

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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

The public domain of the nation has furnished graves for more than one political reputation.

It is time for the thermometer to get on the water wagon. It has been taking a drop too much.

Senator "Jeff" Davis is on the sick list, but congress seems to be able to make noise enough without him.

Everything is reasonably peaceful in Indiana, although the state has just been placed under Marshall rule.

Senator Tillman's experience should have taught him better than to go into an engagement with a dull pitcher.

Congress has been asked to provide new and larger jails for the District of Columbia. Some of them going to plead guilty?

F. Hopkinson Smith says President Roosevelt has been hitting public evils with "a holy flail." That's a new name for the Big Stick.

Mr. Taft does not often indulge in profanity, but he has formally announced that he is going to Panama to settle a dam controversy.

Every vote in one county in Texas was cast for Mr. Taft. The surprising feature is that 429 Texans could ever think alike on any proposition.

Statistics from Minnesota show that one out of every three girls in that state is a breadwinner. The proportion of breadmakers is not given.

Physicians have discovered a man who has two hearts. Still, he is not in any special sort of vantage, as he could not hope to catch three more in the draw.

Captain Chance has returned to Chicago and "Cy" Young has signed for another season with Boston. The regular order of business may now be taken up.

Collier's is opposing the reappointment of Secretary Wilson because he is opposed to the pure food law. We suspect that Collier's has been finding out "a lot of things that ain't so."

Senator Gallinger received 256 of the 266 votes of the New Hampshire legislature for his re-election. There is no proof that the ten members who voted against him are readers of Collier's.

Statuettes discovered in the island of Crete show that corsets were worn 4,000 years ago. It is a safe wager that the Crete Puck of that date announced that "the corset has come to stay."

M. Bunau-Varilla says he does not believe that the Gaton dam is safe. This will be alarming to those who care a tinker's malediction about what M. Bunau-Varilla believes or professes to believe.

A nurse asks a Washington paper if it is proper for her to accept a proposal of marriage from one of her patients who is not in his right mind. Many proposals of marriage are made by men in that condition.

"I was perhaps, 'disingenuous,'" declares Senator Tillman. Webster defines disingenuous as: "Not frank, sincere or candid; wanting in openness and honesty; underhanded."

"That seems to dispose of the case."

MR. BRYAN'S BACK SOMERSAULTS.

Confronted with the necessity of putting his preachings into practice, Mr. Bryan seems to have discovered that framing a political platform and framing a workable law are not necessarily identical.

Mr. Bryan's classic on bank deposit guaranty is his carefully prepared address delivered at Topeka, in which he eulogizes the Oklahoma law and proudly pictures its perfection.

THE OKLAHOMA LAW: The Oklahoma plan is working satisfactorily. A bank recently failed in Oklahoma. Within forty-eight minutes after the notice of suspension the officer in charge had authority to pay all depositors.

IN HIS LATEST PRONOUNCEMENT on the guaranty of depositors Mr. Bryan says: Provision should be made for the prompt payment of depositors in failed banks immediately upon the establishment of the guaranty fund.

It is explained on the outside that under the ordinary procedure of bank receiverships it requires at least twenty to thirty days for a depositor to establish his claim.

THE OKLAHOMA LAW FIXES AN UNLIMITED LIABILITY on all the banks contributing to the guaranty fund for any and all banks that may fail, thus giving preference as creditors to the depositors of any one bank over the shareholders of all the banks. On this score Mr. Bryan said at Topeka:

There is another reason why the claim of the depositor is superior to the claim of the stockholder. The stockholder has a voice in the selection of the bank officials; the depositor has not. If anyone must lose, therefore, as the result of mismanagement it ought to be the stockholder rather than the depositor. I venture to ask, if the banks will not trust each other, why should they expect the depositors to trust the banks?

IN HIS NEWEST SCHEME Mr. Bryan abandons altogether the unlimited liability. Seeking the line of least resistance, he suggests:

It is wise to make the experiment in such a way and under such conditions as to produce the minimum of friction and a minimum of assessment. The amount suggested is not less than 1 or 2 per cent in any one year.

IN OTHER WORDS, while in principle the depositor's claim is superior to the shareholder's, he is to be preferred under the modified guaranty only to the extent of 2 per cent a year, and if the fund is exhausted, wait a year for the next annual assessment.

THE OKLAHOMA LAW is supposed to be primarily for the benefit of bank depositors and on this point Mr. Bryan dwelt specially at Topeka, as follows:

I submit that in this effort to make all banks secure the democratic party is the champion of the farmer, the laboring man, the business man, the professional man and the champion of the banker as well. No class is outside of the benefits of this law, for it bestows its blessing upon all.

TO SUGAR-COAT the law a little more for the banker, Mr. Bryan now proposes this improvement:

Solvent banks should be permitted to borrow from the fund upon approved security in anticipation of a run, the amount so borrowed to be repaid within a reasonable time with a fair rate of interest.

PRESUMABLY after the bankers who conjure up runs have borrowed all the guaranty fund on approved security the depositors of banks that really suffer runs and collapse may have what is left if they wait long enough for it.

IT IS REPORTED that in the make-up of the legislative committees at Lincoln Mr. Bryan protested against putting so many bankers on the banking committee until he ran up against the retort: "Do you want the banking law to be framed by blacksmiths?"

"POSSUM EN TATERS." One result of Mr. Taft's visit to the south has been to give prominence to the pleasing fiction that "possum en taters" is a staple article of diet in the south and a delicacy such as is rarely tasted by ordinary mortals.

Through untold cycles he has fought and flanked a multitude of enemies, all knowing well that he is toothsome. As a last resort he feigns death in order to gain time by exciting curiosity, a master passion in the animal world.

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Indigestible varmint that causes a revolt in the average digestive machinery.

Under the circumstances the talk of early universal disarmament is an ill-desired dream. Each nation will have to determine the strength of the navy necessary to maintain its power and prestige and safety, with more or less disregard of the action of rival powers or the resolutions of peace congresses.

THE INAUGURAL BALL: The refusal of the house committee to recommend that congress authorize the use of the pension building for the inaugural ball on March 6 is by no means conclusive, but it has caused worry among the Washingtonians, who profess to fear that it may be necessary to abandon that part of the inaugural festivities this year.

WHAT AILS THE POSTOFFICE: Discussing the "postal complications" that have arisen over the limitations on the 2-cent postage rate recently put into effect with Great Britain and with Germany, the Chicago Tribune says "there must be some education of the people before the plan works smoothly."

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of the biggest battleships ever designed.

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Still, it is doubtful if the rural counties will agree to pay for the maintenance at state expense of such a large proportion of Chicago's population.

"Jim" Jeffrey says he can not go into the prize ring again because his "wind is out of shape." Still, his tapewriter seems to be oiled up and working well and that is just as essential in the preliminary sparring.

DODGES THE MAIN POINT: Still, the indignant house fails to fully explain its set objection to allowing the secret service to detect land grabbers and timber thieves.

BETTER WAKE UP: In recommending an increase for the navy amounting to \$20,000,000 the house committee on naval affairs must be laboring under the misapprehension that John-Dee paid that fine.

UNDESIRABLE TWINS: The familiar proposition that poverty and ignorance generally travel hand in hand is again asserted by the fact that over 50 per cent of the applicants for British old age pensions are found unable to sign their names to their applications.

SO UNLIKE BEN: Ben Tillman's open contempt is to be viewed as a great disappointment to the president, who had every reason to expect something pitoreque in the way of a roast. Mr. Tillman has long been recognized as an undesirable citizen, but it was never before suspected that he is a mollycoddle.

FORESTS OF THE FUTURE: People who are despair over the rapid disappearance of timber supply may find comfort in the knowledge that the production of cement in the United States has increased from less than 10,000 barrels in 1882 to 80,000 barrels in 1907. Cement will be a leading factor in forest conservation.

A PROPHECY WITHOUT HONOR: A prophet announces that the entire western section of the continent is to be violently shaken between now and the 1st of August. If nothing happens before March 4 a majority of the statesmen assembled in Washington will decline to believe that the disturbance can possibly be very damaging.

THE PRICE OF GAS: New York's Consolidated Gas company, which complains that a price of 80 cents a thousand feet is confiscatory, bought nearly a million 1000-foot of gas from the New Amsterdam Gas company at a price of 40 cents a thousand feet, which price, under the contract, was arrived at by adding 10 per cent to the cost of production. The gas bought was delivered in the holder, and not to the consumers, but it is perfectly well known that the cost of distributing gas is less than the cost of manufacture.

FIXED SALARIES FOR BANK EXAMINERS: The proposition to compensate national bank examiners by fixed salaries instead of fees is not surprising, and as it has the support of treasury officials and others who would be best informed on the subject the probability is the change will be made. The fee system in the public service is being abolished whenever it is found practicable, having long since got into disrepute. There are more than ordinary reasons for doing away with it in the case of national bank examiners, since it is alleged that it impairs their efficiency.

HEARING ABOUT THE BUSH: Bear in mind that the protests made by certain senators and representatives against the "abuse" of the secret service is really a protest against the use of the secret service. There are men now prating about the "unlawful" diversion of contingent funds in the payment of secret service agents—the "unlawful acts" charged to President Roosevelt and President-elect Taft—while these men stand before the country convicted by documentary evidence of flagrant improprieties as public servants.

WHO DESERVES THE SPANKING? Move to Punish Parents for Misconduct of Their Children. The western reformer who would punish parents for the misconduct of their children is on the right track, but perhaps does not go quite far enough. Oliver Wendell Holmes once remarked that the education of a child should begin a hundred years before it is born. In order to reach the real seat of the evil which Mr. Whitehead, secretary of the Child and Animal Protection society of Colorado, aims to correct, possibly the statute which he proposes should be made to include grandparents and great-grandparents. Unfortunately, however, the real culprit would be frequently found to have taken refuge in the cemetery. In such cases the next best thing would be to impose the proper penalty on some one who could be caught. It often satisfies the innate instinct of justice to "kick" the wrong person if he cannot get at the right one. Moreover, Mr. Whitehead is not mistaken in holding the immediate progenitors of at least a few depraved youngsters responsible for the misconduct of their progeny.

TO GIVE the fullest effect to Mr. Whitehead's scheme an extension of Colorado's present system might be deemed judicious. How would it do, for instance, to re-establish the pillory and set it up so conspicuously that men going to their places of business and women bound to the shops and markets would be compelled to pass the site? Consider for a moment the influence on public morals of an inscription placed above the heads of the criminals there detained announcing, for example, that John Jones had encouraged reckless extravagance in his daughter by giving her sixteen new hats in one year. Would not other parents find a powerful stimulus to duty in their dread of a similar advertisement of their shortcomings?

THINK, too, of the good the plan would do to the rising generation. Generally speaking, children who have made an unwise choice of parents discover the mistake too late. It is practically impossible to train up fathers and mothers in the way they should go after their most glaring faults have become apparent. Nevertheless, an avoidance of the sins of omission and commission which have called for the interposition of the law and have invited the contempt of the neighbor is quite within the range of feasibility, provided that an adequate motive be supplied. Let Colorado furnish the motive by making adequate examples of such offenders as are within its jurisdiction, and it will give the rest of the world a magnificent object lesson in reform.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Nevertheless, the smile of the leeman is the real thing. Mr. Mercury will command vastly more popular esteem if he will keep a position several inches out of his hole.

In a list of forty-eight books most popular with 11,000 children in the New York elementary schools, "Little Women" came out ahead. They generally do.

The budding statesman who secures the passage of a law requiring persons who announce the first robin to exhibit the goods will win the esteem of the doubting multitude.

A Cleveland girl finds that she cannot live like Christ and keep her job as a stenographer. A few spelling lessons might help some in restraining the melting expressions of the dictator.

According to the social code of a Chicago club, caressing a fellow member with a bowl of salad constitutes an offense punishable by expulsion. Chicago clubs have passed their salad days.

By the time Lincoln Russell's 2,000 love letters from admirers are in print, the census bureau and other statistical sharps will have a basis from which to calculate the number of "Johnnies" at large in this country.

Mrs. Belle Case La Follette, editor of the home department of the senator's new paper, advises a large, old-fashioned yawn as a cure for irritation. Marked copies of the weekly should be placed on the desk of every member of the congress.

One of the surgeons on an Atlantic liner finds hypnotism a splendid means of banishing seasickness. A few passes and the suggestion that it is impossible for the patient to be sick does the trick. Easy as riding off a log. But who ever heard of ship doctors encouraging regularly at the dining room tables?

WARNING TO THE CHURCH: Decrease in Number of Clergy is Without Parallel. New York Times. A decrease in the number of the clergy in the Protestant Episcopal church is reported in this year's issue of the Living, a church encyclopedia and almanac, which has just been published simultaneously in New York and Milwaukee by Thomas Whittehead and the Young Churchman company. The editorial says:

"When we come to take a statistical view of the church the most glaring fact is that the church clergy list shows a decrease of thirteen names as compared with that of last year, and that there is a decrease of sixteen candidates for orders, though an increase of thirty-one in the number of postulants. That the clergy have not even held their own in number is an occurrence without parallel, at least for a long term of years."

"The first thought is that the scarcity of candidates for ordination has been accentuated even beyond its hitherto unfortunate degree. Further investigation, however, does not bear out this fear. The number of names on the death roll of the clergy this year is greater by thirty than it was last year, and there have been fifteen more oppositions than last year, while apparently the number of accessions to the clergy list by removal from England and Canada is less than usual."

"But, though these considerations somewhat explain the decrease in the clergy list, they only throw into still greater prominence the glaring fact that at least the supply of new candidates has been sufficient to make good any extraordinary depletion such as that of the year past. Moreover, it is more and more difficult to find proper clergymen to place in charge of new work."

"The increase in parishes and missions this year is only forty-four, as compared with an increase of 137 in the year previous. It is obvious, indeed, that there can be no material increase in the number of stations manned unless a larger number of candidates offer for the work of the ministry."

9 PER CENT

During December nearly 97 per cent, (96.9%) of the policies issued as death claims by the Equitable in the United States and Canada were paid within one day after proofs of death were received.

Number Amount Policies Paid 358 \$1,186,866.09 Paid Within 1 Day 345 1,159,166.21

There were only seven policies remaining unpaid at the end of the second day.

When policies are not paid immediately it is usually due to delay on the part of the beneficiary in submitting complete papers.

97.7% OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAID WITHIN A DAY.

Equitable Life Assurance Society Strongest in the World. PAUL MORTON, President.

H. D. NEELY, Mgr. Merchants National Bank, Building, Omaha, Neb.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

"She thinks men are fools." "Did she say so?" "Not in those words, but she said she could marry any man she wanted to."—Houston Post.

"When—Dearest, when shall I get the marriage license?" "I have worn for a few months the engagement ring you are going to buy for me."—Chicago Tribune.

"It must be very nice," said the caller to the author's wife, "to have your husband at home so much of the time." "Yes," replied Mrs. Richard Darrington Sprigles, "it gives me a chance to get out."—Harper's Weekly.

"Don't you want to marry Emily?" "Yes, but I will never marry Emily. There is an insuperable bar to our union." "What mystery is that?" "No mystery. Only I asked Emily and she won't have me."—Baltimore American.

Mr. Scragginton (musingly)—As Lincoln said, a man may fool some of the people all the time and all the people some of the time. Mrs. Scragginton (briskly)—But you can't fool me any of the time.—Puck.

A new baby came to a family in a small eastern Kansas town the other day. It was the ninth. "Well, I guess it's all right," said one of the other eight, "but I'll tell you there are things we needed a whole lot worse at our house than a new baby."—Kansas City Journal.

Wife—Is there any difference between a fort and a fortress? Husband—No much, except, of course, that a fortress must be harder to silence.—Lippincott's.

"And now," said the old family friend to the Vassar graduate, "since you have won your M. A., suppose you are working for your M. A." "Oh, no, indeed," she replied with engaging frankness, "I'm working for my M. B. S."—New York Times.

THE SKATING LESSON.

W. D. Nesbit in Chicago Post. Old Sifty Claus brought me some skates—first pair I ever had—An' just as I saw them I made me mighty glad. My pa he said he'd haf to go an' show me how to do. An' so he lummoxed downtown an' got him some skates too.

My ma she said pa'd better not go out to skate with me; She said he'd be skated since 'way back in 'ninety-three. But pa he snuffed an' said he guessed he'd go an' old man yet. That skatin's just like swimmin'—it's a trick you don't like to forget.

Well, all the way to where they skate my pa he told me 'bout the weight. You'd best keep your balance up, an' kind of half-way bow. An' when you strike an' an' not be 'traid—then say I better wait. An' watch him just a minute while he shows me how to skate.

He put his skates on, an' he started out across the ice. An' one foot it waked out one way, he wabbed once or twice. An' then the other foot went out, an' pa went in the air. An' knocked down three young ladies that is skatin' there.

But he just say he slipped, an' so he got up on his feet. An' started out again—an' fall as far as 'cross the ice. An' come pit' fat man, he was there, an' pa hit him kerfuff. An' then he said 'break th' ice with that fat man on top.