrassment their Presbyterian brethren have encountered. Their step is in the right direction, and, if carried out, will have the direct effect of increasing the efficiency of the church as a factor in the advance of civilization.

Esculapius Up to the Minute.

A new era has dawned in the practice of medicine, or maybe it would be more nearly accurate to say that the doctors are keeping right up to date. For example, an Iowa doctor actually flies to the relief of an injured man, an adventitious aviator taking him on his mission at the rate of 110 miles per hour. This is improvement with emphasis. In days not so far gone the Iowa doctor patiently made his way on foot or horseback over the muddiest roads the sun ever shone on, his outfit of drugs, medicaments and instruments in his saddlebags, moving from patient to patient on a never ending round. He dispensed blue mass, calomel, quinine and similar nauseous drugs in such liberality that frequently a sick man got well merely to escape the doctor's attentions. Nowadays, he mounts a swiftly moving flying machine and outspeeds the wind to the bedside of the suffering, ministers to him from the plethora of modern aids to health and leaves him, mind composed and body restful, blessing the inventions of the age. The distance traveled by the art of healing between the saddlebags and the era of the flying machine is not to be measured in the terms of days and months, but in the strides of science, which have been such that an Omaha doctor recently felt justified in testifying in court that a first-year student in a good medical school today sees more than Darwin did in the zenith of his fame.

"The democratic ideal," explains a Missouri spokesman, "is a realm with the bosses reduced to the ranks and the people ruling through strictly accountable representatives." The reality in a realm of elective bosses who, in Missouri, reject presidential nominations because they lack gumshoe endorsements, and in Nebraska fight so fiercely for the spoils that a mouthful rarely comes over the counter to nourish the faithful.

The suddenly developed tender solicitude by the antis for the one present commissioner left off the city hall "slate" is indeed inspiring. Not quite inspiring enough, though, for them to adopt the orphan for the seventh place on their own ticket, which they have left vacant.

All About the Jitneys

Hugh S. Fullerton in American Magazine

THE United States is having a transportation revolution. Forty-six cities are already involved. Every day another municipality joins the movement led by the jitney bus.

The great street car and traction companies are fighting desperately to maintain their claims upon the streets of American cities. In a dozen cities the aid of the courts has been invoked to stop the progress of the jitney bus.

Never in the history of the United States has there been so sudden and so unexpected an economic development. A few months ago, a genius in Los Angeles put into operation an automobile bus charging 5-cent fares.

Today jitney busses are running in almost every large city in the west and central west, and lines are being started everywhere. The latest reports indicate that there are between 8,000 and 9,000 licensed jitneys operating in these cities.

The name jitney is interesting in itself. It has been used, especially among negroes and in the south, to mean a 5-cent nickel. Various explanations of the origin of the name have been advanced. The most logical one comes from Colonel William H. T. Shade of Lake City, Ia. Mr. Shade was for many years a theatrical, circus and minstrel business manager and advance agent. He believes the word comes from the French "jetton," meaning a small metal disk, and now applied to telephone slugs in France. It was used, also, to mean the small metal disks used as checks in gambling houses, and the word was in common usage among the French and Creoles in Louisiana. Years ago a minstrel troupe played in Lake Providence, La., and the negroes had many of these jettons, which passed current as small change. When the cashier of the minstrel troupe checked up after the performance he found himself with a quart or so of jettons, which the negroes called jitneys. It became a common expression in minstreldom.

When the 5-cent fare busses adopted the name jitney they unconsciously found a trademark worth millions in advertising. The name "stuck."

On December 1, 1914, a few jitney busses were running in Los Angeles. In a week the streets were lined with them. San Francisco, the Bay Cities, Portland, Seattle and Spokane, had seized upon the idea, and private cars, sightseeing busses and even trucks were being transformed into busses and licensed to carry passengers. Denver took it up, Salt Lake, Pueblo—then Kansas City, where it struck hardest. In Kansas City the first bus, operated by H. W. Miller, carried a passenger a trip on the average for two days. Inside of two weeks from the day he started operating his car on the jitney basis there were 200 cars in commission carrying over 25,000 passengers per day, and the number was steadily increasing.

In New Orleans, where the public long has complained against street car service, the idea became popular in a day. Inside of two weeks the street car company, which had refused to grant any concessions, was advertising "seats for all." The jitney responded with 3-cent fares for children and precipitated a merry war. In Salt Lake twenty pay-as-you-enter jitney cars are in operation and more have been ordered, making serious inroads upon the traction receipts. There are more than 100 jits in operation in San Antonio, Tex.; New Orleans reports 120 passenger cars operating, at a profit of $5 per day per car; Kansas City now has 200 cars licensed, claiming to carry 45,000 passengers a day. Spokane has ninety busses running, and the corporation formed to operate them has ordered new fifteen and thirty-nine-passenger cars; Portland has a $300,000 jitney corporation; Milwaukee has installed big cars running on ten-minute schedule over a three-mile line; Columbus, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton, Akron, Hamilton, Springfield, in Ohio; Peoria, Ill.; Terre Haute, Evansville and Indianapolis, in Indiana; Jackson and Vicksburg, in Mississippi; Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Lawton, in Oklahoma; Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, Omaha, Des Moines, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Chicago, Baltimore, Washington, are among the cities that have adopted the jitney bus idea.

The jitney has come so suddenly that no one really knows whether it will solve the transportation troubles of the cities or further increase them. Some cities in their eagerness to escape from the traction companies are giving to the jitney corporations rights that may be just as hard to abrogate as the street car franchises are.

The two big problems are congestion of streets and danger of injury. In Kansas City the traffic police and others declare the jitneys do not congest traffic as much as street cars do, and are easier to handle. Los Angeles already is complaining of congestion of the main down-town streets and danger to pedestrians and shoppers.

It is evident that before the jitneys are received as an established public service factor some liability insurance must be arranged. The jitneys are operated chiefly by persons of small means, and the danger of personal injury of passengers is to be considered. The street car companies declare the proportion of passengers injured will be larger than in any other form of transportation, and that it will be practically impossible for injured passengers to recover damages.

Already the various jitney corporations are planning a great jitney insurance company, which will guarantee the owners of jitneys against liability for accidents.

Twice Told Tales

Fixed the Boys.

An old circus man tells this one:

"The usual crowd of small boys was gathered about the entrance of the tent in a town in Illinois. A benevolent looking old gentleman standing nearby watched them for a few minutes with a beaming eye. Then, walking up to the ticket-taker, he said, with an air of authority:

"'Let all these boys in, and count 'em as they pass.'

"The gateman, thinking that the benevolent looking old gentleman was indulging in a bit of philanthropy, did as requested. When the last lad had gone in, he turned and announced: 'Twenty-four, sir.'

"'Good,' said the benevolent looking old gentleman, as he walked away, 'I thought I guessed right.'" —Philadelphia Ledger.

Definition of Water.

Upon the eve of the annual meeting of the Kentucky Educational association another story of the public schools may not come amiss. This one is said to have happened at the Washington school, where part of the original work was definitions of familiar things.

"Johnny Jones, what is water?" asked the teacher.

For the moment Johnny was stumped. Only for the moment, though, for he triumphantly answered: "Water is what turns black when you put your hands in it."—Louisville Times.

People and Events

A high court decision gives the jitney the right to scout for the nickels in Virginia, without a franchise. Liberty has a deep root in the Old Dominion.

Miss Missouri Hawkins of New York, just over the century mark, recalls the time she danced with Lafayette. A great honor surely, but what kind of dance could a girl of 9 do with a man of 67?

The divorce mills of Kansas do a tidy domestic business with becoming sobriety. One-seventh of the matrimonial ventures of the state go away and appeal to the court for relief from team work. Last year there were 16,212 weddings and 2,332 divorces. Seven of the 105 counties didn't have a divorce case.

Warden Osborne of Sing Sing has a chance to put his reform theories to the test. Among his latest boarders is a man who was once tried and acquitted of murder and later sentenced to forty years for alleged participation in a holdup, then released by a higher court on the ground that he was not properly identified. The last turn of the wheel brought him twenty-five years for robbing a sailor of $38. In this case theory goes against a tough proposition.

The Bee's Letter Box

Appreciation of Music in Omaha.

OMAHA, April 30.—To the Editor of The Bee: Omaha is ragtime crazy. Is it not a positive proof of this when such organizations as the Mendelssohn choir of Omaha and the Chicago Symphony orchestra come together in joint program and receive such small audiences as they have for several years?

Should not the business men of our city back up the Mendelssohn choir to the extent of at least appearing at their concerts?

If a ragtime band were to appear in this city they would have no trouble in getting a crowd. People would gladly stand up the entire evening to hear such music; to hear the men with their blasted cornets or to hear the trombones blare out an ear-piercing blam! blam!

Is it not a shame that a city the size of Omaha with such a country to draw from cannot fill the Auditorium for two evenings, but can jam a huchey-kuchey show at the carnival and keep on pouring in it from the time it starts in the afternoon until it closes, and repeat this day after day until the carnival festival is over?

There are business men in this town who would have it understood that they are well educated, but would rather go to some burlesque show and see a chorus of painted beauties swing their legs in the air than to hear the grandest music ever written by the masters of the art.

Omaha has a choir of which it should be proud, so let us not only say we are proud of it, but show that we are helping to make their next concerts one grand big success.

A MUSIC LOVER.

That Kick on Late Bowling.

OMAHA, April 30.—To the Editor of The Bee: In answer to a "kick on all night bowling."

Not being able to have a personal interview as I should like to with the party who asked you to publish the above complaint from the fact that his full name and address are not in evidence, I take the only means of answering available, but with full name and address attached thereto.

As every one who enters my place of business knows I have been very careful about stopping play on all alleys at 12 o'clock, they must know it is not with my consent or favor that anything like 4 o'clock in the morning "bowling" should have been in evidence at all.

Now as I myself enjoy sleeping and go home to sleep with the assurance that my place of business is quiet from 12 o'clock until morning, I would consider it a favor to be told personally about an occurrence of this kind so that I can correct same without giving the general public the impression that I am running all night, which as they all should know is far from being the existing state of affairs. As to the other disturbances mentioned in connection with this same complaint I do not know anything of them, but will adjust at once what seems to have occurred during my absence here Tuesday night.

Assuring the author of the above complaint and the public in general that I would appreciate a personal interview on any thing like the above hereafter.

W. L. SCHOENMAN,
Proprietor, The Farnam Alleys.

Editorial Snapshots

Washington Post: Senator Poindexter's reasons for returning to the fold are interesting, but none was really needed.

Washington Star: Peace sessions at The Hague are almost as crowded as the Wednesday night prayer meeting when the circus is in town.

Indianapolis News: The discovery that the Japs in Turtle bay are really doing what they say they are doing must be a great disappointment to former Representative Hobson.

Philadelphia Ledger: Once again Jersey justice wins. Holding a careless water company responsible in a typhoid case is fixing responsibility and educating the public at one and the same time.

New York Post: Was there any premeditation in President Wilson's selection of a D. A. R. convention as the place at which to commend to his countrymen the virtue of self-restraint?

Wall Street Journal: If you come into Wall street for a "clean-up," you usually get it. Suppose you content yourself with profits which would amply satisfy the people who really know what they are doing?

St. Louis Republic: President Wilson's reference to the great silent body of Americans in his recent neutrality speech will remind many people of the fact that the most of the noise is coming from a very few men.

Indianapolis News: It's all well enough for the Noordam, with the women's peace conference delegates, to fly a white flag with the word "Peace" in blue letters on it, but suppose some of those submarines can't read English?

Pittsburgh Despatch: Kitchener, Lloyd George says, is very gratified at the result of recruiting and the government does not believe conscription could do any better. Some of the American militarists may ponder that expert testimony with profit.

Philadelphia Ledger: Last week seventeen years ago our war with Spain was declared. It lasted scarcely three months and a half. To October 1, 1898, the total deaths reached 2,910, of whom 2,004 died from disease, and the war expenditures to that date amounted to about $240,000,000. Compare these figures with those of the European conflict and they seem a mere skirmish. And yet at the time they seemed very serious.

Philadelphia Ledger: America's strength is to be found in its 1,700,000 business concerns. What they want is freedom of opportunity and the unfettered use of their time. It costs them money to fill out intricate inquiry blanks from Washington and attend benevolent investigations. They do their best work when let alone. And the kind of government that frets and hinders them hampers production and hurts the general good.

Springfield Republican: The passage of the widowed mothers' pension bill by the New York assembly by the overwhelming vote of 129 to 7, following the passage of the bill by the senate several days before, is striking evidence of the popularity which such legislation has acquired in the few years since it was first tried. This form of relief has reached its first important development in this country and is likely to remain for some time America's most important contribution to the modern problem of social insurance which, in its several divisions, has received very much more attention in Europe than here.

Here and There

A foxy gardener at Stevens' Point, Wis., disliking a wordy row with a neighbor whose chickens trespassed in his yard, tied written cards to scattered grain and let the raiding chickens carry home in their bills the evidence of their guilt. One of the cards read: "I am a thief. My owner does not feed me enough. I have to visit the neighbors." The owner accepted the evidence in good humor and penned the raiders.

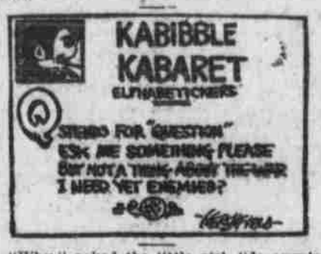
To keep secret a secret process for making artificial leather is puzzling Philadelphia lawyers and at least one Quaker City court. The plaintiff obtained a temporary injunction forbidding an employe revealing the process. The latter offered to prove by experts that the process was not a secret, but the court would not permit the showing, as that proceeding would annul the injunction. With Solomonesque wisdom the court continued the injunction and granted an appeal.

LAUGHING GAS.

"For $2 I will foretell your fortune."
"Are you a genuine soothsayer?"
"I am."
"Then you ought to know, that I haven't got $2."—Kansas City Journal.

Kumme—Is your wife saving?
Backe—Very; when she sees any loose tobacco under my writing table she sweeps it up carefully in a dustpan and puts it back in the tobacco jar.—Brooklyn Citizen.

"How are the springs on this car?"
"Simply wonderful! You don't notice a child, and even when you run over a grown man, it's no discomfort at all!"—Life.



"Why," asked the little girl, "do angels have wings?"
"Maybe," answered the little boy, "it's to prevent them from getting the golden streets all mussed up with their muddy feet."—Washington Star.

"How did you get your clothes torn and your face bruised?" asked the boy's father.
"My condition," was the cautious reply, "is the result of a slide to second base."
"But I thought you were umpiring the game?"
"I was. I said the boy who slid didn't make it."—Washington Star.

"I want you," said the fair society leader, "to give me a plain opinion about my picture."
"Madame," said the gallant cavalier, bowing, "to speak in plain terms of that portrait would be impossible."—Baltimore American.

"There's a good deal in this southern hospitality."
"Is that so?"
"Yes; they gimme eight months for vagrancy in New Orleans. I never got more than sixty days in the north."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

TO MY HAT.

Yes thou surely art a stunner,
Oh, my hat!
Biggest I have seen this summer,
Oh, my hat!
Thou hast flowers, tips and bows
And thou strikest on the nose
Him who dares to come too close,
Oh, my hat!

True, thou slip and slide and joggle,
Oh, my hat!
In the wind thou wiggle-woggle,
What of that?
Tho' my head doth ache and throb
I sure made a hit with Bob,
And he saith thou didst the job,
Oh, my hat!

Thou hast caused me quarts of tears,
Oh, my hat!
Springs and falls for twenty years
More than that
Hast made wrinkles in my face
And brought on a nervous case,
But to shun thee, were disgrace,
Oh, my hat!

Half of last month's wages bought thee,
Oh my hat!
Thirty afternoons I sought thee,
Blessed hat!
But man's fancy it hath willed thee,
I must wear thee though it kill me,
And my dying words shall still be
Oh—my—hat!"

Lincoln. HELEN CARRAHER.