

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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Table with 2 columns: Date, Circulation. Rows for various dates from 1-15, showing circulation figures.

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

The more that situation at Nicaragua is strained the clearer it becomes.

Justice, when equal scales she holds, need not be blind to the false weights of the sugar ring.

Implement dealers putting up the price of the plow seek a share of the farmer's prosperity.

Another college president has determined to regulate the doings of Cupid. His finish is in plain sight.

It is apparently the painful but necessary duty of Uncle Sam to show Zelaya that his ruse is no use.

Having been sent back to prison, Albert Patrick must be convinced that he is not as dead as he pleaded.

The best seller in literature next week will be from the pen of that popular author, William Howard Taft.

Stealing the hinges from the New Orleans tomb is about on a par with the theft of pennies from a dead man's eyes.

If the weather man hopes to get on the good list with dear old Santa Claus he had better get hold of another spout pretty soon.

In saving from fire a Wisconsin town's chief features, buttermilk has again demonstrated its value for the complexion.

Will advocates of a sane Fourth consider that their cause has been advanced by the selection of that date for the championship fight?

Disappearance of sugar ring witnesses and documentary evidence is likely to prove a trial to those planning the trial of the mafiosi.

Governor Shallenbarger is making one record, at least. He is spending more of the state's money for railroad fare than any other governor.

In his latest poem, which he has been frank enough to label a "Nightmare," the English poet Noyes seems to have written up to his name.

When we all own airplanes nobody will care how long the cloudy days continue, for in his aeroplane the citizen can take his family up to the healthful sunshine zone above the smoke and choke.

The patriotic members of an order that commemorates the birth of this nation who couldn't sing the national anthem without words or music ought to slip quietly off somewhere and practice up.

If the late senator from Sarpy would only be as voluble in explanation as he is in attack the public might get the inside of the row among the members of the State Board of Control. There is still plenty of time.

Corporations are not crowding the county treasurer's office in their eagerness to pay the new tax. It is much easier to wait for the court's decision than it is to get the money back after the county has once gotten hold of it.

The State Normal board may find some difficulty in carrying out the provisions of the act of the legislature providing for the purchase of the Wayne Normal school. If it succeeds in buying the school for less than the amount appropriated it will establish a precedent for Nebraska.

Trade Agreements.

The advantage of trade agreements is strikingly manifested in the wage disputes now engaging the attention of the railroads. A crisis impends on the eastern lines, and it is barely possible that ultimately a strike may result, but in the meantime the compact between the companies and the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen serves as a stay of hostilities, and the public is spared precipitate action which would demoralize traffic.

Before the day of trade agreements strikes were common, in many cases unreasonable, in all cases costly. The human problem has seldom arisen, however, that contrary sides could not talk over, and when a deadlock results arbitration is usually possible. Based on a policy of mutual adjustment, the trade agreement has come to be the modern way of rationally avoiding the inconvenience and loss attending all industrial warfare, and it would seem to be a part of wise administration of large interests to join in the policy of obviating difficulties from which business concerns and the public suffer.

Shining examples of the benefits derived from trade agreements are afforded by the newspaper printing and publishing world, where strikes have been made practically impossible through the general adoption of the arbitration policy. What has been accomplished so notably among the newspapers could just as readily be maintained in all public service corporations.

The Policyholder's Safeguard.

Whether or not the advent of Mr. Morgan and his associates in the affairs of the Equitable Life Assurance society presages the complete mutualization of that concern, in one thing the policyholders are secure, and that is in the safeguarding of their interests. The time has gone by when any syndicate of moneyed men could juggle the vast assets of such an institution for their selfish purposes and at the expense of the common people. The exhaustless overhauling accomplished as a result of the insurance scandals of a few years ago instituted such complete reforms that every policyholder may now view with equanimity any change of management, knowing that not only the state, but also their own representatives are closely supervising every adjustment.

This is entirely as it should be, for nothing more vitally concerns the citizen than the investment of his premiums in life insurance. The poor man's policy is his chief asset against want for his widow and children, and under existing conditions no serious trespass can be accomplished against the interests of those who pay the premiums. In the particular case of the Equitable, every step is subject to the control of the voting trust of the policyholders, who would be instant to detect any possible menace to their rights in the attempt of new millions to invest in the dominant stock holdings. Should there be any lack of confidence on the part of anyone, he would have only to apply to the policyholders' trust, which has yet to pass upon the reported transfer of stock.

Warships on the Lakes.

More perturbation than seems to be warranted has been shown by the Canadians in their House of Commons at Ottawa over the matter of warships on the great lakes. In a mild way the scare stirred up may be likened to that reported from London over the activity of the Germans, with the exception that the prospect of this country's contemplating any hostile attitude toward Canada is more absurd than in the case of Germany.

Under the terms of the Rush-Bagot treaty of 1817, both the United States and Canada agreed that the number of war vessels on the great lakes should be restricted to four apiece, not exceeding 100 tons burden each, and armed with only eighteen-pound cannon. It has just been pointed out in the Commons that this treaty virtually has been broken, and the Canadians are reported as startled with the discovery that we now have on the waters of our international boundary ten war vessels, with a total force of over 600 men and officers, having an aggregate armament of over seventy guns and a tonnage of 8,000.

The comment of George E. Foster, ex-minister of finance, that in case of difficulties the United States was thereby in a position to control lake shipping and population without mercy, inasmuch as Canada has no armed vessel, drew forth the further disclosure that the individual states bordering on the lakes had nearly 2,000 trained naval reservists who were available at an hour's notice.

Inasmuch as all these forces are merely a part of the national scheme for developing naval reserves at convenient inland points instead of sending the youths to the coast, it would seem that our northern neighbor is unduly agitated. The United States is just as earnestly desirous of avoiding the possibility of clash on the lakes as Canada, and has had no intention of engaging in any race for armaments along the border. Every step taken in the development of our training stations on the lakes has been with the full accord of the Canadian government, which is fully aware that if this country desired to take any advantage of its superior resources and establish a war fleet on those waters it would have only to notify Canada of its intention and terminate the treaty, which can be done on six months' notice, according to the terms of the convention. It is to Canada's advantage that the agreement be maintained, and in continuing it the United States is demonstrating that it is the best of neighbors.

Salute the Real Money Power. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Congratulations to the man with the hoe. By official figures the corn crop of 1909 in the United States grew in 120 days and its worth \$1,730,000,000.

Room for Improvement.

Baltimore American. An American delegate to a foreign congress on testing building material declares that American cities are behind European ones in fire-fighting. There may be some truth in this accusation, though we flatter ourselves with having the best of everything. We have the most up-to-date equipment and the personnel of the fire-fighting forces is of a high standard.

Reflections on the Profits of Wholesalers and Retailers.

Pittsburg Dispatch. The part of Secretary Wilson's annual report of widest general interest, especially to the city dweller, is that dealing with meat prices. Many have believed that the increasing cost of beef was in part due to meat forming an increasing proportion of the national diet. Yet Mr. Wilson says that where seven years ago meat formed one-half the national dietary it is now less than a third and steadily declining. He offers two reasons for higher prices, the encroachment upon the ranges by sheep and a higher corn price, with both of which the farmer is the grade the greater the percentage of profit. The retail business, the secretary says, is overdone; the multiplication of small shops is a burden to the consumer and no source of profit to the sheepkeeper. When twenty or more small shops divide the trade within an area that could be served by one large shop the expenses of many small markets for labor, horses, rent, etc., are in excess of what would be sufficient for the one large shop, and prices have to be raised correspondingly.

Inland Navy Yards.

The grounding of the auxiliary cruiser Prairie in the muddy shallows of the Delaware shortly after it set sail for Nicaragua, under command of a rear admiral with marines and arms to make Nicaragua behave, will be seized upon by advocates of a deeper channel for the Delaware, and doubtless the incident will serve its purpose in emphasizing the importance of maintaining a more reliable waterway between the Philadelphia navy yard and the sea.

But the further question arises whether it is wise to bottle up our vessels so far inland. The need for warships at any point is usually a temporary one, and even a single day's delay might seriously hamper our forces in any plan of campaign. The government has spent millions on the station at League Island, and cannot be expected to abandon so costly an investment, but there is bound to be revival of the criticism against inland navy yards when the coast affords so many adequate harbors from which expeditious sailings can be made.

Modern Irrigation System in the Garden of Eden.

Boston Transcript. To restore the Garden of Eden sounds like a bold enterprise, yet a plan suggested by Sir William Willcocks, the English engineer who built the Aswan dam, makes the project sound entirely feasible. It is Mesopotamia, "the land between the rivers" Tigris and Euphrates, with which he is dealing, and he proposes to turn the surplus water of the Euphrates into the River Fishon and to carry down the river a great canal, which would not only bring back the productiveness of several million acres of land, but would guard the region from the overflow of the Tigris. Had Noah been a hydraulic engineer, Sir Willcocks says, he might have saved his country as well as his flock by constructing the Fishon river reservoir. But that would have involved historic losses as well as gains. It marks a definite step in the world's progress that the work of reconstruction should now be undertaken by the Turkish government, which thereby demonstrates its real reform to broader views and more intelligent ambitions. To build this canal, which will double the cultivable area along the Euphrates, will take three years and cost \$2,000,000 or less. Supplementing it, Sir William proposes a railroad from Baghdad to Damascus, costing \$1,000,000, which would open the way to the Mediterranean, the natural outlet of the surplus water. Such a railroad scheme will impair the navigability of the river. And, even before the increased wheat harvests are ready for transport there will be freight to carry and passengers to convey—Mohammedan pilgrims visiting holy places, and tourists who will feel, probably, more interest in the "Arabian Nights" country than in the "cradle of the race."

There may be some question that the railroad is indispensable, though Asiatic enterprises of this kind have generally met with astonishing success and have been profitable to the projectors as well as valuable to the territory through which they pass. The economic importance of the canal there can scarcely be doubted. The transformation wrought in the valley of the Nile can probably be duplicated along the Euphrates. Great cities may never again arise in that region where the archaeologists have long been busy among the ruins of historic capitals, but the land may once more become a garden—not Eden, perhaps, but far removed from the desert that later generations have known as the shame of its rulers.

Imposing Figures.

St. Paul Pioneer Press. Secretary James Wilson says the farmer of 1909 is best beyond all his predecessors. The soil produced \$3,700,000,000. Those figures make the "masters of finance" look like "cockle-bush."

Looking Out for Their Own.

Cleveland Leader. It will be noted that the indicted underlings of the sugar trust who have been brought to trial have no lack of expensive lawyers to defend them.

How Would the Dig-Dig Do?

Chicago Tribune. We take the liberty of suggesting that some hitherto unclassified animal in Africa be named in honor of the distinguished American hunter and traveler now sojourning in that country.

The Test Will Tell.

Pittsburg Dispatch. Certainly Uncle Sam should be able to make justice as certain and severe in the case of the sugar trust officials as in the case of a mail carrier who has gone wrong or a producer of illicit whisky.

Perils of the Near Future.

Indianapolis News. Now that airship factories are under way there will have to be some way devised of protecting the earth-coming public from passengers who are careless with wrapping paper, bottles and empty sardine boxes.

Pledges Kept in Stock.

Boston Herald. Bryan wants this country to give a pledge to all nations not to enter war "till diplomacy has become exhausted." That should be as easy as the present promise which holds the nations to The Hague agreement. Due regard for "national honor" is always reserved.

Belief Well Founded.

Philadelphia Record. It is just thirty years since the state of New York tried to get the upper hand of the Standard Oil company. It is ten years since the state of Ohio made a similar effort. Naturally the Standard Oil magnates, who never had to pay the fine Judge Landis imposed on them, do not believe yet that they have been beaten.

Significant Change of Tone.

Boston Herald. It is to be noted that the lawyers who have framed the appeal of Mr. Gompers to the supreme court do not maintain the right of the defendants to unite in an active boycott, or a conspiracy, which is prohibited under the law. The substance of the appeal appears to be that the acts with which the defendants were charged were not a conspiracy, but were the acts of individuals. The appeals of Messrs. Gompers and Mitchell at Toronto may have been sufficient to impress the audience to whom they were addressed, but they will not be repeated before the supreme court. The liberal press will now attempt to prove that the defendants were within the law.

In Other Lands

The Constitutional Struggle in Great Britain, the Opposing Forces and Two of the Notable Leaders

The great constitutional struggle in Great Britain, which has been brewing for the last six months, opens vigorously, with the opposing political legions equipped for battle. Dispatches from the seat of war have kept the interested reader informed from day to day of the events leading up to the crisis, the debate in the House of Lords on the budget, and the futile attempt of the minority of Liberal peers, few in numbers but magnificent in ability and courage, to change the plan of the majority. The course of the Tory road roller was fixed in advance, and the crushing machine moved with ruthless precision over the seventy-five Liberal peers, driven by the united pressure of 23 eager lords. The prorogation of parliament to January 11 followed, and for five weeks the fiercest electoral contest experienced in the kingdom in two centuries will be waged. Both sides profess confidence in the result. Both profess to welcome an appeal to the country on the clearly defined issue of the right of the peers to veto financial bills. For years past the radical section of the Liberal party sought in vain for an opportunity to test public sentiment squarely on the question of ending or mending the lords, but the party leaders either hesitated or the lords dexterously ducked. Likewise, the Liberal party had no opportunity since the Liberal name itself was to mutilate the subject party legislation, claiming that the Liberal had no mandate for the legislation in question. Some features of the rejected legislation were embodied in the rejected budget, with the evident purpose of forcing the long sought issue. For the Liberal, progressive policy toward America, during the revolution that he was dismissed from office by King George, and he consented to take office again only on condition that the king would recognize the independence of the United States. The fifth marquis entered the House of Lords when a young man of 21. When he was under thirty, Mr. Gladstone made him under secretary for war. On the vote for Mr. Gladstone's home rule bill he broke with the Liberals and passed over to the Conservatives. Disraeli made him governor-general of Canada. Lord Salisbury sent him to India as viceroy. Then he became secretary for war and secretary for foreign affairs, and brought the African war to a successful issue.

Richard W. Gilder's Work

An Appreciation of His Life by Associates on the "Century." This appreciation of the late editor of the Century Magazine, Richard Watson Gilder, will appear in the January number of the magazine. "The unexpected death of Richard Watson Gilder is more than a personal bereavement to the thousands in every part of the land, and in other lands, to whom he was known affectionately, either in person, or by his poetry and other writings. To his associates of this magazine, who from the daily contact of many years, knew his rare spirit, his uncompromising scrupulousness, his high standards of personal influence, his large horizons of sympathy, his instinct and habit of usefulness, it must always seem that the noble qualities of the real man can never be made known to the world as they are known to us. To the readers of the Century, in which for nearly forty years of its existence he has been a formative and determinative force and for the last twenty-eight his responsible and devoted editor-in-chief, his death must be felt as the loss of a friendly voice from the fireside—a voice of hope and of warning, of optimistic faith, of brave encouragement toward worthy ends. "Circumstances compel us to defer to another opportunity anything like an adequate consideration of the claims for remembrance which his artistic and public activities demand. But to those who never met him, his instinct and habit of usefulness, his high standards of personal influence, his large horizons of sympathy, his instinct and habit of usefulness, it must always seem that the noble qualities of the real man can never be made known to the world as they are known to us. 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