

THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Publisher
N. B. UPDIKE, President
BALLARD DUNN, Editor in Chief
JOY M. HACKLER, Business Manager

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The Associated Press, of which The Bee is a member, is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper, and also the local news published herein.

The Omaha Bee is a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the recognized authority on circulation audits, and The Omaha Bee's circulation is regularly audited by their organizations.

Entered as second-class matter May 28, 1908, at Omaha postoffice, under act of March 3, 1879.

BE TELEPHONES
Private Branch Exchange, Ask for AT lantic 1000
The Department or Person Wanted.

OFFICES
Main Office—17th and Farnam
Chicago—Steuer Bldg. Boston—Globe Bldg.
Los Angeles—Fred L. Hall, San Fernando Bldg.
San Francisco—Fred L. Hall, Sharon Bldg.
New York City—278 Madison Avenue
Seattle—A. L. Nies, 514 Leary Bldg.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES
DAILY AND SUNDAY
1 year \$5.00, 6 months \$3.00, 3 months \$1.75, 1 month 75c

ERA OF BIG THINGS.
Senator Howell's resolution for an investigation of certain railroad mergers brings to the front a question that must be given a definite answer.

Specifically, the inquiry is aimed at the so-called van Swearingen mergers. This combination may not be in accord with the letter of the transportation act as it exists, but certainly is in harmony with its spirit.

Why should this be regarded as inimical to public interests? The day has long since passed when Americans need to be frightened at the sudden appearance of a giant among industries.

Big concerns serve the public in every way. In the 35 years since the Sherman anti-trust law was enacted the population of the United States has been increased by more than two-thirds.

Investigate the merger engineered by the van Swearingens. It will but emphasize the need for such proceedings. But do not try to fit America of today to the lines of 1890.

AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.
"By reason of strength," Elihu Root has reached the age of four-score. Standing at the point 10 years beyond the span allotted to man's age, this leader of thought and doer of deeds can look back on a record unsurpassed in its service.

He served as secretary of war in President McKinley's cabinet, and as secretary of state under President Roosevelt. He was chairman of the New York constitutional convention, senator of the United States from New York, temporary chairman of a republican national convention, member of the permanent Court of Arbitration of The Hague from 1910 on, member of the commission that established the permanent Court of International Justice, and active in so many other ways that a catalogue would be too lengthy.

Secretary Hughes, summing up the services of this distinguished American, says his greatest triumph was the establishment of the permanent Court of International Justice. That is a service to humanity.

At 80 he asks to be allowed to withdraw. Some years ago he made a similar request, saying he wished to pass a short time at his home. He has earned his furlough. He may take it feeling that it is not grudged. His strength has not been "labor and sorrow," but useful to a world that sorely needed the solid sense of Elihu Root.

SMILE WITH THE LAWMAKERS.
Sometimes old John Q. Public wonders what his ultimate end will be. That is on occasion when the mass of laws enacted for his control and regulation looms up before him.

In Missouri the legislature seriously considers making defaulting bank officials subject to the death penalty. In Connecticut a bill to license cats, and provide for a state cat warden, gets attention from the legislature.

No idol of old ever was worshiped with the fervor and devotion as is the fetish, "Be It Enacted," adored by the American people. A government of laws and not of men is our boast.

Prosperity isn't so much what is taken from earth as the brief years fade. It merely depends to a certain extent on the dollars through honesty made.

It is the portion of gain which is garnered, And prudently left to expand, And fashion and strengthen the lithoid foundations On which the necessities stand.

It is the thrift that is constantly practiced By those who are planning ahead, And bringing about (as many will shout) A family fight, when they're dead.

ever deeply versed, can at any given moment say just what the law is. Yet readers of the "Letters From Our Readers" daily are told how easy it is to enforce any particular law, or all the laws in general.

STORY OF THE PRISONER'S FOOD.
We are in receipt of a letter from a citizen who asks that his name be not published, but who takes occasion to say:

"I would like to ask the people of Douglas county if they have ever, in the history of this state, seen all the newspapers as antagonistic to an officer of the law as the papers of Omaha are at the present time to our sheriff. Why? Is it because the only paper which was against the gang has been muzzled by the gangsters?"

The letter contains much more language than that quoted. However, enough is here given to show its import. Assuming that by "legislature feeding bill" the writer means the bill to regulate charges for feeding prisoners, we can go ahead.

Beginning with the days when "Billy" Coburn was sheriff, and coming down to the present, there has not been a time when the fees of the sheriff's office have not been under debate.

Because the practice has gone on for so long does not make it immune. A wrong can never gain the color of right by reason of continuance.

WHO OWNS THE NATION'S WEALTH?
A news item challenges the mind. It tells that Omaha employees of the Western Union Telegraph company will share to the extent of \$30,000 in the distribution of the company's earnings for last year.

In general terms, the estimated number of stockholders in the great concerns of the United States has increased from 4,000,000 in 1900 to more than 14,000,000 in 1923, and it is confidently expected that the figures for 1924, when available, will show a still greater increase.

Only one conclusion can be drawn from this. Workers have taken advantage of good wages and made investment in the prosperity of the land. They have a stake in industry that goes beyond the job.

Here is the realization of the phrase coined by Albert J. Beveridge, "Pass prosperity around!" It is being passed around. Also, an answer to the revolutionists. Orderly processes of evolution are making absolutely secure the material future of America.

A Chicago youth who was welcomed as a prince at Hollywood is back home looking for a job in a steel mill. He says he is cured. It must be tough life in Hollywood if that of a steel worker is preferable.

The kingdom of Hedjaz is reported to be in ruins as a result of war that has been going on there for years. Simply continuing the record begun at least 125 centuries ago.

A boy just sent to the reformatory blames pool halls and not dance halls. A lot of other boys have escaped all three by just behaving themselves.

The "sommickers" of congress may have a lot of fun with the president's method of taking exercise, but they respect the results of his daily dozen.

The president got pretty close to the dirt farmers when he took the president of the Kansas Agricultural college to be secretary of agriculture.

It might help some if the air enthusiasts were to stick to demonstrated facts and not lay so much stress on future speculations.

Nebraska could have supplied a man to take the vacant portfolio in the cabinet, but congratulates Kansas on getting the honor.

"Bob" Simmons does not say much on the floor of the house, but he said a mouthful when he accused his colleagues of wasting time.

Well, here's to the Longworth baby!
Homespun Verse
By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davie

If They'd Both Keep Still Awhile We'd Soon Have It Settled



Letters From Our Readers

All letters must be signed, but name will be withheld upon request. Communications of 200 words and less, will be given preference.

Against the Amendment.
Hammond, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: According to the 1920 census, there were 12,392,882 children in the United States from 10 to 15 years of age.

Wants Streets Fixed.
Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Reading in your paper that the city commissioners are going to clean the streets for the anticipated guests this summer, I would like to call your attention to a part of Omaha badly neglected, that is the streets.

Helping the Farmer Farm.
Waterloo, Ia.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The cartoon entitled, "Got the Whole Family Stumped," found in The Omaha Bee, is extremely suggestive. Note the question: Who can propose legislation that will help the farmer, and who can suggest

Food Bogies Get the K. O.
A Box of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets Makes a Myth of the Old Time

Trying to make a horse of a human by feeding him bran and water won't go after he has discovered that Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets enable him to take to the roughage of mince pie, baked beans, pickles, corned beef and cabbage, fried eggs and so on with impunity.

NEBRIN
The safe remedy for colds-headaches rheumatism-pains.
Does not depress the heart like Aspirin



SUNNY SIDE UP
Take Comfort, nor forget, That Sunrise never failed us yet.

What a sly old fox is Will Gurley. Here he has been fooling us for the last 30 years, making up think he was a mere boy, when he was, according to a local contemporary a 18-year-old drummer boy in a civil war regiment.

Providence, and the Big Chief, permitting, we will spend the week end at Lincoln, foregathering with the brethren and sisters of the Nebraska press.

Amusement Note.
"Was that a good picture you saw last night?"
"Didn't see it. Went to sleep before they finished running the animated advertisements and didn't wake up until the orchestra blared into the exit march."

The Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph informs us that the president of a great industrial concern, recently deceased, left \$1,200,000. We have a faint suspicion that he left everything else, too.

We are asked to celebrate next week because it is the 95th anniversary of the invention of the stiff detachable collar. But we shall do nothing of the kind. For us it will be a week of mourning.

NET AVERAGE PAID CIRCULATION
For JANUARY, 1925
THE OMAHA BEE
Daily 74,002
Sunday 77,234

RADIANT COAL
Smokeless Semi-Anthracite
LUMP \$13.50 MINE RUN \$11.50 SLACK \$8.50

UPDIKE LUMBER & COAL CO.
See Samples of This Coal at Hayden's Grocery Dept.

Advertisement for Cascarets laxative, featuring a cartoon character and the text 'Sick? Upset? You're Bilious! Take a Cascaret!'

Large advertisement for Buick cars, featuring a large image of a Buick and the text '74,000 jammed the Yale Bowl to see the Yale-Harvard game. It would take a bowl more than 13 times as large to seat all the Buick drivers in America.'