

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR
Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION
Daily Bee (without Sunday), one year, \$1.00
Daily Bee (with Sunday), one year, \$1.25
Sunday Bee, one year, 50c

DELIVERED BY CARRIER
Daily Bee (including Sunday), per week, 15c
Daily Bee (without Sunday), per week, 12c
Sunday Bee (with Sunday), per week, 15c

OFFICES
Omaha—The Bee Building, 1001 F Street
South Omaha—City Hall Building, 1001 F Street

CORRESPONDENCE
Communications relating to news and editorial matters should be addressed to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

REMITTANCES
Remit by draft, express or postal order payable to The Bee Publishing Company.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION
State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss:
Charles C. Rosewater, general manager 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 September, 1906, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Circulation category and Number of copies. Includes categories like 'Copies of this issue', 'Copies of other issues', 'Total', 'Net total sales', 'Daily average', 'Less unsold copies'.

Published by CHARLES C. ROSEWATER, General Manager, at Omaha, Neb., at the Bee Building, 1001 F Street.

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

At this stage of the game Joseph Ramey, Jr., may be able to give Stuyvesant Fish some valuable pointers.

Hobson's fear of the "yellow peril" indicates that he has lost his nerve since the day he tried to "bottle" Cervera.

Men who expect to vote "for a consideration" will be sure to register and this is one reason why the conscientious voter must do so.

It will take a post-mortem examination to determine whether new rules or new men proved more damaging to western football enthusiasm this year.

"You can't defend rebate cases in the present state of public opinion," remarks a New York lawyer. And it is doubly difficult when the records have not been destroyed.

Russia's Manchurian armies have been "demobilized" and the government should now turn its attention to the cities, where a "demobilization" of excited citizens seems desirable.

French experience indicates that the practical submarine boat should be so constructed that members of the crew can easily leave the vessel when accident occurs under water.

The discovery of a shortage in the office of the subtreasury at St. Louis with the chief officer still at home, at least shows one broad difference between banking and governmental methods.

So long as a \$2,000 reward is hung up periodic arrests of the Rummelhart murderer may be expected in various parts of the country. One of them may, however, turn out to be the right one some of these days.

If Japan is really starting trouble for Great Britain in India, oriental diplomacy will find some difficulty in sidestepping an accidental ultimatum—for he who steps on the lion's tail is likely to hear a roar.

The South Omaha city council has let the contract for building the new city hall, providing for completion July 15, 1907, "barring injunctions." A few injunctions should be kept in cold storage by the builders for emergency.

Another question that presents, is the protectorate established over the so-called "Coal trust" by former County Attorney English and Candidate Hitchcock's World-Herald still in force, or has it been dissolved temporarily until after election?

With American soldiers fighting fire in South Dakota, yellow fever in Havana, cholera in Manila, and earthquakes in San Francisco, the duties of the trooper seem to have become somewhat varied since the days of the republic.

The finances of Douglas county have been put upon a cash basis since the republicans took charge of the management of the county's business, whereas creditors whistled for their money upward of six months when the democrats were in control. No Douglas county taxpayer who wants to keep the tax rate down will think of recalling any of the discredited democratic bunch to membership on the county board.

A NOTABLE REBATE CONVICTION.

The conviction of the New York Central Railway company and its chief traffic officer on six indictments for granting rebates on sugar shipments is a signal triumph of the law over powerful offenders. The evidence, under the instructions of the court, seems conclusively to establish the fact of violations, but they are of a character and involve interests which formerly it was regarded as impossible to bring to book. If convictions can be secured against the New York Central and its officials for unlawful discriminations, through which one of the greatest and most arbitrary trusts has been built up, then no transportation corporation or trust can safely defy the majesty of the law. Moreover, every such conviction necessarily multiplies the means in the hands of the authorities for successfully prosecuting other similar offenders and at the same time encourages the government and correspondingly discourages law violators.

No doubt the verdict rendered in the New York district court will be appealed and resisted by every technical device known to great corporation lawyers. It is, however, not likely to be reversed or evaded by the immediate parties to it. Even if by hook or by crook some flaw should be found that would open the way of temporary escape to them, there is no escape from the moral and monetary force of the conviction, or from the fact which it signifies that such offenses can no longer be indulged as a regular practice.

COMPETITIVE SALT WATER PORTS.

It may be conceded that manipulation of elevator, storage and terminal charges has been one means of great diversion of grain from New York to other Atlantic ports and to gulf ports. No real ground exists, however, for the hope on which New York is felicitating itself that the new federal law requiring in schedules of rates separate exhibit of those charges will either recover this trade or tend materially to arrest further diversion in the future. The purpose of the amended law is such publicity by official record that the shipper shall know not only the total charge which he pays, but also in precise detail the elements of service for which it is made, no change in the schedule being permitted save on thirty days' notice, which requirement bears equally on all carrier companies whether from New York or other ports.

Such a regulation in nowise impairs the advantages of the new routes that have been developed from the interior to ports on the gulf or on the Atlantic other than New York. The gulf route especially possesses manifold and great advantages, outside of terminal considerations, in shorter distance, better grades and lower cost of service, which cannot be wholly overcome by the eastern routes, and the full measure of which has not even yet been utilized. On the other hand, New York is under a terminal handicap from which it can never escape because its system was developed when as practically the sole entrepot monopolistic terminal charges could be extorted, and that very system which could not easily be changed became in time a stimulus to new competing routes which every year are diverting more trade.

In short, under the new law the inherent advantages of the gulf route can be as well expressed in the published rate schedules as heretofore, the sole difference being that the truth in detail as to charges at every port and by all routes will be known. Thus all shippers will be in position to choose intelligently between competitive routes and markets. There will be just one way for New York to recover lost trade and prevent further diversion—namely, to make equal or lower charge for the same or better transportation, storage, elevator and other terminal services as are available to the interior of the continent over the gulf route, or to suffer the consequences of failure in future as it has suffered in the past.

PAY OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES.

The announcement that Postmaster General Coriellou has included in the estimates for the next fiscal year to be submitted to congress provision for material increase of pay for postal employees will be welcomed by the general public as well as by the employees themselves. There is also to be believed that the proposal will also be backed by strong recommendations in the president's annual message. The estimated increase, it is understood, is apportioned principally to the mass of postoffice clerks and other low salaried employees, who really need it most and whose remuneration is rated disproportionately to their work. In fact, inadequate pay to this class, who perform the bulk of the postal work, has brought the department face to face with an emergency, outside of equitable considerations. An exodus of experienced clerks and other employees has been because they could do better for themselves outside than inside the government service, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure competent men to fill vacancies.

The present scale of salaries, fixed for the most part, twenty-five years ago, notoriously ignores the changed conditions which are stern realities to thousands in the postal service. A 10 per cent increase, though it would be less than the advance of wages in private employment, would add \$9,000,000 to the expenditures of the department for labor alone, making on the basis of the last fiscal year a total excess of more than \$17,000,000 over the department's revenues. Investigation by the department has demonstrated that magazines and certain

other items of second-class mail which cause most of this deficiency cost the government four times as much as they pay postage, and it is well known that the allowance to railroads for transporting the mails is grossly excessive. Far more than the amount necessary for a reasonable increase of salaries to postal employees can be provided by congress by equalization of postage rates and revision of postal contracts with railroads so that not a dollar need be added to the burden upon the general public.

The matter presses for public attention the more because postal employees are strictly forbidden from agitating their interest, save through regular departmental channels, and there is danger that it will be neglected unless it be thus forced home upon congress. The powerful interests that long have enjoyed unreasonable favor in transportation contracts will assuredly exert their influence to the utmost to prevent relief to underpaid postal employees, for the very reason that the result would necessarily be to formalize attention upon those abuses.

ONE CONTROLLING REASON.

People who have remarked upon the apparent apathy of the present political campaign, especially in Omaha and South Omaha, will not have to look far for one controlling reason aside from the fact that prosperity prevails and everyone is busy attending to his own affairs.

People here have certainly had a surfeit of political diversion since last spring. In the first place the voters were called on to participate in the municipal primaries in which the city tickets were made up, and then to attend the city election to choose between opposing nominees. This was followed in July with a primary election to select delegates to the various state conventions and again in September with another primary election to nominate legislative and county candidates. The voters have, in addition to this, now to appear before the registration boards for enrollment on the registration books and then to go to the polls in November to express their preference on the voting machine.

As a consequence the people of Omaha and South Omaha within a period of about seven months will have had to go to the voting place six times, which, to put it mildly, is speeding up faster than comfort and convenience allow. The citizen who wants to do his full duty, however, must not permit the extraordinary multiplicity of these demands this year to prevent him from exercising his elective franchise. He will have an excuse, however, if he does not feel like marching in processions and whooping it up at campaign meetings.

PUT THEM TO WORK.

This ought to be a good time to re-new agitation for a work house, or a rock pile, or both, for prisoners convicted in Omaha of petty offenses. It is well known that the class of vagrants and suspicious characters that infests a city constitutes a breeding ground for more serious crime, and as a rule furnishes the agents of sudden outbreaks of lawlessness.

It is also well known that the prospect of hard labor in a work house or on a rock pile is the most effective means of keeping a city clear of hoboes and idlers who are tempted by opportunities for mischief.

If every sentence given a vagrant or suspicious character in the police court carried with it a sure period of real manual labor, the number of guests at our city and county jails would without question be speedily reduced. The city authorities should take this matter in hand right away without further dillydallying and let it be advertised far and wide that Omaha jails are no longer comfortable havens of rest and recreation with board free for the asking.

Friends of the initiative and referendum cannot be so easily fooled as our democratic city councilmen would believe. The democrats have been in control of the city administration for more than five months, but before responding to the demands of the direct legislation advocates they waited until after the thirty-day limit had passed, when they knew their pretended acquiescence would fail because in conflict with the requirements of the law. Candidate Hitchcock, too, had five months to appear before the council as a special pleader, but he preferred to wait until the door was shut and locked.

The arrangement of the voting machine so as to provide for free expression of the constitutional amendment and still make the straight votes for the republican, democratic or populist ticket count in its favor, raises some novel complications. By interpreting the law, however, with a view to practical results rather than unimportant technicalities, it ought to be possible to set the machine so as to permit anyone to vote for or against the amendment if he so desires, and still register the straight vote in its favor unless counteracted by a negative expression.

Candidate Hitchcock is asking the policy holders of one of the big New York life insurance companies to let him handle their proxies on the election of officers. Incidentally he would like also to have them let him vote their proxies so far as they live in this district at the congressional election.

The Bee has had numerous endorsements of its efforts to arouse the business men of Omaha to a realization of what the city is losing by reason of Omaha's deficiencies in first-class hotel facilities. Denver al-

MINOR SCENES AND INCIDENTS SKETCHED ON THE PAT.

The announcement of Attorney General Moody that E. A. Croshaw, a leading lawyer of Salt Lake City, had been retained by the government to assist as special counsel to prosecute suits against the Utah Fuel company and the Pleasant Valley Coal company, is an event of some importance in the determination of the Department of Justice to wrest from coal land grabbers the patrimony of the people. The significance of the action of the department is outlined by the Washington correspondent of the Boston Transcript: "The cases against the Utah Fuel company and the Pleasant Valley Coal company," the correspondent writes, "are of particular interest in that the two companies are subsidiaries of Denver & Rio Grande Railroad company, and just as the Denver & Rio Grande, through the coal companies it controls, has sought to get possession of vast coal tracts, other railroad companies in the west are alleged to have employed similar methods to the eyes of the law in the control of the coal lands in their territory. The suits which the Department of Justice is now pressing against the two coal companies named involve the titles to about 30,000 acres of coal lands in Utah, worth in the aggregate millions of dollars."

"The president has recently decided that no more coal lands shall be subject to entry, or, in other words, the government has decided to recognize the fact that the coal supply of the country is becoming scarce, and proposes to retain control of it. There is no doubt but vast tracts of coal lands in the Rocky mountain region have been grabbed by the railroads and other large corporations through doubtful methods, and the government is now busily setting on foot steps to recover the lands underlain with coal that have been wrongfully patented away."

"If the government can recover the coal lands it has been fraudulently obtained by such companies as the Utah Fuel company, the policy of the administration to prevent further entry of coal lands on the public domain will be of great public benefit. If such recovery is impossible, it will be better for the public, but far less than if the same policy had been inaugurated earlier and before the public domain had been looted of its mineral properties as it has been looted in many cases. The actions against the Utah Fuel company and the Pleasant Valley Coal company will not exactly be test cases, but they will be among the first cases of the kind to be carried through the supreme court. If the government wins these cases there is little doubt it will be possible to recover to the public in other suits thousands of square miles of coal lands in the Rocky mountain region. There is now being tried in the circuit court of the Colorado district a case against the Trinidad Coal company which is similar to the Utah Fuel company and Pleasant Valley Coal company cases."

"The methods employed to get title to coal lands on the public domain have been in a general way the same on the part of these corporations that have set out to control vast tracts of land. As a rule, such control has been obtained at the instance of the railroad companies. Persons of both sexes have been deliberately hired to enter on the land and then convey their titles to the companies retaining them. These persons have been given up to the Utah Fuel company and the Pleasant Valley Coal company. The government, however, has got to go into the courts and prove its allegations in the case of each piece of land which it wishes to inquire, and for this reason neither law nor equity is for the government attorneys is involved. So far in the coal land cases there have been civil proceedings only, although there is little doubt criminal action would lie in some cases."

Progress calls for the destruction of the Long bridge, the famous old bridge that spans the Potomac river at Washington and connects the District of Columbia with Virginia. This bridge is a feature of the city war, both in action and in literature. In the north it was looked upon as the gateway to the enemy's country. In the south it was the front door to the federal capital. Most of the men who fought in the union armies of the east went over Virginia bridges to the north and battlefields of the south. Many went over never to come back. The Long bridge with the lapse of time and the increasing weight of railroad trains and other traffic came to be regarded as unsafe. The wooden railway bridge passed out of date. The Long bridge was condemned. The railroads using it built a modern stone and steel bridge parallel to it but a hundred yards higher up the river, and the federal government has constructed a new highway bridge to connect the city with the north. The old Long bridge is now closed to traffic and the work of demolishing it is to begin in a few days.

The Potomac has been bridged at this point for more than a century. The first bridge was a feeble structure called the Great bridge of the Potomac. It was built by a private company and was a toll bridge. When the British entered Washington in 1814 some American troops retreated across it burned it after them. It was rebuilt, the second structure grew and the advent of the steam railroad made a stronger bridge necessary, and the Long bridge was built. In the early colonial days there was no bridge across the Potomac. Travelers between the north and south crossed by ferry from the city to the northern shore, a strait between the present town of Georgetown, D. C., and Rosslyn, Va.

"The plans for the improvement of the new union station plans, which have been actually agreed upon by the representatives of the railroads and the District government, commended themselves to the community as commensurate with the importance of the project," says the Washington Star. "Here is a station building that may be the intervention, plan pretty heavily for dancing to the revolutionary tune. It is only just, however, that people who cannot or will not keep order should pay those who can, and the bill may have a very useful and salutary effect on the Cuban mind."

Pinching the Robber's Lost. Brooklyn Eagle. A farmer in Nebraska using a burglar who shot him for \$5,000 damages. Burglars with clever lawyers calculate on going free; but what's the use of burgling if you are not to be allowed to enjoy the goods, and have to hire other lawyers to defend you from suit?

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

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RESPONSIBILITY OF JOURNALISM.

Message of Sensational Exploitation of Wrongdoings. Washington Herald. It has for many years been a matter of speculation among intelligent people as to why newspapers devoted so much space to crime and wrongdoing of every description. The reason commonly given is that these matters possess a distinctly human interest which attracts the majority of readers; that the same themes lend their interest to the work of the great masters of literature in its several departments. It is true that many of the most powerful novels, some of the most affecting tragedies, revolve about crimes or deal with grave faults of character. But these considerations would hardly seem to justify the wholesale exploitation of crime, and especially of the misdoings of women, which characterizes certain American newspapers.

There are misdoings which form a legitimate subject of news and which the most reputable newspapers feel bound to describe because of their tragic or local interest or their intrinsic importance. But such handling of the news surely a different matter from dragging the nubby rake through the purlieus of our great cities or using the mighty agency of the telegraph to bring together each morning the terribly shocking news of the deaths of the people of two or three continents. The great mass of this matter and the daily presentations of it in the most alluring forms give the press a malign influence which, being largely psychological, probably is not fully appreciated by those most responsible for it. How much of actual crime, how much of human misery, is due directly or indirectly to the sensational exploitation of wrongdoing, the constant presentation of an inflammatory and government is now busily setting on foot steps to recover the lands underlain with coal that have been wrongfully patented away.

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ADVANCING CIVILIZATION.

Striking Novelties in Higher Educational Circles. New York Tribune. The nature of improvement is nowhere more manifest than in our great institutions of learning. Within the memory of graduates who have hardly reached middle age the practice obtained, even in colleges of high standing, of several young gentlemen of the second year informally announcing the persons of a few of their colleagues of the first year, or vice versa—usually after dark—and driving them in carriages or otherwise into the adjoining country, there to feed them milk or hot beer from a bottle, and afterward to leave them to their reflections and the long walk home. There were rushes, too, concerned with canes and foot balls, and sometimes wrestling bouts, which were somewhat less informal, but still not thoroughly organized.

But the educators and colleagues of today have changed all that. The modern spirit of scientific organization has brought order out of the undergraduate chaos in which old-timers wallowed. The proceedings at the recent memorable meeting of Messrs. Dana and Nelson were not more admirably conducted than the "clash"—they are nearly always "clashes." If we may believe the newspaper heads—between the young gentlemen of Naughty-nine and Ten of the University of Wisconsin, which took place a few days ago. We quote from the account supplied by the veracious scribe of the St. Paul Pioneer Press: "More than 600 students were duped in Lake Mendota this afternoon in the annual rush between the freshmen and sophomore classes. At three o'clock there were many as two students struggling in the water at once. There were few casualties, because of the effectiveness of the measures taken by President Van Hise. The rock beach had been cleared of boulders, the precipitous bank transformed into a gentle slope and a fair play 'concrete' was laid to keep the rushers from doing undue damage to each other. The freshmen far outnumbered the sophomores, and were well organized, but the sophomores, by gaining absolute control of the field, were able to let only a few freshmen out at a time, and so ducked the beginners in relays, until they became too numerous. Then the 200 sophomores were quickly soured and trampled upon, and finally driven from the field by the superior force of the freshmen. No thoughtful observer of educational activities can doubt that young men who are trained to dispose of their opponents in this systematic fashion will be able to give a good account of themselves when they grapple in contests of trade or diplomacy with the wily products of European education. Why, at Ann Arbor the other night 1,500 sophomores and freshmen 'fought' until they were exhausted," under rules strictly prescribed, "that are a few pithy Heidelberg duels to that."

MIRTHFUL REMARKS. "The thermometer is a great teacher, in its way of tempering." "How so?" "When it once takes a drop, it generally goes on falling in degree."—Baltimore American.

"You evidently knew that lady." "Yes, I knew her." "And yet she didn't speak." "No, ours is merely a glaring acquaintance."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Klooseman—"It's an awful thing to discover just as the collection plate comes around that a church member has been absolutely without a penny." "Why?" "Because then you have to drop in a nickel or a dime, don't you?"—Philadelphia Press.

"The Venus of Milo explained." "I twisted 'em off trying to fasten the three middle buttons in the back," she announced. "From this it was easily inferred that she had no husband."—New York Sun.

"How was the milk killed?" "He fell off the horse and broke his neck." "What is the jury hesitating about?" "The coroner wants them to declare that the deceased came to his death with a new foot."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"The young mother leaned fondly over the cradle containing her first born." "Chronicle," she said. "Margie!" "No, dear," answered the young husband and father. "We ought not to make her manifest destiny quite so obvious. Let's call her Hope."—Chicago Tribune.

Bob-John-John called Tribuna a blowhard the other day, and Smith did not resent it. "Jobb—that's all right; Smith plays the bass horn in the village choir."—Cleveland Leader.

"The society of the Black Hand is very rude, is it?" "In what respect?" "Its members seem to have such an unbecoming way of cutting their acquaintances dead."—Baltimore American.

"Got a new mule, eh?" remarked the colonel. "How does he work, Mose?" "His mule he done work bofe ways." "Both ways?" "Yes, suth he kin kick 'em see well wit his front laigs as his back ones."—Philadelphia Ledger.

He—This is the proudest moment of my life. She—What have you done, Geor? He—Discharged the loeman.—Indianapolis News.

THE SOLE TOPIC. Baltimore American. You walk along the business street. And whether they are slow or fleet, Each friend and fellow that you meet, Says, "I'll tell you the weather."

You go into your office room. And start into the daily boom. Of business, but ere trade talks loud, Each man says, "Glorious weather."

You go out for your monthly lunch. And every time you meet a bunch. Of friends, they cry with ready punch, "We're getting some good weather."

And when at home, the day's work done, You feel that rest is fairly won, You murmur as down sinks the sun, "This is the greatest weather!"

None scorns you now for weather talk. In home or office, small or great, None now the one you desire will balk To talk about the weather."

When we reawaken from summer heat Into winter's cold and sleet, When ice and cold with jolting meet, It fills all minds—the weather."

No wonder then with so much ill, We're humbly grateful when there will be given us the season's fill Of grand October weather."

Perhaps the way the earth doth bump, Has kept the season on the jump, Till the day comes when the weather, And there'll be no more weather!"

Tatley's Tea. INDIA AND CEYLON Tea. Is equalled by no tea in the matter of delicate flavor, refreshing quality and perfect purity. It has become the tea standard of the world. McCORD-BRADY CO., Wholesale Agents, Omaha.