# THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK,
Treasurer.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 2d day of January, 1908.
ROBERT HUNTER,
Notary Public.

**WHEN OUT OF TOWN.**

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

Brazilians are getting a good look at the Monroe doctrine.

The Washington Herald has a beautiful faith. It sees daily evidences of the "crumbling of the Taft boom."

If Senator Burkett does not want to go as a delegate to the Chicago convention no attempt will be made to force him.

Milwaukee is struggling along under sixteen inches of snow and an increase in the price of beer. Troubles never come singly.

"The army needs looking after," says the New York Sun. History shows that the army has always been able to look after itself.

According to latest telegraphic advices, God reigns and the government at Washington still lives, in spite of patronage differences between senators.

Most of the editors who are calling attention to "faults in the Aldrich bill" apparently agree that one chief fault is that it was drawn by Senator Aldrich.

And now a statewide Bryan club is to be formed. What for? Is there any question as to whether the majority of Nebraska democrats are really for Bryan?

Judge Parker warns the country that it would be dangerous to put "untutored idealism" in charge of national affairs. Wonder whom the judge is aiming at?

Senator Reed Smoot says the number of Mormons living in polygamy in Utah has been greatly reduced in the last two years. Due to the increased cost of living?

The humor of the local postoffice situation is to be found in the spectacle of an ex-confed coming to the front to help keep the job in the possession of the G. A. R.

Pittsburg reports an increased demand for pig iron, that sensitive business barometer which reflects the activity or depression of every branch of the building industry.

The proceedings of the State Historical society just concluding its annual session emphasizes the persistence of that comforting and comfortable rule, "de mortuis nil nisi bonum."

"Of course I would accept the democratic presidential nomination," says Judson Harmon of Ohio. Mr Harmon is scheduled for a telegram from Lincoln saying, "Of course you won't."

John Sharp Williams has been booked solid for chautauqua engagements next summer. It may develop, after all, that Mr. DeArmond was only acting as the press agent of Mr. Williams.

The claim of admiring democrats that Mr. Bryan was defeated in 1896 because he was not known sounds all right, if it did not recall the fact that he was defeated in 1900 because he was known.

The state of Kentucky is furnishing another graphic object lesson in the way of a senatorial deadlock to support the growing demand for the election of United States senators by direct popular vote.

## *SENATORS AS DELEGATES.*

According to dispatches from Washington, Senator Burkett has reconsidered his expressed desire to represent Nebraska in the Chicago convention as one of the delegates-at-large, giving as his reason "misgivings as to the propriety of one who has been honored by public office being a candidate for delegate." There has always been more or less debate on this subject, the real point involved being the wholesome rule that honors should be passed around instead of being all heaped up on one man, and that those who have served the party without emolument or reward should occasionally have recognition in the party councils.

If, however, Senator Burkett's newly taken position is intended to rule out at the same time, as it is plainly intended to do, both his colleague, Senator Brown, and Governor Sheldon, we doubt whether it will be accepted by the republicans of this state as a hard and fast rule. No one should be forced to serve as a delegate to the national convention who does not want to go, but because Senator Burkett has concluded that he does not want to go need not invalidate the claims of any one else, even though likewise "honored by public office." If to avoid having men already honored we have to go to the other extreme of selecting delegates-at-large unknown outside of their own localities, who would be lost in the convention hall, nothing whatever would be gained.

The fact is that the great national conventions are meeting places of the leaders of each political party. The democratic convention as well as the republican convention will count in its membership representative men from every state in the union, including governors and senators and congressmen, and men distinguished in all walks of life. In the last republican national convention held at Chicago Illinois was represented by delegates-at-large, consisting of the two United States senators, the speaker of the house and the governor. Iowa was represented by the two United States senators and its governor. Massachusetts was represented by the two United States senators and a former secretary of the navy, Minnesota by the two United States senators and the governor, New Jersey by the two United States senators and the governor, New York by the two United States senators, the governor and a former governor, Ohio by the two United States senators and the governor, and so on in the great majority of the states in which republicans are in control. In the democratic national convention at St. Louis a similar situation was presented.

The idea rightly governing the make-up of national convention delegations is to send the strongest men to the front to give each state its proper standing through those who have the widest acquaintance and greatest influence. In the selection of these men, whether to represent Nebraska at Chicago or at Denver, the respective political parties should consider not only the individual claims and merits, but also what is best calculated to keep Nebraska to the fore and to secure for this state the recognition in national party councils that it deserves.

## *MR. HEARST'S SOFT PEDAL.*

The political world, which knows William Randolph Hearst, editor of a chain of more or less sensational newspapers between New York and San Francisco, will have to sit up and take notice of a change which has apparently come over the spirit of the dreams of this stormy petrel of American journalism and politics. Americans with memories that survive through a dozen years can not fail to recall the Hearst part in bringing on the war with Spain, his abuse of President McKinley and his assaults upon President Roosevelt. In view of this record, nothing but wonder and astonishment can follow reading of the letter he sent recently to a conference of the leaders of the Independence league at Indianapolis. The letter was over 6,000 words in length, but here are some of the salient excerpts from it:

I firmly believe that all reforms should be made with as little disturbance of existing conditions as possible. Business conditions are in a certain way like the conditions under which life exists on this planet. If those conditions are too suddenly disturbed, life is destroyed, and if business conditions are too suddenly disturbed, prosperity is destroyed.

I do not believe that it would be wise at this time to further disturb business conditions, and I think the plan to issue a flexible currency through the banks is a good one and as much as we can accomplish in the near future.

An immediate and radical revision of the tariff would certainly upset business interests and probably do more harm than good.

It is something of a gasp-producing proposition to find Mr. Hearst insisting that "all reforms should be made with as little disturbance of existing conditions as possible." Heretofore he has been wont to demand that the existing order of governments, empires and worlds be changed over night to suit his fancy. That he should "about face" so suddenly is more significant than would appear from surface indications, and he need not be surprised if the political public shows some curiosity as to the reasons for the change. Mr. Bryan, for instance, may be at a loss to understand the kaleidescopic change. He and Mr. Hearst have fought with and against each other in the political arena and are now living under the terms of an agreement for armed neutrality. While Mr. Hearst has declared that he is out of politics, his Independence league is working overtime in every state in the union. It is barely possible that Mr. Hearst at last realizes that a majority of the American people are fundamentally conservative and may be training for the role of heir apparent when the democratic party wakes up to this fact.

## *RAILROADS AND SAFETY APPLIANCES.*

Nearly every important railroad in the United States is involved in the action of Attorney General Bonaparte in directing federal district attorneys to institute suits for penalties for violations of the safety appliance law. The suits will turn for the most part on whether the number of airbrakes employed on freight trains is adequate to the protection of the lives and limbs of employes.

The institution of this proceeding serves to call attention again to the culpability of railway companies in deferring compliance with the law until forced to do so by action through the courts. When the law requiring the use of airbrakes on freight trains was passed by congress, the railroads made the defense that it would be physically impossible to add the needed equipment within the prescribed time. An extension of time was granted and the Interstate Commerce commission finally made a ruling to the effect that "at least" one-half the cars in a train should be thus equipped. The railroads are now contending that compliance with this 50 per cent equipment order is all that is necessary. Evidence shows that a 50 per cent equipment permits a train to "buckle" and that serious accidents frequently follow, while the law requires airbrakes in sufficient quantity to keep the train under control.

The public will not be specially concerned about the technicalities of the dispute between the law officers of the government and the railroads. The mortality list resulting from the operation of American railroads, however, amply supports the contention that railroads should be required to equip freight trains and other rolling stock with every approved safety appliance, to the last car, if necessary, to insure to passenger and employe the greatest measure of protection against accidents. Until the railroads look upon safety appliances from this viewpoint they will have little sympathy from the public in any litigation for enforcing safety appliance legislation.

## *A POLITICAL FALSE ALARM.*

The Chicago Inter Ocean makes the astounding discovery that the republicans of the middle west have become convinced that "if the rural voters can't get a candidate who will continue Roosevelt's policy, they will vote for W. J. Bryan." The Inter Ocean is making no sweeping assertion on the subject, but insists that it bases its opinion on letters received from republicans and that "about 15 or 20 per cent of the men who voted for Mr. Roosevelt in 1904 will vote for Mr. Bryan in 1908 if a republican reactionary is nominated at the Chicago convention."

All this might be more or less important, if true, but the Inter Ocean incurs the mistake of asserting that this policy, so strenuously demanded by the republicans of the middle west, and labeled as the "Roosevelt policy" is "the policy of agitation which brought on the panic." If any considerable number of republicans—or democrats for that matter—in the middle west have been found who believe or assert that the panic was caused by the Roosevelt policies it would be an important discovery. That edifying fiction had its origin in the east among those who have profited enormously by corporate over-capitalization, stock watering and stock jobbing, manipulation of bank and trust funds and expert practice of frenzied finance generally. The west has not been disposed to label as a panic breeder any person who helped to expose corrupt conditions in order to apply the cure for it.

At the same time, the west does not demand a perpetual "policy of agitation." It is satisfied that the disclosures made within the last year will prevent recurrence of the evils which have aroused such public indignation and that the enforcement of laws passed within the last four years is all that is needed to safeguard the future against return to conditions that previously existed. The west would doubtless resent the nomination of a reactionary on the republican ticket, but it has too much faith in the logic of events and in the integrity of the party to promise to embrace Bryanite democracy as the alternative.

The democratic World-Herald amuses itself by pretending that Secretary Taft declared in his Cooper Union speech that the time has not yet come when the tariff "can be abolished or remedied." But this is only another example of putting into a man's mouth something he never said in order to contradict him. The words "or remedied" have been interpolated by the imaginative reporter of some hostile newspaper and do not appear in the accounts of the speech in the most reliable New York papers. There is nothing easier than putting up a straw man to knock him down, and that is a favorite trick of the World-Herald's.

John S. McDonald of Boston has bet Thomas Shevlin of New York $5,000 that if Governor Johnson of Minnesota is nominated for the presidency he will be elected. Mr. Shevlin need lose no sleep over his bet.

After they have practiced up on one another sufficiently our county commissioners and our city councilmen may be expected to sally forth to the middle of the street for a fistic scrimmage to determine whether the championship belt should go to the city hall or to the court house.

"Ho, every one that thirsteth," was the announced theme of an Atlanta preacher's sermon the Sunday following the initial enforcement of the state prohibition law. Still it seems hardly a Christian spirit to add humiliation to suffering.

Speaker Cannon is said to have used violent language on a newspaper correspondent who asked him, "Do you drink?" The correspondent was evidently new to Washington or he would have changed his question to, "Will you drink?"

What is to be done in the way of inspection of Omaha theaters to prevent some terrible catastrophe like that in Pennsylvania? Should Omaha have a theater holocaust after all warnings the community will be guilty of criminal negligence.

A Nebraska naval cadet wants to be transferred from Annapolis to West Point to avoid being consigned to perpetual sea-sickness. A practice cruise may yet be a necessary part of the entrance examination for admission to the naval academy.

"The government lost at every point," says the attorney for Oberlin M. Carter. The fact that Carter served four years in prison and was forced to return $400,000 to the federal treasury shows that the government is a pretty good loser.

It had to come. The New York Commercial asserts that "although it is winter, the Thaw season is here." The worst feature of the case is that, like extortion in San Francisco, there is no law against it.

A Japanese widow has sued a Chinese bachelor in New York for breach of promise. However, pessimists will continue to assert that the orientals are slow in assimilating American ideas of civilization.

"Senator Scott of West Virginia," says the Washington Herald, "is not the most approachable man in the senate." In these days of suspicion and charges it is a little mean to use that adjective in referring to a man in public life.

**Worth the Price of Admission.**
Minneapolis Journal.

When General Miles and Admiral Brownson meet, we would like to be there.

**Now You See It, Perhaps.**
St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The inventor of the wireless telephone says the difference between the sparkling wireless waves and his damped wireless waves accounts for his success in having a conversation 250 miles away without the aid of wires. In this invention, as in others of an electric nature, the explanation leaves the inquiring mind as wise as before.

**Gov. Magoon's New Year Reception.**
Springfield Republican.

The New Year's reception at Havana by Governor Magoon of Nebraska was brilliant, for such receptions always are. This one was peculiar, in addition, inasmuch as the Cubans, in very many cases, bent the knee before the ruler and occasionally a man went clear to the floor in his genuflections. The good Magoon could not stop it. He received literally like a king. What ails the Cubans?

**Sugar Trust Sees the Light.**
Philadelphia Record.

Secrecy was all right under former conditions, say the present managers of the American Sugar Refining company, or Sugar trust, but now "conditions have changed" and a policy of publicity seems to be advisable. Quite so. Even the Standard Oil company has begun to do a lot of talking, if not to give full publicity to its financial affairs, and we may soon begin to hear from the Amalgamated Copper company, another of those offensive "blind pools" whose secrecy has done so much to arouse the public against the trusts.

## PERSONAL NOTES.

A simple method of preventing shooting affrays would be to enforce the law against carrying concealed weapons.

Ecuador had a railroad wreck the other day in which twenty persons were killed and forty were injured. South America is not so backward.

The spectator of a play at Lynn, Mass., jumped upon the stage, whipped the villain, rescued the distressed heroine and all he got out of it was what the press agent had arranged to give.

Representative Bird S. MacGuire of Oklahoma has been a wanderer. Born in Illinois, he went to Missouri with his parents when 10 years of age, then to Kansas, and later to Indian Territory, and finally to his present state.

James C. Courts, who has received a reappointment as clerk of the appropriations committee of the house of representatives, is now serving his thirtieth year in the employ of the house, having first been appointed by Representative Atkins of Tennessee in 1877.

After the new senator from Florida, William James Bryan, took the oath of office last Thursday and entered upon his senatorial duties, he was assigned to a seat next to Senator William Pinkney Whyte, the oldest of the senators. Mr. Bryan is the youngest member of the senate.



## BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

**Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot.**

Since orders went forth about a year ago requiring an eight-hour day of the department employes, a succession of kicks have been registered by the employes and the press of Washington against what was termed "the oppressive demands of the government." Seven hours of labor was deemed the limit of department endurance. Another hour, the victims asserted, would bend the camel's back to the breaking point. The extension of the time limit has not materially increased the output of the department factories and another effort is being made to accomplish the object. The plan reported by the Keep commission to congress contemplates the retirement of the aged and infirm and the substitution of young blood and muscle. A pension system is proposed for the benefit of the retired employes, the funds for which will be secured by retaining a percentage of the salaries of all department employes. It proposed to empower the secretary of the interior to invest such fund in recognized bonds, either municipal or industrial, and that when payment is made to a government employe only such interest shall be paid to him as the bonds representing his share shall have earned. The recommendation of the Keep commission, which has the support of most of the employes in the executive departments in Washington, will go to the committee on reform of the civil service, of which Representative Gillett of Massachusetts is chairman.

The last row of seats on the democratic side of the senate, says the Washington Herald, is remarkable at this session of congress, in that every one of its occupants is distinguished by some unusual characteristic.

In the seat next the center aisle sits Senator Jeff Davis, the iconoclast of the senate, who has already fractured the precedents of that august body respecting the conduct of new solons, and would put an end to trusts and to trading in futures. On his left sits "Fiddling Bob" Taylor, senator from Tennessee, famed for his abilities as a raconteur as for his aptness in playing the fiddle.

Then comes the youngest senator, William James Bryan of Florida, who is just 32 years old, and enjoys the privilege of being the Adonis of the upper house, as well as its most youthful member. Right beside him sits Senator Whyte of Maryland, the oldest senator, who is more than a half century older than Senator Bryan. Next is Senator Gore of Oklahoma, the blind senator, and on his left sits his colleague, Senator Owen, in whose veins runs the blood of a long line of chiefs of the Cherokee Indian Nation.

The row will be completed by Senator Bankhead of Alabama, who ran for the house and found himself in the senate when the race was over.

There has been for some time a warm contest among senators as to whose state grows the very best apples in the world. Senator Ankeny of Washington started it by shipping into the capitol a number of boxes of excellent specimens of that state's abilities in the apple growing line. Then, in the opinion of many apple connoisseurs, Senator Bourne of Oregon went him one better by flooding the senate cloak rooms and press gallery with a consignment of the fine red Hood Valley Spitzbergens, accompanied by a letter challenging the world to beat them.

Senator Johnston of Alabama owns a beautiful home in Birmingham and takes great delight in donning a pair of overalls and a split hickory hat and working in the garden. One day shortly after the expiration of his last term as governor a fashionably dressed woman, who had resided in Birmingham only a short time and had never seen Johnston, called on his wife. No one answered the bell, so she walked out among the flowerbeds where the ex-governor was hoeing some geraniums. He bowed and she asked him how long he had worked for the Johnstons.

"A good many years, madam," he replied.

"Do they pay you well?"

"About all I get out of it is my clothes and keep."

"Why, come and work for me," she said. "I'll do that and pay you so much a month besides."

"I thank you madam," he replied, bowing very low, "but I signed up with Mrs. Johnston for life."

"Why, no such contract is binding. That is peonage."

"Some may call it that, but I have always called it marriage."

An exquisite member of the fair sex was taken down to see how the house does things by one of the representatives the other day, and she was introduced to a large number of congressmen. She did not pay much attention to names, for she was too busy acquiring knowledge.

Finally she had a short, slender, deep-voiced man presented to her, and she caught the title "congressman."

"Oh," she said, "and were you here when the William-De Armond scrap was pulled off the other day?"

"Perhaps," suggested the congressman, with dignity, "you did not catch my name."

"Your name? Why, I don't believe I did," she replied, with engaging frankness.

"My name," continued the congressman, "is DeArmond."

Representative Charles G. Edwards of Savannah, who achieved a certain amount of a certain kind of fame recently by refusing to shake hands with a delegation of colored postmasters from Georgia on the alleged ground that he did not represent negroes, added to his laurels in the house with a very brief speech.

"Mr. Speaker," he said, "earlier in the afternoon I voted twice against a certain dam bill which provided for the granting of certain valuable privileges on the Snake river in the state of Washington to a private corporation. I now wish to announce that I am opposed to any other dam bill which interferes with states' rights."

Only seventeen states have furnished speakers of the house of representatives. Pennsylvania leads with five, Massachusetts, Virginia and Kentucky coming next with four each. Other states have been represented as follows: New York, three; Indiana, three; Tennessee, two; New Jersey, two; Georgia, two; Maine, two; South Carolina, two, and Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Iowa and Illinois have each sent a man to the speakers' chair.

**Sinners Welcomed Home.**
New York Sun.

Mr. Bryan now says that he feels no resentment toward democrats who opposed him in 1896 and 1900, and he declares a general amnesty. As Mr. Bryan never concealed his resentment until recently and has been in the habit of serving notice on conservative candidates that they could not be regarded as democrats because they did not support him in 1896 and 1900, does not his eleventh hour tolerance look suspiciously like the overture of a candidate who fears that if he fails to conciliate the conservative element in his party he may lose the coveted nomination after all?



## TAFT ON CAPITAL AND LABOR.

**Emphatic and Courageous.**
New York Evening Post (Ind.).

Mr. Taft appeared to excellent advantage in his address at Cooper Union last night. He stood up as his own man to express his own views, and they were in the main sound and pertinent. No one can make a long speech on capital and labor without saying a great many undisputed things in a solemn way, and the secretary said them. But on the chief points at issue, and especially those which have been made against his own presidential candidacy on the basis of his decisions when a judge, he spoke with emphasis and courage.

**A Lucid Exposition.**
New York Herald (Ind.).

Talent for lucid exposition was displayed in the speech delivered by Secretary Taft at Cooper Union last evening. The origin of private property, the growth of capital and the relations between capital and labor, the rights and wrongs of corporate and individual employers and employes were presented in such form as made the matter clear to even the least intelligent of his hearers. His purpose in selecting this topic for discussion at the present time appears from the closing words of his address. As an effect of the recent monetary panic he argues that we must expect industrial depression which may be fruitful in labor controversies, and, by inducing both sides to adopt a more conservative and conciliatory attitude, he would avoid the destructive struggles of the past.

**Broad Lessons of Tolerance.**
Philadelphia Public Ledger (Ind.).

Mr. Taft has come before the country with no past to explain away and with no obligation but to discuss on their merits and according to his lights the national problems awaiting solution. The only trace of organized opposition to him, other than the natural preference of partisans for other potential candidates, has come from the ranks of organized labor, and has been based upon some supposed antagonism on his part as revealed in his decisions from the bench in cases where the labor unions and the burning questions of the injunction were involved. This opposition has been united and persistent, and while it might be possible to exaggerate its importance as a controlling political factor, it has been a source of anxiety to those who believe that Mr. Taft is the best man available for the republican nomination next June. It is this circumstance which gave Mr. Taft's speech in New York its great significance, and those who looked to him for a masterly exposition of sound and reasonable views on the subject of capital and labor were not disappointed. There was no demagogic appeal to prejudice by denunciations or evildoing on either side, but a calm statement of the principles governing the relations of the two essential elements of industrial existence, and of the policies and means by which just relations are to be maintained and the interests of both employers and employed conserved and advanced. Broad lessons of tolerance, needed by the arrogant among the employers as well as among labor leaders, were temporarily laid down, and a sane and just exposition given of the real meaning of the processes of the law as they are commonly invoked in labor disputes.

## MERRY JINGLES.

"Your daughter," said the jollying friend "has such a comprehensive sweep upon the piano."

"I wish," muttered the overworked mother, "she had that same about the house."—Baltimore American.

"Well," said the obedient husband, "now that I am in politics, I hope you are satisfied."

"Getting in politics," replied his ambitious wife, "is comparatively easy. Getting out again gracefully is what counts these days."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"What sort of a time did you have at the theater?"

"Perfectly lovely," answered young Mrs. Torkins. "Some of the scenes were so pathetic that I wept, and others were so funny that I laughed till I cried."—Washington Star.

"Some people say 'lunch' and some 'luncheon,' and yet, of course, both is the same thing."

"I don't think so. My idea is that 'lunch' is masculine and 'luncheon' feminine."—Philadelphia Press.

Mabel—Weren't you scared to death when you asked Harry to marry you?

Nell—Not so much that—dear boy, he was so simple and willing—not a bit of coyness or coquetry about his shy answer. But oh, Gladys, it was just dreadful asking his mother and answering all her stern questions of how I expected to support Harry.—Baltimore American.

"I don't know who that woman is, but they tell me she is a Mrs. Somebody. She certainly is an awful flirt; I wonder her husband doesn't keep her in better order. Doesn't he try to?"

"No."

"Why doesn't he?"

"Because, you see, his wife is a widow."—Philadelphia Press.

"I suppose you have studied the United States constitution?"

"Of course," answered the statesman of highly modern tendencies. "I have been obliged to study the constitution in order to point out reasons for not paying any particular attention to it."—Washington Star.

"It is hard," said the state's attorney, "to get positive evidence against these railroad officials of rebating."

"I can give positive evidence against one railroad official," said the mild young man.

"Sure?" asked the state's attorney eagerly.

"Yes, sure. I saw him out fishing do it with his hook."—Baltimore American.

**AFTER THE INITIATION.**

New York Sun.

The house is full of medicine
And mystery profound;
We cannot even run about
Or make the slightest sound;
They keep the big piano shut,
We cannot strike a note;
The doctor's been here twenty times
Since father rode the goat.

He joined the lodge a week ago—
Got in at 4 a. m.,
And sixteen members brought him home
Though he says he brought them.
His leg was sprained, and one big rip
Had rent his Sunday coat—
The members had a jolly time
When father rode the goat.

He's resting on the couch today
And practising the signs—
The hailing, signal call, and grip
And other monkey shines;
He utters passwords 'neath his breath
And other things he'll quote—
The members had an evening's work
When father rode the goat.

He has a brilliant uniform,
All red and white and blue.
A hat with plumes, and scarlet braid,
And golden badges, too.
But, somehow, when we mention it,
His visage waxes grim—
We wonder if he rode the goat
Or if the goat rode him.