

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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GEO. H. TSCHUCK, Treasurer. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of December, 1909.

M. P. WALKER, Notary Public. Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

But the frisky 'Frisco won't altogether lose sight of Katy.

Mr. Shotwell's letter seems to have stirred up the court to resentment, at least.

To be strictly up to date, the New Year water wagon devotees should speak of it as the aquaplane.

The Council Bluffs city council have decided not to give up their street car passes. Old habits die hard.

Now that army officers are forbidden to buy off the Standard, that old offender may begin to realize that government opposition is no light matter.

The American millionaire who has been bound in Morocco because of his atrocious practical jokes evidently considers himself the edition de luxe of Joe Miller's feet book.

That New York lawyer who pleaded in court that his client was a "guillible fool" is not the first of the profession to find himself in that fix. He is merely the first to openly admit it.

The cashiering of an army officer for petty robberies of the West Point mess after a distinguished career in the service, in the far east indicates that if a man has a yellow streak it is bound to crop out.

The incompetence of the local democratic administration was never so well exemplified as in the condition of the downtown streets at present.

"Boss" Tom Flynn is surely making a record on how not to do it.

If the threat to send the price of broom corn to \$1 apiece is fulfilled, the manufacturers will find that the broom corn crop is not half so short as father, and that mother will be liberally excused from the sweeping habit.

Those enthusiastic Georgians who were wildly chasing every man with a black skin a day or two ago have subsided very noticeably since it was discovered that the crime was committed by a white man. Does color make any difference?

The robber who admits having held up the cashier of a lunch stand and four other similar crimes apparently is eager to land in the penitentiary, and the wheels of justice should be greased a little in order to help him realize his ambition.

Senator Rayner's impassioned outburst against Zelaya attests the fact that Joan of Arc was tame compared with our own Maryland when that girl gets her fighting blood up. The south evidently would give the Nicaraguan malefactor short shrift if he were within her borders.

Mrs. Margaret Deland argues that the divorce evil is the result of individuals seeking to be happy at the expense of society and she denies them the right. In her plea for the permanence of the family she has stirred up a discussion which promises for awhile to crowd the suffragettes out of the limelight.

Omaha, perhaps, ought to have street signs, but the proposition of stenciling street names on telephones and electric light poles that happen to be adjacent to the thoroughfare designated seems to have about reached the limit of absurdity. If street signs are really necessary the city ought to provide for them in the proper way.

Extension of Civil Service.

President Taft's recent order including the diplomatic appointments within the province of civil service is a timely exemplification of Dr. Elliot's point in his annual address as president of the National Civil Service Reform league, that the extensions of the classified service have proceeded from the executive rather than from congress.

"It will be an interesting and somewhat unexpected development in the working of the constitution if the president, elected by the whole people, turns out to be a better interpreter of the people's wishes and purposes in an ethical and economic reform than the members of the two legislative bodies elected by states or by districts."

The reason for this congressional laxity as compared with executive vigilance is probably traceable to the fact that generations of congressmen were so long closely related to the spoils system, a system which, Dr. Elliot reports, now is covertly manipulated by the bosses, the machine politicians and their tools.

The successful operation of civil service in many governmental departments has enormously advanced faith in the republic among thinking people. As Dr. Elliot remarks, the public now has confidence in government service, "not as a charity, or as affording a livelihood for incompetents, or as a means of paying and feeding the henchmen of political leaders, but as a great business organization for doing efficiently and honestly large pieces of business which the people want to have well done."

Extension of the service is now possible through executive order, in national affairs, but Dr. Elliot and his associates would carry it further, to include municipal matters. Particularly strong is his feeling that a merit system is necessary to "reform the extraordinarily unjust and ineffectual methods of taxation," which he considers "injurious to the national industries." He would have assessors and other officials concerned with taxation selected and retained for their knowledge of productive tax administration. The same idea he would carry into all municipal matters, in order to put American city governments on a business basis.

"It is only in this way," he argues, "that the civil service in American communities can be brought to the condition of a life career which well-qualified young men can enter with the intention of devoting themselves to it for life."

This turning of the league from national to municipal affairs manifests a determination to conquer more worlds, and while cities will not be ready to welcome the interference of Dr. Elliot and his fellow advisers, it is manifest that there is life in the old league yet, and that civil service reform is not content to rest on its record of achievement.

Being a Good Neighbor.

While Central American jingoes are seeking to make aggressive capital against the United States out of our attitude towards Zelaya, let the people of those republics be not deceived, but instead turn to the evidence of how excellent a neighbor we are to any well-intentioned country in need of our good offices, as given in the report of the Dominican customs receivership.

Under the beneficent administration of the United States bureau of insular affairs, the Dominican revenues have been put on a business basis, the paying of installments upon the debt to this country has been regularly accomplished without any burden to the people and for two years the affairs of that country have known unaccustomed stability and prosperity.

A Menace Within the Navy.

Whatever of sectionalism still lives in this country is customarily manifested by the east against the west, and in view of the facts of the case the westerner cannot but conclude that the recent criticisms against the battleship Nebraska are inspired by eastern animus. On the Atlantic the vessel has been consistently regarded as an intruder, because, forsooth, it is not the product of the jealous eastern yards. Its record was a clean one in Pacific waters, where it exceeded its contract speed despite the fact that it had inferior fuel instead of the picked coal used in Atlantic tests. It was a prize winner in maneuvers and target work and won admiration all along the line in its trip around the world.

Seasoned officers said they never had known a finer vessel, or more thoroughly enjoyed life or witnessed more harmonious and effective discipline than on this model product of the Puget sound.

Yet what happens when the Nebraska is assigned to the Atlantic fleet. It fell, strangely, from high to low grade in the matter of target practice, and Lieutenant Macy, ordnance officer, openly accused officials of putting up a job. Macy was court-martialed and acquitted. In justice his charges should then have been followed up; instead he was transferred to recruiting work inland and appar-

ently no effort was made to improve the order of things aboard the warship.

Now the same naval officials who sidetracked the man who dared to speak up are in control of the investigation of the collision between the Nebraska and the Georgia. Advance judgment in the east fastened the blame upon the Nebraska, and it was proclaimed as a "hoodoo" ship. The Nebraska represents an investment of millions of the people's money. It was accepted by the government after the most rigid tests, more severe, indeed, than are customarily applied to the products of the Atlantic seaboard. It has demonstrated its capabilities in the other waters looks very like discrimination and is worthy of the attention of the head of the Navy department. It is high time to rid the service of any such antagonism. A fleet divided against itself is in peril from a foe more insidious than foreign guns.

Street Railway Service.

The report of the city council committee indefinitely postponing the ordinance to reduce fares in Omaha will not be a serious disappointment to the public. It is probably true that some reformation in local street railway service is required, but at present the more urgent needs of the public are not summed up with the demand for cheaper fares. The Omaha Street Railway company gives rides of much longer length for 5 cents than any steam road would possibly do, and with the transfer system in vogue this feature of its service is not to be seriously complained of. It is true that a few other cities furnish street railway transportation at a lower cost to the public than does Omaha, but it will be found upon inquiry that conditions in those cities are very much different from those prevailing here. The elements that enter into the problem there are all in favor of the lower fare proposition. In Omaha a great many things in connection with the street railway service might be improved before the fare is reduced. The needed improvements can only be had through the company's prosperity, and to curtail its gross income by the reduction of fare is certain to postpone the betterments. If the city council will devote its control over the street railway service to the matter of securing more trains on the lines, especially at the rush hours, so that the public will not be subjected to the terrific packing that now prevails, and some similar reforms, it will accomplish much better results than by wasting its time on the reduced fare proposition.

Prof. Parker of Harvard, who evolves the theory that woman is less sensitive than man, and that the daintiest woman has no more emotional sense, in the purely scientific view, than her pet cat or dog, can count on having stirred up the liveliest animal, not in the whole menagerie, but in man's menage.

Professors? Sure!

A Nebraska court has decided that "barbers are not common laborers," but are professional men. Of course, every one of them has a chair.

Joy of the Mixup.

"The question promptly arises," says the Omaha Bee, "what is the knead for a bankers' combine?" The answer suggests itself with equal promptness: "Dough."

Good Conduct, Abroad.

Good Americans abroad should so conduct themselves that they can at any moment rely upon Uncle Sam's prompt interference in their behalf when trouble clouds the horizon.

Consolation for Penitents.

Cheer up! What if breakfast bacon is five times as high in price as it was ten years ago? Does not the accommodation and kind-hearted grocer throw in the rind nowadays at exactly the same price as the meat?

Who Sprang the Rivets?

It is said that the effect of the collision forty miles off the south Atlantic coast between the battleships Georgia and Nebraska "was not serious, only a few rivets being sprung."

It was serious enough, however, to warrant a thorough investigation to determine in whose seamanship some rivets were sprung. There is plenty of room in the south Atlantic.

COMING INTO FAVOR.

Spread of the Taxation Policies of Henry George. Springfield Republican.

It is a pity Henry George could not have lived to see this day of rapidly widening recognition of the soundness of his land taxation views. That the land monopolists should at last determine in whose favor the community which creates it is a proposition now coming into general acceptance in Germany and Great Britain and into a large degree of favorable recognition in the United States. This at a conservation conference recently held at St. Paul "George J. Hill, of the Great Northern railroad, urged the higher taxation of lands held out of use as a wholesome measure. The Great Northern company possesses such lands which it will sell to bona fide settlers on almost any terms, but to speculators on no terms. Still he advised tax discriminations against idle lands."

The Chicago Public, an advocate of the George doctrine, regards this as little short of sensational, considering its source.

In other countries royalty goes further and commands with a high hand. In England a short time ago someone snapped King Edward in a group into which a notorious actress had intruded. From the negative of the figure of the actress at once was blacked out, so that the shop windows were filled with prints showing a mysterious shadow, distinct, but unrecognizable. From this incident has grown a singular fad, and now the country is flooded with all sorts of group photographs of notables with one individual dimmed into a ghost. Thus a regular whim has been cultivated into a peculiar pastime, and out of it has grown a substitution for the word photograph of the slang nomenclature, "Guess Who?"

When Robert Louis Stevenson described the conditions of life in the steerage between Europe and America, people of this country viewed his disclosures as containing the bias of a Britisher and the exaggeration of a writer of romance. But what shall they say to the revelations of the official agents of the government who have filed their reports in Washington describing shameful conditions as they experienced them while traveling in the guise of emigrants? It is manifest that some of the transatlantic lines are still treating not only men but also helpless women as so many cattle and that the barbarities of steerage life are in some respects verily unspaka-

ble. Inasmuch as it is apparent that the offending lines will not reform except under compulsion, it is high time that we enacted legislation forcing the recalcitrants to bring their steerage accommodations for and treatment of emigrants up to a standard of cleanliness and decency.

The two extremes of personal and social endeavor met in New York when the president, devoted to ideals in administering the duties of the highest office in the land, met and talked with the habitues of a Bowery mission, where the lowliest had gathered to manifest their sincere desire toward uplifting themselves and neighbors from discouraging conditions. The president's simple, straightforward homily must have stirred all the manhood in the breasts of his listeners to a renewed sense of their obligations in life. It was the heartfelt speech of a man talking on the level to his fellow beings.

The public may consider itself justifiable in promptly wanting to know how a rear-end collision is possible on a railroad pretending to be first-class and operating under a block signal system. Is the wreck of a New York flyer another case of deliberately running past signals to maintain schedule? American railroads have yet to learn well the lessons of safety first and speed afterward.

The Interstate Commerce commission has made an order concerning the fare between Omaha and Council Bluffs which will stop what has generally been considered an imposition. After February it will be possible to ride from any point in Omaha to any point in Council Bluffs for one fare plus the 5 cents bridge toll. Now, if the bridge toll could be wiped out!

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Around New York

Ripples on the Current of Life of News in the Great American Metropolis from Day to Day.

An impressive vindication of Governor Hughes' course in striving to reform the insurance department of the state comes from the scandalous looting of the Phoenix insurance company of Brooklyn. During his first term Governor Hughes sought to remove Superintendent Kelsey from the department. Kelsey was shown to be incompetent and in suspiciously high powers with the insurance companies. The state senate rejected the governor's recommendations and Kelsey held on. The removal of the lid from the Phoenix mess shows that Kelsey's deputy superintendent, Robert H. Hunter, borrowed \$50,000 from the Brooklyn concern, repaying all but \$15,000 of the loan. Another subordinate borrowed \$2,000 and paid back all but \$500, which was charged off as "legal services." Other officers dipped into the Phoenix pot for less sums. The revelations confound the political enemies of the governor, and exports from the New York Sun a scorching roast for the blockheads of the state republican machine.

Eugene Higgins has leased the southeast corner of Broadway and Ninety-fifth street to Max Marx for 999 years. To preserve the lease in its exact form his lawyers had it transferred to a lithographic stone. These stones are about three inches thick. They do not shrink and if rubbed up occasionally by an experienced transfer man the picture may be preserved indefinitely. It is a revival of the old idea of Moses when he had the Ten Commandments engraved on unshrinkable stone guaranteed against the weather and changes in temperature. The lease is probably the first instance of an out-and-out agreement to rent a piece of real estate in this city for so long a time, and while no figures are at hand as to what rent Mr. Higgins will receive annually, Leopold Well, the broken who negotiated the deal, said the rental, for the 999 years would approximate between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000. Unlike leases for similar terms, this one has no provisions whereby Mr. Higgins will be enabled at a given period to step in and buy whatever improvement may be made upon the plot at the appraised value. Mr. Marx, during his lifetime, will have sole control of anything he may put upon the land, and his heirs, or whomsoever he may designate, will have the same privilege. By the terms of the lease there is to be a reappraisal every twenty years, and with every adjustment the amount of the rent to be paid will be determined between the principals.

A Wall street commuter who was conversing with a friend suddenly looked scared, cut short his speech and began to go through his pockets. "What's the matter? Watch pinched?" asked his friend. The other, with a sigh of relief, pulled out a slip of paper. "I'm all right, now," he said, "but what a fright I had last night. It is Order of the Day, No. 1," he further explained. "Issued from headquarters of the commanding general each morning just after breakfast." He showed it to his friend.

"Quart of apple butter; chicken, five pounds, and not an old hen; celery, if not over 10 cents a bunch; telephone to furrier about my coat; one bottle of Roach's embrocation; socks for yourself; price the eggs in Washington market."

"Errand boy or pack horse," mused his unmarried friend as he moved thoughtfully away.

In the days of Hobson and Dewey, said Webster to Fields, "But he's a hero!" "Well," said Fields, "he vunt be a hero long."

The small boys on the East Side who are thirsting to be heroes, are not entertaining feuds as yet. In future eclipses, they things they are after are permanent emoluments, and honor from their urchin people.

Not an automobile passes along the crowded thoroughfares without its accompanying of eager-eyed small boys, who hope to say some one run over, so that they may make a detection and arrest, and enter the hero class.

A second case of this sort, and the presentation of a gold medal by the National Highway Protective association, bids fair to increase the labors of the transient officers. The boys are inclined to cut school, and go out after medals. Still, one must award praise to little Arthur Lewis. When the machine ran down a man and started away at full speed, the men and women on the sidewalk began to dance and yell.

Arthur whipped out his pencil and on the margin of a newspaper he was carrying, jotted down the number of the machine.

"Why did you do it?" asked an admiring friend.

"Me for de medal," said Arthur with a grin.

Attorney General O'Malley of New York state has moved against the so-called milk trust in New York City and Albany, and the supreme court has appointed a referee to investigate the charges. The inquiry is designed to determine the causes for an apparent wide discrepancy between the price paid to the producer and that paid by the consumer. Officers of the consolidated milk exchange of New York City and several other large milk companies will be required to appear for examination with their records and books. The charge is that the prices paid the producer and charged the consumer are "arbitrarily fixed" and that the action of the members and stockholders in raising the price of bottled milk from 8 cents to 9 cents "was a conspiracy to unlawfully and illegally advance the price," made possible by their alleged monopoly of the supply.

One State Checks the Merger. Philadelphia Record.

The telephone and telegraph merger has encountered an obstacle. It is a Michigan law which the supreme court of the state declines to suspend. "For more than a quarter of a century," says the court, "the legislature has seen fit to keep separate these two lines of activity," and it affirms the policy "on the part of the state to afford its people a choice of two services of independent ownership." Certainly this is a matter which every state is entitled to regulate for itself.

SCHOOLS. Send For Our Free Book. LINCOLN BUSINESS COLLEGE.

Dr. Koch, the bacteriologist, has reported the successful experiments made with cats for the eradication of rats in plague-infected and plague-menaced harbors of China. In Hongkong orders have been issued providing for the maintenance of one rat in every house.

In handing to the kaiser, in person, the gold medal of the Hudson-Fulton celebration, General Stewart L. Woodford of New York, will extend to his majesty the assurances of our most distinguished consideration and incidentally demonstrate that he himself is only 74 years young and qualified for a great variety of ceremonial missions.

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SMILING REMARKS. "And now, said the teacher, 'we come to Germany, that important country governed by a kaiser. Tommy Jones, what is a kaiser?' "Please, ma'am, a kaiser is a stream of hot water springing up an' disturbing the earth."—"Everybody's." Crusty Artist—That picture gives you a better impression, ma'am, if you look at it from a proper distance. Mrs. Chilton-Kearney—I hardly think so. Distance can only—er—lend the enchantment, you know.—New York Sun. "How did Jobbins come to be such a logical and unanswerable debater?" "By force of habit. His wife always makes him put down the carpets, so he knows how to floor his opponent and keep him nailed down."—Baltimore American. "The artists' models in Paris have struck for higher wages." "I don't blame 'em," answered Mrs. Grady, "the pictures prove that the poor things aren't paid enough to buy clothes."—Brooklyn Eagle. Wareham Long—What'd you say of Rockefeller was to give a million dollars? "Tuffold Knutt—Tanks!—Chicago Tribune. Redd—Did his aeroplane cost him much? Green—Four weeks in the hospital.—Youkers Statesman. The peasant was overjoyed when he discovered that his goose was laying golden eggs. For it was winter. "I can point them up and sell them for hen's eggs," he exclaimed, visions of untold wealth rising before him.—Puck. "I want a little legal information." "Go ahead." "If an automobile runs over a man whose fault is in the pedestrian's or the driver's?" "One moment. Were you in the automobile or in the street?"—Washington Herald. This is a very exciting scene. That orderly with his glasses has just dropped from a well-balloon. "What is that fleecy stuff he's brushing off?" "Bits of cloud."—Kansas City Journal. She—How far can your ancestry be traced? He—Well, when my grandfather restored his position as cashier of a county bank.

By the Author of The CIRCULAR STAIRCASE MAN IN LOWER TEN WHEN A MAN MARRIES Mary Roberts Rinehart's NEW NOVEL Chuckles and grins. "When a Man Marries" is the Novel that wins. "New York will laugh at it for months."—N. Y. Tribune. "Lively, clean, amusing."—N. Y. Herald. "Catches on like a house afire."—N. Y. Sun. "When a Man Marries" is so jolly that it would make a grumpy smile like a Buddha."—Cleveland Leader. "When Solomon made his sweeping assertion that there was nothing new under the sun, he had not read 'When a Man Marries.'"—Baltimore Sun. A Clever, Sprightly, Humorous Mystery Novel. Fifty illustrations. Many in Color. by HARRISON FRISLER and Mayo Banker. At all Booksellers. THE BOBBS-MERRILL CO., Publishers. The above book and all other late publications for sale by THE BENNETT COMPANY. This Book and all the other new Publications on Sale at Brandeis Stores Book Department.