

# THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY

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## Omaha—Where the West is at its Best

### STILL A GOING CONCERN.

Considerable public misapprehension affects the Milwaukee road, because it is now in receivers' hands. The railroad as such still is a going concern. Its troubles are financial, not physical. Due to mistakes of enterprise, rather than to any difficulty in handling its traffic. Trains still operate, hauling passengers and freight over the great region served by the line. Fifty thousand employees still are on the payroll, certain of their wages each month.

In everything that goes to make up a railroad, the Milwaukee is the same now as it was before the federal court intervened in order to make possible a readjustment of the finances of the company. Several lengthy sermons have been recited, concerning the methods by which the money was raised to extend the line across the continent, to equip it with the best of cars, machinery, motive power and the like. To electrify its service over 600 miles of mountain region. To give it high standing in the transportation service. Only Wall Street and the investors have felt the effect of the receivership.

"In over five years we have not killed a passenger in a passenger train accident," says B. B. Greer, chief operating official under the receivers. He adds: "We have been doing a good job of railroading, we can do better, and we are going to do it." And, with this spirit extending down through the personnel of the operating force, the answer is certain. As a railroad the Milwaukee is as good as ever it was.

### TREES AND THE CITY STREETS.

The sojourning brother who advises that Omaha streets should be beautified by planting of trees comes too late. He should have arrived before the prevailing idea took root. That in order to make a street available for business purposes it must be denuded of tree growth. Take Capitol avenue as an illustration. That thoroughfare had been parked, made beautiful, and offered a sort of oasis in the downtown district. In order that the needs of the next generation might be anticipated, the fine trees were cut down, the parking removed, and solid pavement spread over what had been a beauty spot.

While trees may not be an inseparable part of a downtown business district, and Omaha thrives fairly well without them, residence parts of the city need them. To the glory of the city, be it said, the early comers realized this truth. Trees were planted where none had grown, and spared where nature had provided them. The result of this is a mile on mile of well-shaded avenues, running all over the older residence portions of the town. Home builders in the newer sections have emulated the example of the older. Trees and shrubs are among the first things installed. Real estate men have encouraged this by lining the streets in their additions with trees, which in time will increase the value as well as the beauty of the homes that are coming.

Omahans appreciate trees. They show that appreciation by the care they give to planting and nurturing them. Jefferson Square may remain forever the only downtown breathing spot, but once away from business the resident or visitor finds himself in the presence of forest monarchs whose majesty testifies that "Only God can make a tree." Watch the unfolding of the leaves during the next few days, and realize that Omaha truly is a city of thousands of trees.

### "BUSINESS IS GOOD, THANK YOU."

A few years ago John and Horace Dodge took a chance with a fellow named Henry Ford, who thought he had an idea. It turned out that Ford did have an idea. In the words of the ribald ditty:

"He took four spoons  
And an old tin can,  
And put 'em all together,  
And the darned thing ran."

So fast and so far did it run that no place on earth, unless it is the peak of Mount Everest, is unfamiliar with the Ford output. Just how much the Dodge brothers invested in the Ford concern is not known, but about ten years ago they had an idea. They cashed in on their Ford holdings, and took out a sum of money that seemed respectable, even then. With it they began to inflate their own idea.

That also prospered, and now the small sum of \$175,000,000 is being paid for the outright ownership of the original Ford idea plus the money the Dodge brothers risked, plus the development of their own idea.

It was not magic. No wizard's wand or Aladdin's lamp. Just a bit of inventive genius, supplemented by capacity for direction and management. Manufacturing skill added to merchandizing ability. It has been done before. The adage about the mouse-trap and the home in the wilderness is true. If you doubt it, try making a mouse-trap better than any other, or get an idea such as Henry Ford or the Dodge brothers had, and watch what happens.

### COMPETITION AND CONSEQUENCES.

Certain Nebraska towns have been engaged in what seems like a most laudable competition. They have been striving to see which community could show the larger attendance at church and Sunday school. On this night rest a comparison as to the moral standing of each community, assuming that such a test might be made. So the contest went on over a specified number of weeks, and finally the totals were made, and the issue determined.

What is the net result? So far as can be gauged

from the newspapers, which fostered the trial in every way by publicity and encouragement, one side shouts, "We won, hurrah!" The other side points out that with a fair count, and no favor, the result would have been different. Accuses the winner of having worked in repeaters, by reason of holding extra services on Sunday afternoons, by which the opportunity was given for duplicating attendance, counting the same individual twice in one day. If night services were included, the same man may have been counted thrice on each Sunday.

Can any good for religion, morals, or better citizenship come out of such contests? Church attendance is to be encouraged by all legitimate methods. Something about this plan, though, rather smacks of the worldly to the extent at least that the text may have been lost sight of in the attendance count. Or the lesson of the sermon have vanished in the interest given to hearing from the rival camp.

If St. Peter keeps a profit and loss account, and he probably does, the chances are that such affairs will be properly entered. And that will not be on the profit side, either.

### POSTAL REGULATIONS AND EMPLOYEES.

Postmaster General New, as an act of grace and executive clemency, has restored to the service six highly placed postal employees. They had been suspended some months ago because of infraction of postal regulations. Specifically, it was charged they had raised money for the purpose of aiding in the passage of a bill that would increase the pay of postal employees. In restoring these men to the service, the postmaster general demoted each and reduced his pay. Each suffers a cut in pay of from \$500 to \$1,650 a year.

Mr. New explains that Edward H. McDermott, assistant secretary of the senate committee on post-offices and post roads, was the approach through which the employees reached the committee. McDermott demanded and received money from the men. The postmaster general says he was "insistent and merciless in his demands." A mitigating circumstance, but not sufficient to excuse the act of the men, who contributed from their own means \$2,585 to meet McDermott's exactions, and also agreed to levy an assessment on other employees. It is not alleged that the payment of this sum affected in any way the progress of the bill. It was given to McDermott, and by him kept. What happened to McDermott is not stated.

On this surface, the punishment seems unduly severe. Postal regulations are rigid and severe. To maintain the integrity of the service its rules must be enforced without favor. Yet, these men were victims rather than victimizers. To punish them by demotion accompanied by loss of pay, which in effect is a fine, to go on year after year, is out of proportion to the offense.

We believe in the postal service, in the honor and faith of its personnel. Also, that punishment should be swift and certain, but in every case it should be commensurate and not vindictive. To fine a man \$1,650 a year for the rest of his term of service in the postoffice, no matter how long that may be, is laying it on rather thick.

### NEW USE FOR LIFE INSURANCE.

Long ago the principle of life insurance became embedded in the affairs of men. It embodies the practice of cumulative thrift, accompanied by the prospect of payment of the amount of indemnity in event of death before the policy has matured. This, of course, having to do with the so-called "endowment" or "tontine" forms of insurance. The straight life insurance policy has no fixed time for determination short of death. Specified term policies are by far the most popular and productive of the many offered for selection. The use of these is being extended by experience almost daily.

One of the latest evidences of the adaptability of life insurance comes from Princeton university. Graduates there are making certain of ability to donate to alma mater by insuring contributions to be made twenty-five years hence. By the payment of stipulated sum as premium, the graduate puts himself in position of certainty as to the amount he will be able to contribute to the fund of school in twenty or twenty-five years. All he has to do is to pay the premium regularly, and the insurance company will take care of the rest.

In other ways this principle is applied. A number of Nebraska men have insured their lives for the benefit of an educational fund in which they are interested. Other men have made like provision for the endowment of various institutions. It illustrates the possibility of life insurance being indefinitely extended in its service. Not only to provide for the dependent wife and children, but to take care of what are generally regarded as benefices. As life insurance in its fundamental aspect is merely cumulative thrift, these methods of employing its service are as sound in principle as anything can be.

It appears that a legislature that adjourns in March is still an eventuality of future time, so far as Nebraska is concerned.

Twenty-fourth street will not be widened between St. Mary's and Farnam this year. Not at the proposed cost.

It didn't take John D. long to find out that Nebraska had a gas tax law in effect.

A "city beautiful" as well as useful is Omaha's destiny.

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**For the Child Labor Amendment.**  
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It is time to stop the "week" idea, and in this country, and it is right and proper that the schools, rebelling at the idea of being made the vehicle in which private enterprise shall ride to fame and profit, should be the first to call a halt.

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From the Madison Star-Matt.  
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We regret that our people were thus misrepresented, and trust that that which has been made in connection with the incident referred to.

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Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: An article appeared in a local paper on April 1, under the heading "Poles of South Side Resent Governor's Act."

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Truth of the matter is that the selection was not made with the consent of the Polish leaders, no official authority having been given to that effect, but as a result of the efforts of a single individual, who merely acted in the capacity of a close personal friend to the appointee.

In so far, therefore, as the selection was made by an individual, and was not properly authorized or consented to by the Polish voters, there is no

**Abel Martin**  
The moon was out last night;  
Wee stars and brilliant ones—  
Undreamed of planets' auns,  
Bediamonded with light—  
Surveyed the dark below—  
The earth minute and far—  
Where men tread to and fro  
Unseen by moon and star.

But they look up—these men  
To glimpse the twinkling deep  
Where, somewhere, loved ones sleep  
In Gallies. Their ken  
May pierce the hardest wall,  
Work wonders in a breath,  
But it is naught at all  
Before the Gates of Death.

Last night I saw the sky,  
The stars, the vivid moon—  
I heard the balm winds croon  
The virgin lullaby—  
I thought—how small men are,  
How weak is mortal might—  
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A hundred years no que will know—  
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For the first time in history the Brothers Bryan have been snuffed out of sight. While talk is going on about the resurrection of the democratic party, the party leaders seem to be dumfounded, confused, without knowing a road to travel on and without leaders. What democrat is preaching the doctrine of W. J. Bryan or "Brother"? Yet there never was a condition that would carry democracy to victory as easily as now unless it was in 1924. With the country with them and reasons plenty when the party should be returned to power.

ground for any such resentment as stated in the Omaha paper. The sentiment expressed therein is vigorously objected to by many reputable Polish people, among them a good number of democrats, as representing the sentiment of the Polish people, but of which they have apparently chosen himself also to act as a mouthpiece for the people.

We regret that our people were thus misrepresented, and trust that that which has been made in connection with the incident referred to.

**Pole Resents Misrepresentation.**  
Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: An article appeared in a local paper on April 1, under the heading "Poles of South Side Resent Governor's Act."

The alleged resentment seems to grow out of the fact that the governor dismissed a certain citizen of Polish extraction, recently appointed food inspector for Douglas county. It is further claimed that the article referred to that the party dismissed was selected with the consent of the Polish leaders of the South Side.

Truth of the matter is that the selection was not made with the consent of the Polish leaders, no official authority having been given to that effect, but as a result of the efforts of a single individual, who merely acted in the capacity of a close personal friend to the appointee.

In so far, therefore, as the selection was made by an individual, and was not properly authorized or consented to by the Polish voters, there is no

**Abel Martin**  
The moon was out last night;  
Wee stars and brilliant ones—  
Undreamed of planets' auns,  
Bediamonded with light—  
Surveyed the dark below—  
The earth minute and far—  
Where men tread to and fro  
Unseen by moon and star.

But they look up—these men  
To glimpse the twinkling deep  
Where, somewhere, loved ones sleep  
In Gallies. Their ken  
May pierce the hardest wall,  
Work wonders in a breath,  
But it is naught at all  
Before the Gates of Death.

Last night I saw the sky,  
The stars, the vivid moon—  
I heard the balm winds croon  
The virgin lullaby—  
I thought—how small men are,  
How weak is mortal might—  
When sky and moon and star  
Looked down on me last night.

In durned near every place we go  
There's Platos, even Christs—and yet,  
A hundred years no que will know—  
Time makes it easy to forget!

**Homespun Verse**  
By Omaha's Own Poet—  
Robert Worthington Davie.

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**Letters From Our Readers**  
All letters must be signed, but name will be withheld upon request. Illustrations 200 words and less will be given preference.

**For the Child Labor Amendment.**  
Lincoln, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Inasmuch as I had no chance to discuss the child labor amendment in the house because when House Roll No. 152 came up the most extreme gag rule known to any assembly was used in order to allow no debate, I wish a portion of space in your paper to say only a little on the matter that ought to be said.

When the Moslems conquered Palestine they carefully preserved the places in conformity with their custom. During the short-lived Christian occupation in the 11th century, the Crusaders built a castle-like church over the cave, which the Turks eventually turned into a mosque. For centuries no Christian was permitted to enter it except on rare occasions. One of the last to be thus honored was the late King Edward.

The six sepulchers are each marked by massive gates of solid silver, consists of a cofinlike structure built of plastered stone, covered by three exquisite carpets, the gifts of sultans. The tomb of Sarah no Christian is ever permitted to see under any circumstances because the Moslem conventions with regard to women.

It is something to reflect on that through all the thousands of years which have elapsed since Abraham was gathered to his fathers, his resting place should have been left inviolate, despite the war and turmoil which have ceaselessly raged about it. Does it not seem that Providence had determined that this dust should not be disturbed until the last provision of the law shall be fulfilled?

**"Weeks."**  
From the Nebraska City Press.  
It has required the outburst of a Nebraska educator, C. Ray Gates, superintendent of the Grand Island schools, to bring to our attention the overdoing of the "week" celebrations and observances.

Mr. Gates points out that this constant enlisting of the schools' aid in "putting over" some sort of propaganda every week is hurting the work of education in that it diverts the attention of both teacher and student from the work at hand.

The shame of it, of course, lies in the fact that these "weeks" are usually in the interest of favored sections of the population, not designed, particularly, to help the public as a whole. Some forward-looking promoter a few years ago invented the idea, and at once he found plenty of imitators, until now the entire year is taken up with propaganda that clutters up the landscape and leaves behind only a feeling of nausea.

It is time to stop the "week" idea, and in this country, and it is right and proper that the schools, rebelling at the idea of being made the vehicle in which private enterprise shall ride to fame and profit, should be the first to call a halt.

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