

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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Lately subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of May, 1909

M. F. WALKER, Notary Public.

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

The automatic sprinkler in the heavens is working overtime.

In the case of balloon weddings we presume the divorce court is the parachute.

If the senators are tired they might issue rain checks and postpone the game.

Speaking on the subject, "When 8 o'clock comes," when does 8 o'clock come?

Under the new port regulations no schooners may cross the bar after 8 o'clock.

The demo-pop World-Herald's non-partisan distress over Senator Burkett is truly pathetic.

We suggest that Mayor Jim invite himself now to celebrate next Fourth of July in Omaha.

The new president of Harvard starts out badly by letting his team be beaten by Yale in the rubber ball game.

The June rise in the Missouri has been so delayed that it will have to call itself the June-July rise this time.

Someone has been arrested for forging Congressman Kinkaid's name. The congressman doubtless feels duly complimented.

Senator Davis of Arkansas suggests that the senate is too small for Mr. Bryan. Mr. Bryan has always thought the White House about his size.

Thirteen men are an unlucky number for the British suffragettes, for the thirteenth effort to gain access to the premier landed them in prison.

Recent tragedies in Texas suggest the advisability of requesting all pew holders to check their pistols in the vestibule before entering the church.

If Mrs. Gould cannot get along on that \$36,000 allowance there are plenty of people living in tolerable comfort who will trade incomes with her.

Washington papers are already discussing the regular session of congress which meets in December. What's the use of crossing the next bridge until we get over this one?

Seven Indians men pleaded the extreme heat as an excuse for beating their wives. The heat must have had a peculiar effect in Indiana, for out this way it tends to create an aversion to violent exercise.

Secretary Nagel asserts that 10 per cent of the employees of his department are inefficient and will have to go to make room for folks who can and will do something. That is one way of securing results which will tell in governmental economy.

The Society of Marine Architects has declined to vote Noah an honorary membership in that organization. Noah's boat may not have been able to beat the present-day ocean greyhound record, but as a cargo carrier its record is still supreme.

The Commercial club executive committee has re-elected an endorsement of a former candidate for congress and an often mentioned candidate for governor for appointment to the honorable position of superintendent of the census takers in this congressional district. A promotion?

Results of Insurance Quiz.

The state superintendent of insurance in New York presents some interesting figures regarding the results of the insurance upheaval in 1905. He does not disguise the fact that New York companies have lost heavily in business as a result of the exposures, but points out that they are thoroughly purged and are rapidly regaining lost ground. He insists that in the end the investigation and restrictive legislation which followed will benefit both the companies and their policyholders. As an evidence he cites a saving for eight companies of \$9,682,000 over what would have been required under old conditions to conduct the same business.

The law limiting the amount of insurance to be written by any one company in any one year is touched upon but lightly, the commissioner asserting that there is only one company in the United States which could be affected by it and entering a general defense by pointing out the immense increase in the aggregate assets of the companies. The limitation of business has been most seriously objected to by the companies for reasons that ought to have weight and in this particular alone they are asking for relief.

One point made by the commissioner is beyond controversy and that is that both the companies and the policyholders will be beneficiaries of the house cleaning. Exposure of abuses generally hurts temporarily, but the ultimate result is good. Unless exposed and stopped abuses grow until often total collapse results. It turns out that the reforms instituted not only decreased the cost per thousand of doing business, but have raised the average rate of income from investments.

Warning to Cuba. The Department of State at Washington has addressed a sharp note to the Cuban government regarding its failure to comply with the terms of contracts for public improvements let by the provisional government. Although the contractors have done the work, payment is delayed and the United States considers it is responsible for seeing the contractors fairly dealt with. Delay in perfecting Havana's sanitary system as promised is also protested against. This is particularly pertinent owing to several cases of yellow fever in the Cuban capital, which might have been prevented by proper sanitary measures. The intimate trade relations between Havana and American cities makes this particularly important.

The United States as sponsor for Cuba has not only the right, but it is its duty to keep Cuba in the straight path, but there is a feeling among Cubans that their government should not be held to too strict an accountability, in view of its inexperience and handicaps. There is undoubtedly much force in their argument. A country which has been in a turmoil for centuries and without experience in self-government cannot justly be measured by the strict standards of older and previously better ordered nations. Cuban officials have much to contend with which we, perhaps, do not fully appreciate. Revenues are inadequate and the people ill able to sustain burdensome taxes. The island is undeveloped and demands for public works are heavy while official experience is scanty.

There is no reason for Cuba's being permitted to violate its agreements and for their own good the Cubans should understand that they must live up to them, but at the same time discretion in handling the question is essential. There is no reason for believing that the administration will take any other course with Cuba, for President Taft has given ample evidence of his interest in the Cubans.

The Occupation Taxes. The city council seems at last to have buckled down to the formulation of the long promised ordinances to levy occupation taxes on public service corporations. While the council is made up equally of republicans and democrats, all of them were elected on platforms distinctly committing them to the levying of these taxes. The republican platform promise is couched in these words: An occupation tax in reasonable amount to compensate for the use of the streets and alleys by the various public service corporations. The democratic platform pledge reads: We favor a reasonable occupation tax on the public service corporations. The only open question, then, is to arrive at what constitutes a reasonable tax. On this question the councilmen have some guide posts. When the Independent Telephone franchise was voted two years ago the royalty was fixed at 2 per cent of the gross receipts. Previous to that the gas company had incorporated in its franchise a royalty of 5 cents per thousand cubic feet on all gas sold to private consumers, amounting at that time to something less than 3 per cent. The ordinances which went up to the supreme court from Lincoln bore different rates, with a maximum of from 3 per cent to 5 per cent, with various deductions, and the supreme court held at least that they were not unreasonable.

It is to be noted that all these royalties and taxes are based on gross receipts, not net receipts, and that the character of the corporation is recognized, if at all, in the rate of the tax applied. If the rate were made progressive the minimum could be the same for all the corporations and the point of increase adjusted to the volume of business. We are satisfied that the people of

Omaha, while insisting on the principle of the occupation tax, want to deal fairly with their public service corporations, and likewise want these corporations to deal fairly with them. There is no good reason, therefore, why the occupation tax ordinances cannot be adjusted to meet the conditions of the several public service corporations in a way that is fair and not vindictive, and at the same time firm in the assertion of the public rights.

Change in Oleo Law. A change is advocated by Secretary of the Treasury McVeagh in the revenue duty upon oleomargarine, which now is one-quarter of 1 cent per pound upon uncolored and 10 cents per pound on colored. He proposes to make it a flat rate of 2 cents per pound upon all grades. As a revenue producer the change would probably increase the government's receipts, but state laws would in many instances make it impossible to sell the colored product at all.

What is more important to the dairy interests is Mr. McVeagh's recommendation regarding the marketing of the product. The law's design was to prevent selling oleomargarine for butter, but it has in large measure failed and the secretary proposes to remedy this by changing the style of putting up the product. He would have it put up only in one, two and three-pound packages, each package to be wrapped and stamped in such a way that it could not be opened without destroying the stamp or the branding of the word "oleomargarine." Such regulations, he holds with apparent reason, would make it difficult to substitute oleo for butter at any stage from manufacturer to consumer, which it is now charged is frequently done.

If for reasons of price or any other cause the consumer desires to use oleo there is no apparent reason for denying him that right, but he is entitled to protection against fraud and the government is also entitled to protect itself against evasions of the revenue law.

The ordinance designed to abolish the free lunch counter has been passed by the mayor's free lunch counter. The purport of the ordinance has been more or less misrepresented. The ordinance does not prohibit the giving away of free food, but prohibits the selling of free lunch in the same premises where the free lunch counter is maintained. This is a distinction with a difference.

It is quite evident that Mr. Bryan was wise not to volunteer his services to draft that bank deposit guaranty law, even though the legislature had to hire an outside lawyer to do so. It is easier to talk about making bank deposits safe than to formulate a law on the subject that will withstand the legal pickaxes.

The Sugar trust pleads the statute of limitations against criminal prosecutions in the Pennsylvania refinery case. The Sugar trust evidently thinks that if it can stave off getting caught for three years it is all right, but the managers are likely to get tripped up some of these days.

The czar of Russia sleeps in the inner one of seven rooms, each of the others being occupied by a company of troops. If it is as hot in St. Petersburg as here the czar would defy fate and take a chance by coming out into the glad moonlight and enjoying the evening breeze.

The suggestion is made that fenders be placed on automobiles. Before it is done some good mathematician should figure out just how high an automobile going forty miles an hour would throw a man when he strikes a fender set at an angle of 45 degrees.

The firemen on the Georgia railroad have declared themselves satisfied with the results of the recent arbitration and the company is also pleased. They could have saved much trouble by taking that way before the strike.

King Edward, Emperor William and the president of France are said to be farmers, but it is more likely they are only agriculturists. At least there is no record of either one of them driving a self-binder from sunup to sunset.

It is possible that Wall Street overestimates Mr. Harriman as a factor in the value of his securities. Grievous Flack of Alimony. Chicago Tribune. Howard Gould may have to economize. After paying Mrs. Gould her \$30,000 alimony he will have only \$74,000 left out of his yearly income with which to buy the necessities of life.

Sure of the Job. St. Paul Pioneer Press. Plenty Horner, the Sioux chief, has just died. Announcement of the name of his successor has not been made, but it is reasonable to expect, in view of present-day progress, that Enough Aeroplanes will get the job.

Can This Be True? Louisville Courier-Journal. It will be something of a job for the few remaining members of the once militant populist party to see former Senator W. V. Allen, an attorney for the banks of Nebraska, leading a fight in the courts against the deposit guaranty law.

Summer Time Tragedies. Baltimore American. The season is at hand for the annual Sunday drownings. Every summer the warning for prudence and care is given and just as regularly the warning is disregarded. This season will probably have its due share of water-pleasure tragedies.

Call for Harvest Hands. New York World. From the wheat fields comes the annual call for help. Kansas alone will ask for twenty-five thousand men, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma and the Dakotas are in urgent need of farm laborers, and State Free Employment bureaus are working overtime. The problem is now to bring the laborer to his work. Of the army now being shipped to the front, a large number will be college students. While the time is short and the hours long, the work of the farm laborer presents many attractions and should be very satisfactory to a man of even ordinary physical powers.

An Army of Dependents. Boston Herald. Fully 2,000 of the United States civil service employees of New York City met at the Grand Central Palace Sunday and discussed the problem "how they and their fellow government employees throughout the country are to be provided for in case they lose their positions through old age or sickness." Every speaker during the afternoon confessed dependency on the government. Self-reliance was unheard of. "What will the government do for us?" was the plaintive cry. Dependency appears no longer to be a misfortune or a disgrace. It is a privilege for which half the world appears to be clamoring, with the employees in the public service leading the van.

KEEP YOUR OLD CLOTHES ON. No Vital Changes in the Army Service Uniform. Washington Herald. It must be gratifying to army officers to learn that the military authorities in Washington have decided to do no violence to the required design of service apparel. The sentiment of the commissioned personnel has been very emphatically expressed by Major General Thomas H. Barry, U. S. A., in his report as the late commander of the army of Cuban certification. General Barry intimated that there has been too much interference with the uniform, and that experts have gone into a microscopic refinement of distinctions which are of no special advantage in a military way, and certainly not to the individual, who must conform to any changes made in the uniform at his own expense. Presumably, General Barry refers to such minor alterations as the adoption of duffel-lined insignia and the elimination of all that is conspicuous in the way of brass buttons and trim. This, however, refers only to the fighting dress of the officer, who is still required to provide himself with a purely ornamental uniform for the occasions of show. That uniform is, in some instances, gorgeous and glittering to the degree of barbaric splendor.

It has now been decided that the uniform will be allowed to remain as it is, and the new edition of the regulations on the subject will be confined to bringing the official requirements up to date. This must be gratifying news to army officers, who realize that every change in their draft upon their financial resources, with no certainty that the change will remain in effect. It is easy enough to amend the uniform, because there are officers in the service who always entertain ideas which they think are worth official adoption. It is assuredly the part of wisdom and consideration of the individual which finds the military authorities refraining from further molestation of the army uniform.

Puzzles of New Tax. Prospective Harvest of Business for Lawyers and Judges. New York Press. There will be puzzles enough in the law imposing a tax upon corporation earnings, we fancy, to keep all the lawyers and judges of the country busy for many years. Where, for example, is the line to be drawn marking the exact point at which such earnings begin? What is the amount of earnings? What will be allowed to go into expenses and charges to come off the taxable earnings? Doubtless questions like this can be straightened out some time. But there are so many possibilities that they stagger the mind which would like to get an idea of what is going to happen.

Mr. Harriman of the great "Pacific system" is now retiring the preferred stock of the Southern Pacific. The earnings now paying dividends upon this stock would be subject to the proposed tax if the stock were not retired. One of the choices offered in those preferred stockholders is that they may exchange their shares for bonds of the same company. Suppose all the preferred stockholders exchanged their shares for such bonds. Then would the funds otherwise subject to the tax become immune? And, if so, how would the immunity of such bonds in one corporation seem in comparison with that of another corporation not able to dodge the tax by such exchange?

Then there is another question. Suppose a corporation having earnings of \$100,000 a year rents the building or buildings which it occupies. Now, suppose a syndicate of the stockholders of the corporation buy those buildings or other buildings for the corporation to occupy. Then, suppose the syndicate of stockholders increase the tax charged to their corporation so that it will absorb the \$100,000 of earnings. How about that? Anyhow one thing seems to be sure about the measure for a new tax. If it will be interesting to see what it looks like. It is far more interesting to see if anyone can decide what ought to be happening, or even what is happening, after it is in operation.

Around New York

Agitation for woman suffrage in New York differs radically from the methods of the London sisters. The latter are a scrappy bunch, preferring short-arm jolts on masculine mugs to the usual womanly means of making an impression. Difference in the calibre of men dealt with requires different methods of procedure. The New York suffragists wisely cut "the manly art" out of the program, and will reach the manly heart by a more expeditious route. "No vote, no wedding bells," is the motto of the sisters who are enlisted in the cause. Mrs. Oliver Hazard Perry Belmont advised this course as one sure to bring the legislation to their knees. No single woman will receive the attentions of any man who will not pledge himself to work and vote for equal suffrage. Husbands of suffragists are expected to join in the crusade or take to the woods. A paper binding the members to the Belmont pledge is going the rounds and the girls are signing with the courage and reckless ness of would-be martyrs. "Within a month," says the secretary of the New York suffragists, "we will have the name of 10,000 girls eligible to matrimony who have pledged themselves to abide by the resolution. In six months we should have nearly 60,000 girls, and when the men who won't give us our rights see that it's a question of votes or wives they'll choose the wives."

The pledge reads: "We, the undersigned, hereby declare that we will not indulge in matrimony with any man who is not willing to sign an agreement that he will not only lend his moral support to suffrage, but will work patiently and hard toward its support and success."

Save for one side of his face which still shows him to be Caucasian, John McCall, of 31 West 14th street, has turned a deep chocolate color and would be taken anywhere for a negro. McCall, who is 37 years old, is a street car driver and on Thursday he applied to Bellevue hospital for treatment to restore him to his natural color.

Dr. Leroy examined him. He was unable to diagnose the case. One solution is that McCall is suffering from melanosis, one of the rarest of diseases. Another theory is that nitrate of silver, which he has used for years to paint his throat, has caused the trouble. This theory has brought about the change, which has been gradual the disease appearing in spots, which ran together.

McCall was sent to the city hospital where he will be examined by skin specialists.

A little experience practicing law in New York is apt to make an attorney stop, look and listen before he takes a step, according to United States District Attorney Wise, who prosecuted the sugar cases. Mr. Wise told the other day of one of his early cases, when the point on his shins was hardly stated assault. One of his witnesses had told a half raising yarn of his experience with the criminal at the bar.

"You know," said the witness, "Jake's mighty hot tempered. First thing he does when he gets mad, is to yank out a knife and cut your heart out. Well, he comes at me with a big pickster one day, and I was sure scared. Looked like he had me, for I was cornered. Couldn't get away noways. But I was fussy, see? As Jake came toward me, I run toward him. And just as he got close to me, I jockeyed down, and I had kicked him a belt in the jaw, and taken his knife away from him. Jake and me's been good friends ever since."

That tale looked good to Wise, as showing the savage and barbarous tendencies of the man on trial exhibited. So he called the teller. On the stand the man flatly denied that he had ever exchanged a cross word with Jake. "Never heard nothing about his having a bad temper," said the witness. "He's always been peaceable, so far as I know."

Who was thunderstruck. "That didn't you tell so-and-so," said he. "That Jake once rushed at you with a knife?"

"Sure I did, Mr. Wise," said the witness calmly. "But I must tell you. When I get to talking I'm just naturally one of the demerol kind. I had you ever slapped a ear at me? I'm under oath now."

Mr. Wise backed out of that case the best way he could.

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PERSONAL NOTES.

As Alfred G. Vanderbilt says he does not care what people say about him, considerable frank opinion seems to be going to waste. The Young Turks face a serious financial problem. They have found that Abdul Hamid has \$21,500,000 in German banks. The problem is how to get it. The supreme court of Rhode Island has decided that a man's face is not his own. If another man wants to photograph and use it for advertising purposes.

Now that Senator Depew has paid his railroad fare for once in his life, it will probably be necessary for him to go up in an aeroplane or down in a submarine in order to enjoy a little excitement. The tears of a wife induced former Governor Hoch of Kansas to pardon her husband, a swindler of comprehensive ability. Now a new bunch of victims are shedding copious regrets because the ex-coviet beat them up and down and sideways and didn't say, "Buckers, Goodby!" Mrs. Nellie C. Upham, who runs mines in Colorado, has to report regularly to her husband, although he is "back east" practicing medicine and knows little about mining, but he is president of her company and so must have the reports, and no doubt takes his wife's word for it in every case.

A carpenter of New York City who deserted his wife thirty-three years ago came back the other day in quest of fatted calf. His wife said simply and finally something that meant "On your way." Without derogation of a charming sex it may be remarked that women of such superior judgment are very rare. Mrs. Isaac L. Rice, the anti-noise crusader, is the wife of the president of the Holland Submarine Torpedo Boat company. She sold her beautiful home on Riverside Drive, New York, and moved to the St. Regis hotel, because the toughest captains, against whom she began her anti-noise war, took special delight in tooting their whistles at all hours of the night whenever they passed her house.

Security for Deposits. Boston Herald. The Nebraska bank deposit guaranty law must stand the test of constitutional law on the joint pleading of fifty-two banks state as well as national. It is alleged that the law is confiscatory, taking property without due process of law, and holding one bank responsible to assessment for the liabilities of another. It will be difficult to formulate any scheme of associated guarantee of deposits, state or national, which does not impose such liability. Better by far to perfect the system of banking and currency and reduce to a minimum the possibility of bank failures and promote the voluntary establishment of a standard of security which shall be in itself a sufficient guarantee to satisfy depositors.

France's Back Number Fleet. Brooklyn Eagle. France may be humiliated to learn from the report of the Parliamentary commission that its fleet is a back number, but the revelation, costly as it is, is less expensive than the demonstration that its army was obsolete, made in 1870-71. Military weaknesses discovered in time of peace are more cheaply remedied than military weaknesses discovered by war.

BREEZY TRIFLES.

"I suppose you are saving up for the rainy day," Mrs. Southwick said. "Not exactly. My husband and I are saving up to pay for the operation some doctor will tell me I shall have to undergo some time."—Chicago Record Herald.

"Why do you want wealth?" asked the philosopher. "For the sake of the power it will bring me," replied the financier. "And why do you desire power?" "For the sake of the wealth it will enable me to accumulate."—Washington Star.

"How long will eggs keep anyhow?" said the casual customer at the lunch counter. "It has not come in my career," answered the dark, gloomy looking man with the deep, tragic voice who sat next to him. "That I am willing to swear had been kept for not less than two years, by Jupiter!"—Chicago Tribune.

"Do you go with your family on their vacation?" "Oh, no. They go and stay a month. The day before they return I start out on a two week's trip that gives me six weeks of rest."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Mr. said a newspaper man's son. 'I know why editors call themselves 'we.' 'What's happened?' 'So's the man that doesn't like the article will think there are too many people for him to tackle.' " "Mike," said Blodding aPte, "dere's wuss 'fings dan gold bricks." "What's happened?" "De lady up de road said dat if I'd chop an arnful of wood she'd gimme a cake." "Didn't she let you have her word?" "Yep. She handed me a cake o' soap."—Puck.

Philanthropic Visitor (at county jail)—Satan, I see now, finds mischief for his hands to do. Prisoner—Yes, sir, and sometimes he finds mischief for his hands, I'm here for counterfeiting.—Chicago Tribune.

They're All Right. Chicago News. The penitentiary, served the girl arrayed in the usual suit. The womanly queen an innocent new. The girl's dress, the one petite. With auburn tress, the hair combed with accents low. The girl you see, delect you see.

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