THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
George B. Tzschuck, treasurer of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of February, 1908, was as follows:

1	36,760	16	35,100
2	35,300	17	36,200
3	36,180	18	36,920
4	36,220	19	36,730
5	36,210	20	36,300
6	36,030	21	36,340
7	35,940	22	36,630
8	36,030	23	35,500
9	35,000	24	36,300
10	35,900	25	36,670
11	36,100	26	36,430
12	36,200	27	36,560
13	36,200	28	36,380
14	36,190	29	36,350
15	36,110		
Totals			1,046,650
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GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK,
Treasurer.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 2d day of March, 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.

Nebraska for Taft at Chicago.

Prosperity shows signs of returning from its enforced vacation.

Corn is king, and the National Corn show should be the king show.

The Kentucky night riders are opposed to smoking even the pipe of peace.

Mr. Looney is a candidate for the state senate in Texas. Anything in a name?

Those New York to Paris autoists appreciate Omaha's fine pavements, by contrast, and gladly overlook the holes.

The forestry bureau tells us that the hickory supply is fast disappearing. No school boy is going to protest.

A Russian republic has been declared and the czar asked to abdicate. The Russian republic is located in New York.

"An Indian is most dangerous when he is hungry," says a scientific sharp. So is a white man, if that proves anything.

The Cannon presidential boom seems to be of the noiseless pattern recently discovered by Inventor Maxim.

The republican majority in Kentucky in the last campaign was 18,583. Mr. Bryan had time for only seven speeches there.

Colonel Bryan always throws boquets at the populists. That is all they have been getting, however, from the Bryanites in Nebraska.

The assassin of Father Leo is to plead self-defense. Beach Hargis of Kentucky is to offer a similar plea for the assassination of his father.

The political rough-house makers can get little satisfaction out of the returns for the state convention about to be held by Nebraska republicans.

The democratic opposition to Mr. Bryan would feel more confident if it required a nine-tenths, instead of a two-thirds, vote to nominate him at Denver.

A Washington dispatch says that "Mr. Roosevelt is annoyed by third term talk." So are Messrs. Bryan, Taft, Fairbanks, Cannon, Cortelyou, Knox et al.

Abe Ruef has brought suit for $4,000 for his board while he was in jail, or in the custody of the sheriff. Ruef may lose his suit, but he never loses his nerve.

President Roosevelt declares that the American game must be protected. A little more talk like that and all the poker clubs will endorse the third term movement.

"What does Bryan mean when he says he does not want the support of bushwhackers? What is a bushwhacker?" asks a correspondent. A bushwhacker is a democrat who is not in favor of nominating Bryan.

A St. Louis woman has secured a verdict of $501 against a neighbor who called her "an old hen." The jury gave $1 actual damages and $500 punitive damages because of anguish of mind. The $500 must have been awarded on account of the use of the word "old."

THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALSHIP.

The school board is again debating the question of a change in the principalship of the Omaha High school. It has debated this question annually for a number of years, but has never had the courage to take it up in a businesslike way and come to a straightforward decision upon it. The people of Omaha are entitled to have the very best ability that can be commanded for the salary they are able to pay at the head of this great educational institution.

If the school board is satisfied that we now have a principal equal to all the requirements it should say so, and if it is not so satisfied, it should try to find some one who can fill the place better. To leave the principalship hanging in the air until the end of the school year and then to re-elect the present incumbent with the explanation that no one else is applying is neither fair to the principal nor satisfactory to the public. If it be determined that a change is desirable, public notice of such determination will bring plenty of applicants, but no educator who is worthy of consideration will go after a place requiring professional standing and experience so long as no vacancy is in sight.

Indecision on the part of the school board in this matter cannot fail also to prove detrimental to the high school itself. A principal with uncertain tenure is in worse plight than a principal known to be getting ready to vacate, and much worse than a principal known to be firmly entrenched. In order to maintain authority and discipline, whoever is in charge of the high school as principal needs not only the effective co-operation of his associates, but also the substantial backing of the school board all the time, and the principal who cannot count on that backing must have an uphill job. The board, then, should go at the task intelligently and reach a conclusion whether it proposes to back up the present principal or to find a new principal whom it will back up.

CONSULS AND BUSINESS.

Secretary of State Root has invited the wrath of a good many members of congress by having a bill presented to abolish twenty-eight consular posts in the American service. This means, from the political viewpoint, the curtailment of places heretofore used to provide pleasant and more or less profitable berths for political favorites. In a rather cold-blooded manner, Secretary Root has explained that there is no reasonable excuse, from the standpoint of American commercial development, for the further maintenance of these positions, and he asks that the places be abolished and the consuls either dropped from the service or sent to some post where they may produce results warranting their retention on the payroll.

The most embarrasing feature of Secretary Root's recommendation is his presentation of figures, showing the folly of maintaining the present consular posts at the places indicated. He cites Jamestown, Helena, for instance, where the consular fees amount to $16 a year, while the expenses of the consulate are $2,475 per annum. At Jalapa, Mexico, the consul draws a salary of $2,000 a year, and collects about $300 annually in fees. Seven other posts are named at which the consuls draw in excess of $2,000 annually, while the fees are less than $500. In none of the places named is the business sufficient to warrant keeping a consular agent. The consular service is almost self-sustaining, and would become entirely so if consuls were kept only where they are needed.

IS TOBACCO SMOKING INJURIOUS?

Dr. George L. Meylan, physical director of Columbia university, has started another discussion of the injurious effects of the use of tobacco. Physicians have differed on this subject, as they do on many others, although the weight of opinion has been adverse to its indiscriminate use. Legislatures have passed laws prohibiting the use of tobacco, particularly by children, and the youth have been taught both at home and in the schools that tobacco is deleterious to physical, moral and mental growth.

Dr. Meylan takes the opposing view. He presents the results of examinations extending to 683 young men, students at Columbia, 205 of whom were smokers and 478 non-smokers. His investigations showed that the students who smoked were healthier, stronger, had greater lung capacity and greater strength than the non-smokers. Furthermore, the users of tobacco had a better scholastic average than the non-smokers. As a result Dr. Meylan is forced to the conclusion that the allegations regarding the use of tobacco are largely exaggerated and that the normal male being may indulge in it "without appreciable damage."

This might be an important inquiry if it were not for the fact that Dr. J. W. Seaver of Yale recently conducted a similar investigation and reached an entirely different verdict. His conclusions were that the smokers among the Yale students were inferior in physical and mental attainments to the non-smokers, and that the use of tobacco was clearly injurious to the young men. Prof. P. L. Lord recently conducted a similar inquiry among 500 boys in a public school, and concluded that cigarette smoking was distinctly injurious. At a recent examination at Leland Stanford, jr., university, eighty-five students failed to pass the requirements for promotion, and each of the eighty-five was a tobacco user.

All of this simply proves that anything may be proved by such methods. The fact remains that "one man's meat is another man's poison," and while smoking may be positively beneficial to one person, it may seriously injure another. The man who has never smoked never misses it, and the man who has abandoned the habit never regrets it.

NAVIES AND NATIONAL TREASURIES

The hope of universal naval disarmament, which is the dream of those peace-lovers responsible for the international conferences at The Hague, may some day be realized through an unexpected source. News from the parliaments of the world contain strong intimation that naval retrenchment is about to be accomplished because of depleted national treasuries, rather than from any inherent desire to abandon the struggle for armed supremacy on the seas.

Formal announcement is made that Russia's czar has abandoned his program for spending $1,000,000,000 in the next ten years on the rehabilitation of the imperial navy, solely because the Duma has forced to his realization the fact that the country's tax burden has already reached the limit of endurance and Russian credit has been exhausted among the bond brokers of the world. Money will, of course, be spent for the upbuilding of the Russian navy, but it will be on a scale far less dazzling than that proposed or desired by the czar and his bureaucratic advisers.

Japan has a debt of more than $1,250,000,000, on which it is paying a high rate of interest. The troubles in the Japanese Diet have been for the most part due to the protests of the anti-war party in the empire against extravagant outlays for increasing the Japanese army and navy. For financial reasons, Japan will be compelled to move slowly for many years, so far as naval and military expansion is concerned.

The French Assembly has refused to increase appropriations for naval and military expenditures, and Spain has about abandoned its plans for a great navy to replace that lost at Manila and Santiago. Germany has planned a marked enlargement to its naval equipment, but the program may be changed because of imperative demands for the use of revenues to meet the Prussian deficit and other governmental expenditures. Italy, once one of the ranking naval powers of the world, admits that its navy is antiquated and inefficient, and that funds for bringing it up to date are not available.

The United States and Great Britain are the only representative nations that have resources available for a program of naval expansion, although plans to that end are arousing protests from those charged with guarding the expenses of the governments. Economy may be more potent than peace conferences in effecting a limitation of naval expenditures.

PEONAGE IN THE SOUTH.

Representative John Sharp Williams, leader of the minority in the house at Washington, has secured the adoption of a resolution calling for a congressional inquiry into the treatment of immigrants in the cotton fields, lumber and turpentine camps of the south. The resolution was urged in reply to the charge made by the Italian and Austrian ambassadors, that immigrants from those countries had been subjected to state laws in the south that left them in a condition of actual slavery.

Without questioning the importance of the investigation ordered, it is to be regretted that the resolution is not broad enough in its scope to include an investigation into the whole peonage question in the south. It is suspected that Mr. Williams executed a shrewd move in limiting the resolution so that it will apply only to an investigation of the condition of immigrants. Complaints filed with the Department of Justice allege a lamentable condition among both white and black natives in the southern states by the enforcement of obnoxious state labor laws which make debtors practical slaves of greedy contractors.

The inquiry urged by Mr. Williams is calculated to set at rest the stories circulated through Europe and halting the tide of immigration that had been turned toward the south, where the demand for labor is great. But the investigation should go further, and include an inquiry into the condition of the helpless and ignorant native laborers.

A HINT TO LEOPOLD.

Americans who have become interested, through the reports of missionaries and other organizations, in the conditions in the Congo Free States will be pleased to know that the United States and England have finally agreed to take steps to end the slippery tactics employed by wily old King Leopold for many years to maintain his hold on the Congo country as a source of private profit. The alleged transfer by Leopold of the Congo states to Belgium has proved to be a makeshift and the British and American authorities have decided to set out resolutely to bring about the needed reforms. The initiative was taken in the British House of Commons, where the following statement was made, showing the defects in the treaty of cession, made by Leopold, transferring the Congo to Belgium:

> Annexation will be annexation on lines leaving the entire structure of the present system intact; the right of the natives in their land and its products denied; the natives enslaved; the vast monopolies in land, produce and labor in retention of all their existing powers; the king in command of the executive and legislative machinery, in control of the budget, and surrounded by the same staff of executive officials both in Brussels and on the Congo—in short, a despotism of the most complete and far-reaching character, based upon slavery and bayonets, existing for purposes of private profit, but sheltered henceforth beneath the folds of a European flag, the flag of a small people in a peculiar and dangerous position at the best of times, a people unconsulted and ignorant of the issues.

Our country took part in the treaty of Berlin by which Leopold promised to adopt the reforms outlined for the government of the Congo. The record, however, shows that he has violated every term and provision of the compact. Leopold has oppressed the Congo people and has plundered them to his own enrichment. Nameless cruelties have been practiced upon the natives and the old king has finally gone to the extreme of committing fraud in connection with the import duties and thus given the British government the right to interfere. In furthering this intervention Great Britain has asked the co-operation of the United States and has received assurances that it will be forthcoming. The United States can have no selfish ambitions in South Africa and whatever action this country may take will be solely to promote justice. Great Britain and the United States are the strongest parties to the Berlin treaty and decisive action by them will undoubtedly tend to check the seemingly endless wrangle between Leopold and his country over the management of the Congo territory.

OVERREACHING LAWYERS.

The cutting of several juicy melons in the settlement of big estates and the prosecution or defense of cases for wealthy clients threatens to turn the heads of many members of the Omaha bar. Every police court practitioner has persuaded himself that he has just as much legal learning and professional ability as the favored few who have captured the fat fees, and the disposition is already being manifested by a lot of 2x4 attorneys to mark themselves up to 10x12 prices.

The modest disciple of Blackstone who gauges his demands according to the time consumed and the effort involved on behalf of his client, is in danger of disappearing. A few more lightning strokes of good fortune at the feet of our legal luminaries will be followed by an amendment to the ethical code requiring a report from some good commercial agency on the size of the patron's pile before the fee bill is made up. Instead of plain figure tags, petitions, injunctions and mandamuses will be governed by a cipher tariff translating into a rule to charge all the traffic will bear.

Of course, the bar in Omaha may be just coming into its own, and may have been for many years foolishly contenting itself with dry crusts while the lawyers in more favored cities have been eating frosted cake. But if the imminent transformation is completed the struggling young lawyer who hangs out his shingle in this neighborhood, and slowly and laboriously works his way to fame, regardless of recompense and oblivious to the smiles or scowls of fortune, will soon be found only in the story-books.

THE CIRCUS TRUST'S THREAT.

It is a little early yet to determine whether the recent bulletin from the headquarters of the Circus trust is just a press agent fulmination, usual about the time the show prepares to leave its winter quarters, or a declaration of real intentions on the part of the management. If it is a press agent's dream, all right enough, but there is certain to be a rousing protest if the management of the Circus trust is in earnest in the announcement carried in this strange and incredible report:

> The circus is going to worry along without any freaks this year, because the novelty has worn off of the old standbys, and nobody can be found to take their places and provide a novelty in that particular line. The freak business is getting so poor, the circus people say, that the high-class folks of old don't go to it any more, and besides folks are getting tired of 'em, anyhow.

If the announcement is bona fide it will simply serve as another illustration that purse-proud monopolists have a mistaken idea of the wishes of the people upon whose patronage they must depend. The American public has patiently stood for a good many exactions and oppressions in the various activities of life, but we do not believe it is prepared to submit to the elimination of the freak as a circus attraction. Circus patrons have a real affection for the giantess who walks on stilts and for the living skeleton who eats only once a month. They have never ceased to look with awe upon the Wild Man from Borneo, who spends his winters with his parents at Kalamazoo, or to buy photographs of the Circassian girl, the bearded lady, the Fiji mermaid and other fascinating fakes made to order on short notice.

The American people, as P. T. Barnam once declared, love to be humbugged, and the Circus trust will learn its mistake if it attempts to take away that luxury.

Burglars operating in the second story of a New York building caused the plastering to fall from the ceiling of the first floor upon a policeman who was enjoying a quiet snooze. The policeman promptly reported the owner of the building for not keeping his ceiling in proper repair.

A jug of whisky from which the shipping tag had been lost was found in a Georgia town and the express company took it to the court for instructions. The judge took the case under advisement and when he opened court the next day was so full of the subject that all other claims to the contents were waived.

Democrats are unable to account for the harpooning of W. H. Thompson of Grand Island in the state convention. Why not adopt Mr. Bryan's plan and charge it to a conspiracy on the authority of "a man who overheard a telephone conversation on the subject?"

The horse that is yanked out of a comfortable stall at midnight to pull some automobilist out of the snow has the laugh on the "horse-must-go" fellow who got enthusiastic when the gasoline cars were first invented.

The Bryan platform, just promulgated for the second time, is receiving attention from the political forecasters. They might as well have started to work at it when it was first made public nearly a year ago.

A Missouri inventor claims to be able to manufacture gas at a cost of 1 cent per 1,000 feet. Let him go on and invent a meter that is not addicted to the get-rich-quick habit.

Not an Unexpected Pleasure.
Chicago Tribune.

Still, the practically unanimous Taftness of Ohio will be no surprise to the secretary.

Pleasing Interruptions.
Washington Star.

In this month the monotony of work will be broken only by St. Patrick's Day and the usual number of pay days.

Looking Towards Nebraska?
Cincinnati Inquirer.

Who is the man who really beat Beckham for senator? There is an impression that he is not a citizen of Kentucky.

Iowa's Bottomless Soil.
Washington Times.

That Iowa mud is all right enough for corn and pigs, but it never was intended to encourage speed records for autos.

Preparing a Retreat.
Washington Star.

Suspicion on the part of Mr. Bryan that money is being used to defeat his nomination at Denver shows a disposition to be on hand early with a familiar line of political explanation.

Makes No Difference.
New York World.

Mr. Bryan "cannot see where the selection of Mr. Bradley will have any effect on national politics." Perhaps he is right. under his peerless leadership the time seems to have come when the defeat of a democrat and the election of another republican to the United States senate can have no effect on national politics.

No Mollycoddles There.
Chicago Post.

With great relief we note that "a number of sailors were missing when the fleet left Callao," and that the Panther had to stay in port to gather them up. It would be altogether too mollycoddlish if all our bluejackets went from Hampton Roads to the Golden Gate without one single slip to mar their good-conduct record.

Time for Something.
Philadelphia Record.

If one railroad in Texas has had ninety-nine wrecks in seven months it ought not complain if the State Railroad commission has ordered it to make improvements that will cost $3,000,000. The company demurs that the time is not favorable for raising the money, but the ninety-nine wrecks must have cost a good deal—not, of course, anything like three millions, but a good deal more than the interest on that sum for seven months. The commission declares that it will put every railroad in Texas into a receivership if need be rather than tolerate roadbeds and equipment that are a menace. The railroads themselves cannot afford such a list of wrecks as the commission parades.

Does It Really Pay?
Baltimore American.

Measured by the standards of his employment, Andrew Hamilton was successful. His clients were the largest and most generous in the world. His income was enormous. With unlimited means he was a prince of good fellows, and his entertainments shamed the prodigality of kings. But the glory has gone. He was found dead in bed, and now only a few will follow the rest of the story. Those who profited most from his bounty will stay away; those who employed him to do their shady work will not even notice his departure. His kind of success is failure. All effort fails unless it has before it high principle, clean motive or moral purpose. The lobbyist finds his excuse in the plea of necessity, but that does not purify the degradation of the calling. Hamilton bore an honored name; he belonged to an honored profession; he had the choice between honor and dishonor, and he chose the lower path because it paid better. But did it pay?

PERSONAL POINTERS.

Mr. Edison will be going home soon to invent a ton or so of entirely novel surgical tools.

Mme. Schumann-Heink will be a naturalized American in June. President Roosevelt will certainly welcome her.

Instead of going out of business at the age of sixty, Mr. Harriman is still daring his enemies to come in and put him out.

Henry Bergh in offering $500 as a prize for the invention of a humane way to slaughter animals ought to include political bees.

It is estimated that Mark Twain has earned $700,000 by his literary work—greatly to the financial benefit of other people.

Consuelo, duchess of Marlborough, is reported to be drifting toward socialism. It is rather curious that the rich have never hit upon the scheme of making socialism unpopular by espousing it.

Mrs. Hetty Green has declared that her daughter will never marry a foreign nobleman or any other foreigner. Mrs. Green combines good horse sense with her numerous peculiarities.

President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia university will leave New York on March 7 for a three weeks' stay in Bermuda. During Mr. Butler's absence Prof. J. C. Egbert will be acting president of the university.

Sig. Enrico Toselli, the music teacher, who married the Countess Montignoso, the divorced wife of the King of Saxony, is writing a comic opera, and says he intends later to publish some curious and important news which will astonish those who are interested in public life.

Prof. Percival Lowell announces that Prof. Slipher at the Lowell observatory at Flagstaff, Ariz., has photographed comparison spectra of Mars and the moon, showing on repeated plates that the "Little A" band is stronger on Mars than on the moon, indicating water vapor in the atmosphere of the plane

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT

Atlanta Constitution: A Philadelphia preacher says "Providence is stirring the country." The other day a Philadelphia paper said Mr. Roosevelt was.

Atlanta Constitution: Boston is to open her churches to the homeless. That is, they will be permitted to sleep there at night, as well as during the Sunday sermon.

Chicago Record-Herald: A St. Louis preacher says girls should not object when young men wish to hold their hands. Naturally this leads to the suspicion that some St. Louis girl has been objecting.

Philadelphia Inquirer: A local preacher of Delaware has a sermon with which he proposes to reform the world. Judging from efforts that have already been made in that direction, he has his work cut out for him.

Cleveland Plain-Dealer: Says the Rev. Josiah Strong, "It is not intemperate to say that there was more material progress during the nineteenth century than during the entire preceding history of the race." Aren't you glad you lived during this interesting period?

St. Louis Republic: Church members who have trouble in believing the story of Jonah and the whale ought to be able, without being turned out of church, to fall back upon Rabbi Harrison's explanation that it was never meant to be believed literally; that it is only a parable and a romance with a moral.

Philadelphia Record: A gambling parson in Missouri borrowed money from his family to repay his parishioners from whom he had borrowed the money he lost, and then borrowed the church from which he had been removed in order to preach two powerful sermons against the sin of gambling. But if he had won $300 instead of losing it, would his eyes have been opened to the sin of gambling?

Where We Really Shine.
Washington Herald.

Our navy may be "inferior"—probably always has been—but there have never been "any flies on" our John Paul Joneses, David G. Farraguts, Raphael Semmeses, George Deweys, et al. Of course, we fell out with ourselves about forty years ago, and had something of a run for our money, but before and since that time our "inferior navy" has always made good from the word go.

Gallant Marse Henry.
Louisville Courier-Journal.

Apropos of the London statement that there's not a good looking woman among the suffragettes, history is padded with proof that a fascinating woman can wield more power in politics than was ever vested in a single ballot. Diplomacy hath her victories more renowned than those of suffragetting.

DOMESTIC INFELICITY.

Mifkins—I hear Peckham's wife has left him?

Bifkins—Yes.

Mifkins—Does he think she will come back?

Bifkins—I guess so. Anyway, he told me he was going to enjoy life while he had the chance.—Chicago News.

Penelope was telling Ulysses how she unraveled the shroud.

"Yes," he interrupted, "I see you took the buttons off my shirts, too."

Herewith she took the next train home to mother.—New York Sun.

Mr. Church—Whew! how it's raining. Lend me your umbrella, dear? I've got to run over to the vestry meeting.

Mrs. Church—But why not use that umbrella you've been carrying all week?

Mr. Church—What! to the vestry meeting? Why, that's where I got it.—Philadelphia Press.

Mrs. Spenders—I wonder how you'd like it if I ever got "new-womanish" and insisted upon wearing men's clothes?

Mr. Spenders—Oh, I haven't any fear of you ever doing that. Men's clothes are never very expensive.—The Catholic Standard and Times.

Mr. Powers—Do you mean to say that you shopped all day and didn't get anything?

Mrs. Powers—Yes; but I know what everybody else got.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

"Mrs. Tellmore called on me this afternoon."

"Well, whose husband has been acting shamefully now?—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

OUR SUNSHINE SOCIETY.

Baltimore Sun.

Brother and sister and Tabby and I
And the little rag doll that was ready to die;
And the dog and the goat and the chicken that's lame;
And the little fat fellow who don't know his name,
But lives in an alley and wears dirty clothes;
And sister's two playmates, Belinda and Rose—
We're the Society. My, but it's fun
Just livin' on laughter and kindness and sun!

Nobody's President—all may belong
Who come by with hearts that are merry with song
And eyes that are beaming with gladness and cheer,
Who like a green world where a stream ripples near,
Or a beautiful meadow where buttercups grow
And bobolink calls and the dandelions blow,
And you race and you run and you kick up your heels,
Because that's the way that a sunshiner feels!

We're very informal and haven't a law
Or a rule or a system to fill you with awe;
It's just howdy-do everybody with us,
And we never waste time over feathers or fuss;
For all may belong, if they want to, you see,
With brother and sister and Tabby and me,
And the dog and the goat and the dirty faced boy,
To the bloom and the birds and the light and the joy!