

## THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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Subscribed in my green and sworn to before me this 31st day of March, 1905.  
(Seal) M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

A Joplin man is starting a colony in Mexico. Former state legislators will probably be given special wholesale rates.

If Chicago continues to import negro strike breakers from the south the race problem in that section may be but a memory.

Pension Commissioner Warner will have to be careful or he will be "humiliated" in verse by his predecessor from Kansas.

It may be a little bit early to plan the next autumn horse show before May day, but no harm can come from planning ahead.

If Mr. Tarbell starts another life insurance company it is probable that thousand-dollar bonuses will be no part of the advertising plan.

General Fitzhugh Lee lived long enough to prove the magnanimity of his native land—and that land not the state in which he was born.

Minister Bowen is evidently resolved that if he is to lose his official head over the Venezuelan situation some others shall at least be given a jolt.

Before we get through with the various inquiries into the Equitable affair we may learn just what life insurance costs when the frills are removed.

President Roosevelt has killed his four bears in one day. Most animals have no chance to kill their forebears. They generally die before they are born.

The recent slump in wheat seems not to have had the least effect upon the price of silver, nor has the high price of silver had the least effect upon the low price of cotton.

If that Chicago strike continues long enough the country merchant may be able to observe the effect of putting the cat-bowes out of business, for a little while at any rate.

Thirty-three dentists have received sheepskins from the Omaha Dental college in one night. We may now prepare for a season of competitive tooth-pulling with a few molars thrown in.

It is more than likely that when the "old inhabitants" show their souvenirs of the president's visit to Colorado, the younger generation will imagine the bears killed on that famous hunt were centipedes.

When the British museum is ready to record the voices of great men for future generations it will probably have no trouble in securing anything it wants should it send a machine to Lincoln, Neb., U. S. A.

Judge Adams of St. Louis is mentioned as a successor for Judge Thayer. May be Mr. Burton will be sorry that he announced his intention of remaining out of the senate until his case was finally disposed of.

King Menelik of Abyssinia evidently feels that he can manage the affairs of that country better while other nations are quarreling about concessions, hence his course in regard to the proposed railroad to the capital.

William Jennings Bryan's keynote for 1905 is "Back to the People." And yet Bryan objects to John D. Rockefeller when he shows any disposition to give back to the people any portion of the fortune he made out of them.

When looking over the winter's coal bills there may be a number of householders who are inclined to believe that the same "drunken driver" who delivered coal to paupers for the county had something to do with his fuel deliveries.

## A MISCHIEVOUS DISCRIMINATION.

One of the conditions of the multi-cent donation made by Andrew Carnegie last week to found a pension fund for college and university professors requires the exclusion of members of state universities from participation in its benefits. Chancellor Andrews, in response to The Bee's inquiry as to his opinion of the probable effect of this discrimination, characterizes it as "cruelly invidious," but while this indicates what may be expected, it does not explain how this blighting influence will be felt.

The promise of pensions for superannuated or incapacitated professors and instructors in the great universities of the country is equivalent to increasing the salaries attaching to those positions. Other things being equal, it will be perfectly natural for the educator who has devoted himself to instructional or research work in institutions of higher learning to prefer the place which allows him to participate in a pension fund over certain conditions over one which leaves him entirely dependent upon his own resources when the time comes to retire from active service. In other words, until something is done to counteract this disturbing factor, unless other conditions exist, the state universities will be handicapped in their efforts to secure and hold competent and experienced professional talent that they will have to content themselves with serving as a training school to develop new material, or as an asylum for "derelict" recruits unable to connect with one of the pension fund institutions.

Should the situation become acute the state universities will have only two alternatives to choose from. They must either increase their faculty salaries to the point that will enable them to make provision themselves as they go along for their support after retiring, or they will have to improvise some scheme for a state pension fund to be created out of the same resources from which the universities themselves are maintained. The difficulty here would be that if the states which maintain state universities undertake to provide pensions for their university professors they will not be able to stop there, but will have to provide pensions for teachers in all branches of their public school system, and then for all permanent employees in the state civil service. That none of the state university commonwealths are ready for such a radical departure goes without saying.

On the other hand, one other solution remains to prevail upon Mr. Carnegie to remove the uncalled-for and mischievous discrimination against state universities and to open his pension fund foundation to all higher educational institutions alike. We do not believe Mr. Carnegie thoroughly realized the pernicious consequences sure to follow the conditions he has attached to this endowment, or that he would intentionally put the people of those states who have assumed the burden of supporting their own universities as public institutions without waiting for private gifts or bequests, at a disadvantage as compared with those who have had their universities supplied to them almost without cost by beneficiaries of wealthy philanthropists. Mr. Carnegie's principle in the distribution of his bounty has been to help people to help themselves and none deserve better under this rule than the state universities which have been established and maintained by the people and for the people.

## THE PRESIDENT AND PEACE.

It appears that President Roosevelt has taken a very earnest interest in the far eastern war and has made known to diplomatic representatives at Washington of foreign governments his wish that the war end at the earliest possible time. The report from the national capital to this effect states that the German and French ambassadors are to have a conference with Mr. Roosevelt immediately after his return to Washington and will at once thereafter depart for their respective countries to present to their governments the views of the American chief executive. It is expected that these will be found to be quite in accord with the position of Emperor William, who is said to be not less anxious than Mr. Roosevelt for an early ending of the war, and that they will also have the approval of King Edward, who for obvious reasons cannot take initiatory steps for bringing about peace. What the French president may think of the matter is not even surmised, his position being rendered somewhat delicate by the fact that France is Russia's ally and President Loubet will therefore be guided entirely by the sentiment at St. Petersburg.

It is the very general judgment that the result of the impending naval battle will have a determining effect upon the question of peace. Whichever power loses in that conflict will, it is believed, be willing to consider peace terms, and with no unnecessary delay. A decisive victory for Russia would place Japan in a position of grave danger. She would not be able to reinforce or supply her armies in Manchuria, while her ports could be blockaded and her external commerce shut off. Should Japan win and thus retain command of the sea, the situation would be made utterly hopeless for Russia, for it seems perfectly evident that she cannot succeed against Japan on land.

It is said to be the opinion of diplomats at Washington that whatever the outcome of the naval conflict, the time will be opportune after the engagement for initiating peace negotiations. It is to be doubted, however, whether in the event of a Russian victory that power would be disposed to consider peace proposals. She would see her way to a recovery of lost military prestige and would hardly be willing to end hostilities until she had inflicted severe injury upon her enemy. A decisive sea victory would infuse new energy into the war party and perhaps silence at home the demand for peace. The bureaucracy would see in it opportunity to strengthen itself and would make an appeal to the country to

stand firmly by the government in an effort to regain what has been lost in the far east. The chances for peace will be promoted by Japanese rather than by Russian victory.

It seems to be the impression that the United States is to play an important part in connection with peace negotiations, whenever they shall come. It is altogether probable that American counsel and suggestion would be acceptable to Japan, but it is unlikely that Russia will want any of it. At all events it is not apparent that our government will have any other duty than that of seeing that American rights and interests are duly safeguarded. There can be no reasonable objection to such efforts to bring about peace as cannot involve us in any entanglements or complications, and it is safe to say there is no danger of this from anything President Roosevelt has yet done or may hereafter do with a view to ending hostilities in the far east.

## WHAT EDITORS KNOW ABOUT RAILROADS.

Railway managers and attorneys frequently make factious comment at the expense of editors who discuss the railroad question by asserting that editors claim to know everything about railroads. While it is doubtless true that editors are not equipped with expert knowledge concerning railroad management they possess sufficient knowledge for rational discussion of the relations of railroads to their patrons and the public.

Editors do not know and make no pretense of knowing the physical make-up of a railroad and could not discuss it intelligently or instructively from the standpoint of the railroad expert. They do not have the engineering skill to pass upon the construction of tunnels, bridges and culverts, the ballasting of the roadway or the rolling stock and equipment of a railroad. They do not pretend to know whether a railroad operated by the block system enjoys superior safeguards over railroads operated by telegraph orders of train dispatchers, neither do they know whether a Baldwin locomotive is superior to engines fabricated in other locomotive works. To sum it up, they do not pretend to be capable of passing an intelligent opinion upon the operating department of a railroad, excepting when the road fails to furnish adequate facilities as a public carrier, or when flagrant neglect on the part of railway men causes loss of life and property by accidents that are avoidable with reasonable care.

But editors may know that the over capitalization of railroads by stock inflation whether through padded construction accounts, or by downright stock watering, is wrong because they know that inflated capitalization is the primary cause of excessive transportation charges.

Editors may also know as well as do railway experts that rates based upon what the traffic will bear, and rebates, drawbacks and every species of discrimination or favoritism on the part of railroads to the detriment of one community or any particular class of shippers, or any individual shipper are contrary to public policy and in violation of state and national statutes.

Editors, moreover, may know without being railroad experts that railroads should enjoy no immunity or exemption from sharing with other owners of taxable property the burdens of government—national or local—but on the contrary that they should be made to pay their just and equal share of taxes for all legitimate purposes of government in proportion to the value of their tangible properties and franchises.

Last, but not least, editors are capable, without being experts in railroad management and railway operation, of observing the wrong of undue interference in politics on the part of railroad magnates and managers. All rational editors concede that railroad men have just the same rights to affiliate with any political party and to oppose or support the candidate of any party at the primary or the election as any other class of citizens. They have no right, however, to use improper means to manipulate and corrupt legislatures and congresses, much less subvert justice by exerting undue influence in the nomination or appointment of judges to whom all people have a right to look for an impartial administration of justice.

## BRANCH BANKING.

Referring to the resolution adopted by the Nebraska bankers, opposing branch banking in any or all of its various phases, the Wall Street Journal remarks that if a system of branch banking were adopted in this country it would mean the elimination of the independent country banker. We would then have a few great banks in a few of the great cities, and these banks would have a multitude of branches distributed through the country. These branches would have local managers, whose standing and power and ability to perform valuable service for the localities in which they were placed would be far less than the standing and power of the country bankers today. "It is a question," adds that paper, "whether the advantages of the concentration which would be produced by a system of branch banking would compensate for this loss of a class of independent bankers."

There is no sentiment in this section of the country, so far as we are aware, favorable to branch banking. The declaration of the bankers of Nebraska was simply a reaffirmation of what has been repeatedly declared by conventions of western bankers and is in accord with the universal sentiment in this part of the country. The west is opposed to having its banking facilities provided and controlled by a few great banks in a few of the great cities. It wants no monopolistic scheme of this kind. The west believes in the independent bank, with men in control whose interests are identified with the community of which they are a part and who can be depended upon to exert themselves for the promotion of the welfare of their localities.

Those who advocate branch banks do not attempt to show that the existing system is bad or has not worked satisfactorily, the fact being that its merit and usefulness have been most conclusively demonstrated. The efforts made by eastern bankers to create sentiment in favor of branch banking has been wholly unavailing in this section and the west can be depended upon to always oppose any proposition that contemplates the placing of its banking facilities in the control of a few great banks in the east.

## REBUKING FUNERAL POMP.

I can never envision a funeral. The frequent vagaries of funeral display to me are painful and abhorrent. The expensive casket, the extravagant abundance of flowers, unseen and unscented; the exalted adulation, the ceremonious unwhimpered, the pompousness, as a kind of death to the dead it is as great a failure as it is repulsive to me. As a mark of sympathy to the living and bereaved we are forced to confess that it falls lamentably short of healing the sorrows which Christ alone can cure. And there are actually people who find delight in funeral display and ostentation. I would not teach disregard of the dead, nor neglect of the living, but they who find satisfaction in deaths and funerals, and graves and caskets, and disorientation and abandonment and forgetfulness, are strangely satisfied.

These sentiments, expressed by Rev. R. F. Fellman of Grace Baptist church in his Easter day sermon, cannot be too highly commended. The pomp, glory and circumstance of ostentatious funerals are a sad commentary upon human vanity in its most repellent form. As testimonials of affection for the dead they are puerile and as a consolation to their bereaved families and relatives they do not afford a balm for grief-stricken hearts. The solemn protest from the pulpit against funeral pomp is appropriate as well as timely.

## PURE FOOD PROGRESS.

The movement for pure food is undoubtedly making progress. The most recent evidence of this is furnished by the action of the packers of canned goods, whose national association at its late meeting took a decided stand in favor of omitting the use of any article as a preservative that has been passed upon unfavorably by the government. All the compounds which enter into the preservation of canned goods are not harmful, but some of them unquestionably are. The association of packers has for its object prevention of the use of preservatives in any form, considering this possible, and it especially deprecates the use of chemicals.

One of the most important of our industries is the packing of articles of food and it is steadily growing. Millions of dollars' worth of canned goods are consumed annually. The packers connected with the national association manifest a most commendable purpose to avoid conflict with the government analysts and to promote the pure food cause by omitting from their products preservatives that may prove injurious to the health of consumers. They appear to have no doubt that this can be done without impairing the value of the products and they certainly are disposed to accept this view without question. Enough has already been accomplished by the pure food movement to give great encouragement to those engaged in it to continue their efforts.

General Fitzhugh Lee was a man of fine character and good ability. He was a gallant soldier in the confederate service, making a record that was surpassed by few. After the war he became a worthy citizen, serving his state with great credit and rendering to the national government useful and meritorious service. This was especially valuable in Cuba, where he represented the government as consul general before the war with Spain and subsequently again did excellent service when Cuba passed under American protection. He was a man of fine executive as well as military ability and was of the highest type of the Virginia gentleman. His death will be greatly mourned by the people of his state.

The United States consul at Birmingham sends out a timely warning to all Americans addicted to oysters submerged in whiskey, or broiled on the gridiron, that oysters readily take into their interior the bacillus typhosus which has been introduced into their shell or into the surrounding sea water and when introduced into the stomach generates typhoid fever. Fortunately we are about to enter upon the four months without an "R."

That railroad vice president who said he objected to giving the Interstate Commerce commission power to fix rates because it would give them control of the earning power of the roads has probably been the first to tell the real reason why the companies object to the proposed law, but control of the earning power seems to be among the things the people desire.

"A Sunday closing law in Texas would mean pistols and death; in Missouri it is simply lived up to," said the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. But, judging from the arrests made by the St. Louis police each Monday, it isn't, and the law would be observed very much less if East St. Louis were fenced out.

Those whose names appear on the list of trustees of the Carnegie fund for pensioning college professors all declare the gift a noble one at which Mr. Carnegie will not be surprised, inasmuch as he took care to provide fully for the payment of all expenses connected with the distribution of the money.

Iowa lawyers have limited the speeches at their annual banquet to thirty minutes. This should be a tip to judges who have seen juries worn out for no reason except to give lawyers an opportunity to show their staying qualities.

Home's Record in Danger.  
New York Tribune.  
Seven cities claimed Homer dead, and so far four cities—Annapolis, Frederick,

burg, Philadelphia and New York—have put in a plea for the honor of being the last resting place of John Paul Jones.

Leveling Social Barriers.  
Philadelphia Record.  
Cupid has been very busy of late as a leveler of social barriers erected by snobbery and pride of pure society is shocked, of course. It does not like to be reminded of the fact that some of its leaders broke their way into the charmed circle via the kitchen or the coachman's box.

Greeting to Ion Perdicaris.  
Springfield Republican.  
Welcome home again to Ion Perdicaris, who has just landed in New York. Mr. Perdicaris is very well, thank you. Once in a great while he comes to the land of his citizenship, after exciting adventures in brigand camps abroad. "Perdicaris alive or Ratsul dead" is the chapter he contributed to our diplomatic history.

Why Age Gets Frisky.  
Baltimore American.  
An insurance agent says that the young wife of an old man rejuvenates him, and that he would consider a man of 30 who married a girl of 20 a much better risk than before. Here is a point to be considered by those sweet young things with a keen sense of business who pick out eligible old men with one foot in the grave.

Ready for Emergencies.  
New York Tribune.  
It is now said the Japanese have been accumulating stores in Manchuria so that even in the event of interruption of transportation across the great lakes, following the failure of the prolonged strike of the masters and pilots, it has decided to reject all its old captains and to adopt an age limit of 40 years henceforth for all captains in charge of its vessels. It is said that the senior transportation lines involved in the strike will do the same thing. This is drawing the age "dead line" pretty far down, but the companies engaged probably have good reasons for their action. It is part of the fortunes of a bitter and costly labor war, and it is impossible to effect to throw a large number of old, experienced and good men out of employment. In this case, as in most others of the same kind, the honest and capable workers are the sufferers, while the gains, if any, go to the professional trouble makers. Strikes are costly in more ways than one.

## No "Dead Line" at Forty.

Leslie's Weekly.  
It seems like a hard rule which has been adopted by one of the largest transportation lines on the great lakes, following the failure of the prolonged strike of the masters and pilots. It has decided to reject all its old captains and to adopt an age limit of 40 years henceforth for all captains in charge of its vessels. It is said that the senior transportation lines involved in the strike will do the same thing. This is drawing the age "dead line" pretty far down, but the companies engaged probably have good reasons for their action. It is part of the fortunes of a bitter and costly labor war, and it is impossible to effect to throw a large number of old, experienced and good men out of employment. In this case, as in most others of the same kind, the honest and capable workers are the sufferers, while the gains, if any, go to the professional trouble makers. Strikes are costly in more ways than one.

## CHEER UP, BRETHREN.

Some Remarks on "The Jeremiahs of the Pulpit."  
Philadelphia Press.  
The Jeremiahs of the pulpit are just now worried over wickedness in high places, particularly in high financial places, insurance and others.

"The world grows better, and as it grows better it cleanses itself. Cleaning houses, cleaning houses, cleaning houses," says one preacher, "and seems to suffocate us in our higher life." On the contrary, our higher life is clearing out this "filthy atmosphere." The world is growing better. If it were not there would be no exposures. Things would go on just as they have before.

Nothing is new in anything exposed in current high financial operations, insurance or others, except the exposure. The change is that these things are condemned. Nobody objected to railroad rebates thirty years ago. Everybody got them that could. They are a crime now. There are even people who are anxious in an ex post facto manner to hold a man and his money responsible for years when rebates were still given by all railroads and taken by all shippers.

Insurance methods have improved. Commissions were once worse, so much worse that there are men who will tell you there is no place left for agents and a fair return for soliciting. Side profits in insurance were once heavier. Insurance companies were riskier. Not one big life insurance company has failed for thirty years. From 1850 to 1875 a big one went under every five or ten years, and one such failure made the panic of 1857.

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## POEM BY ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

New York Tribune.  
"One day, last summer, when Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Cleveland were talking luncheon on board the Onondaga, in Buzzard's bay, the conversation drifted to the subject of 'future life.'" said E. C. Benedict, an old friend of the comedian.  
"I pressed myself as grateful for having had more than his share of the joys of this life, and as being anxious to meet at any moment the common fate of all. He said he had lately been 'scribbling some doggerels' on the subject, and recited his lines to me. I asked him for a copy of them, which he said he did not possess, but he promised to send me one. In February I reminded him of his promise and received a signed copy of the verses, which he entitled 'Immortality.' It seems as though these lines construct a beautiful bridge between faith and reason."

Two caterpillars crawling on a leaf. By some strange accident in contact came. Their conversation, hushing all belief. Was that same argument, the very same. "That has been 'brood and conund' from man to man."

Yes, ever since this wondrous world began. The ugly creatures. Dead and dumb and blind. Devoid of features. That adorn mankind. Were vain enough in dull and wordy strife. To speculate upon a future life. The first was optimistic, full of hope. The second, quite despondent, seemed to mope.

Said number one, "I'm sure of our salvation." Said number two, "I'm sure of our damnation." Our ugly forms alone would seal our fates And bar our entrance through the golden gates. Suppose that death should take us unaware. How could we climb the golden stairs? If maidens shun us as they pass by us? Would angels bid us welcome in the sky? I wonder what great crimes we have committed.

There's no use so forlorn and so unlit. Perhaps we've been ungrateful, unforgiving. "I'll plain to me that life's not worth the living." "Come, cheer up," the jovial worm replied. "Let's take a look upon the other side. Suppose we cannot for being caterpillars? Will that same God that doomed us crawl the earth. A prey to every bird that's given birth. Forgive our caper as he eats and sings. And damn poor us because we have not wings. If we can't skim the air like owl or bat. Worms will turn for a that."

## SERMONS BOILED DOWN.

Shortening the face lengthens the life. It is easy to be resigned to another's woes. Weeping over your woes only water them. The best way to keep life day is to do his deeds. The Master is always with those who seek to minister. The church that does not look for the lost is lost itself. Only a soft man finds any pleasure in spreading himself. Salvation is more than a sense of satisfaction with ourselves. Whipping a boy in Sunday school never yet drove him to heaven. When religion is only a tool you are sure to get hold of it by the wrong end. A man needs something besides faith in God when he tackles a hornet's nest. There's no use casting your bread on the waters if you keep your cake to yourself. Where there is no faith in the possibilities of man faith in the power of God does little good.

Angels may have wings, but that does not indicate that they will welcome a man sinner. If you know enough to help you will have too many contracts to waste any breath in criticism. People who protect themselves from the world's problems are the first to suggest its solution. Some men could reconcile the Bible and science if only the Bible would be reconciled to their sins.

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.  
Chicago Chronicle: The reverend gentleman who regaled his Easter congregation with a sermon in verse has added another to the long list of answers to that historic question, Why don't you go to church?

Chicago Tribune: A New York minister was held up and robbed of \$5 while on his way to church a few evenings ago. This raises another interesting question. Could that money be regarded as tainted if the robbers were to become conscious stricken and offer to give it back?

Boston Transcript: Was it in spirit of asceticism or grim earnestness that Rev. A. C. Dixon, after exhorting Mr. Rockefeller's Christian life and motives, advised the money king to spend about \$20,000.00 of his fortune among the descendants of those who suffered by the rapacity of the Standard Oil company?

New York World: Rev. Dr. MacArthur asserts that John D. Rockefeller is one of the gentlest and sweetest in his private as well as his religious life one of the noblest of men. This goes to confirm H. H. Rogers' statement that "Mr. Rockefeller is just as nice a man as I am." Mr. Rogers being notoriously one of the sweetest and gentlest souls that ever sheared a lamb.

Cincinnati Enquirer: The reported offer of Mr. Carnegie to give \$1,000,000 for the support of superannuated Methodist ministers, provided others will contribute \$2,000,000, is a feasible proposition and does not deserve the sarcasm with which it is received in some quarters. There are a great many more than twenty-five men in the United States amply able to contribute \$1,000,000 apiece, else much of the fuss about the "trusts" is poorly grounded.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.  
Strange to say, Ida Tarbell has not broken into the "limited money" controversy.  
Mr. Carnegie has the courage of his convictions. He has set sail for the country whose specialty is "worthless dukes."

A New York court decides that a janitor does not own the earth or the buildings thereon. Score another boost for popular rights.  
The proposed tax on bachelors in Wisconsin has been defeated. Lawmakers did not have the heart to increase the troubles of the lonelines.

Government statistics show that the consumption of whisky last year averaged 1.48 gallons each. Several persons have taken more than their share.  
The coachman has a right to feel "cheaty." One of the ornate professions captured Carnegie's notice, another wedded a wealthy Pennsylvania widow.

The unexpected happens occasionally in Detroit. A business man struck a vein of prosperity and was so dumfounded that he went into a quiet corner and committed suicide.

St. Joe, Mo., is brushing up and putting on its best. Peasant merchants and poor vendors are obliged to shut up shops on Sundays. During one day of the week at least the natives insist on a change of commercial diet.

With the remains of John Paul Jones and that of Pocahontas Smith resting in the land they loved, two eminent American families will have ancestral trees capable of shadowing the Daughters of the Revolution and Colonial Dames.

A bright school girl in South Omaha is credited with having pulled off a jockey the recital of which caused an eastern man to laugh immoderately and swallow his false teeth. Before repeating it to the top reader is warned to make provision against a similar catastrophe. Ready? School Teacher—Children, frame a sentence with the words "bitter end" in it. Little Girl—

## Why Toric Lenses

are Superior to Flat Lenses

The center of the flat lens is the point nearest the eye. And, the distance from the center of the flat lens