THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
George B. Tzschuck, treasurer of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of November, 1909, was as follows:

1	42,070	15	41,970
2	43,050	17	42,160
3	42,700	18	41,990
4	42,150	19	41,390
5	42,650	20	41,950
6	42,170	21	40,340
7	40,040	22	41,660
8	41,930	23	41,790
9	42,160	24	41,850
10	41,820	25	41,[illegible]00
11	41,750	26	42,[illegible]40
12	42,560	27	41,610
13	41,760	28	40,930
14	40,100	29	41,650
15	41,800	30	41,920

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GEO. B. TZSCHUCK, Treasurer.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of December, 1909.
(Seal) M. F. WALSH,
Notary Public.

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

Nothing in Tammany's stocking this year.

For a man who talks so little, J. P. M. is singularly fond of telephones.

The base ball magnates take care to sustain the interest during the closed season.

Leopold's daughters get only three millions. Some fathers are so improvident!

Dropping, dropping, hear the dollars of the sugar ring dropping into Uncle Sam's hat.

Talk about back to the farm, here's New York going back to "St. Elmo" for a new play.

The promise of a wireless telephone from the Eiffel tower to New York has thus far fallen on deaf ears.

Rockefeller's scientist having found the germ of poliomyelitis, the next question is what he will do with it.

Manitoba province has assumed ownership of all the grain elevators in the province. More government uplift!

It begins to look as though defective rails were again dealing their deadly work. Have the railroads not yet taught the steel manufacturers their lesson?

The southern newspapers manifest the true Christmas spirit toward President Taft for his appointment of a Tennessee democrat to the supreme bench in the holiday season.

Aside from his characterization of the Illinois Central as a fraud, a robber and a Judas Iscariot, Attorney General Stead of Illinois may be willing to concede that the road is otherwise all right.

His Juliet gets a verdict for $2,000 against young Zelaya for his "love mood," but the recreant swain's dollars seem to have flown after his affection, for he confesses himself bankrupt of both.

As usual, the human unit proves to have been at fault for the rear-end collision near Erie, Pa. All the safety devices in the world cannot avail against the personal equation that disregards orders and signals.

The three radical parties in the German reichstag have agreed to unite, on the theory of strength in unity, but inasmuch as the agreement does not take effect till 1912, the impatient socialist has abundant time to speculate on the results.

Another reason for special condemnation of the poet Watson for his stabs against the premier's daughter is discovered in the fact that when he was subjecting her to such criticism she was nursing her fiance on his deathbed. The English race is not likely to forgive this additional bitterness flung into a woman's cup of grief already brimming.

The obstructive tactics of the Slavs in the Austrian reichsrath present the curious feature of physicians in attendance upon the speakers, taking their pulses and temperatures, so that they may not over-exert themselves. This reads more like a six-day go-as-you-please bicycle race. A filibuster in the American congress would scorn to admit that there was any limit to human endurance in the speech line.

A Test of Prosperity.

If the proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof, then the payment of dividends may be taken as a fair gauge of business prosperity. Judging from this standpoint, the record for 1909 is most encouraging. It is far ahead of 1908 or 1907 and proves most conclusively the soundness of the statements made at different times during the year that the business of the country was on a paying basis, and was growing at a remarkably rapid rate.

It is now estimated by a competent Wall street authority that between the 1st and 15th days of January next there will be paid to the holders of stocks and bonds of the various corporations of the United States more than $225,000,000, the largest interest and dividend disbursement in the history of finance of this country. This enormous payment is compared with similar payments in the corresponding month of 1908 of approximately $198,000,000 and in January of 1907 of $220,000,00. This great increase represents the improvement in general business conditions in the last half of 1909, as compared with conditions prevalent during the same period in 1908.

Railroads will pay to shareholders in January a little more than $72,000,000, an increase of about $49,000,000 over the same month of last year, while stockholders in industrial, commercial and public utility concerns will receive more than $61,000,000, a total of over $133,000,000 in dividends. Interest payments will aggregate more than $92,000,000, of which $62,000,000 will represent the fixed charges on outstanding railroad bonds, and $30,000,000 of interest payments will be made on the combined bonded indebtedness of miscellaneous corporations of the country. These figures are referred to in order that some better idea may be had of the enormous extent of the corporate business carried on in the country.

While on the subject it may be of interest to note that at the end of this year more than $1,500,000,000 will have been paid to stock and bond holders of the United States, which is also a new record for such payments. Recent compilations by the Wall Street Journal show that the free stock of money in the United States is about $1,600,000,000, so that if the entire payment of dividends and interest had fallen on one day it would have taken nearly all the money in the United States to have discharged the obligation.

But the principal concern of the public with this matter is that the business of the country is on such a basis that these enormous payments of fixed charges and profits are possible without disturbance or special notice.

Time to Uncover Frauds.

With the testimony given in the federal court at Denver as a basis, there seems to be afforded an opportunity for discovering some phases of the coal land frauds that have thus far defied investigation. One of the farmer victims of a Colorado deal claims that attorneys advised him that the filings had been irregular and that there had to be some quick covering up. It would appear that any lawyers coercing stockholders, as has been testified to in this case, had laid themselves liable to participation in the prosecution as well as the profits, and it is to be hoped that the government will not overlook the opening thus afforded for including the tricky legal luminaries in the net.

Furthers than this, it is testified that a "minor official" in the land office at Washington had advised the promoters to change the identity of their company and "bury it deep to help the fraud." It is eminently in order for those to whom the "minor official" gave this advice to name his name. If any government officials are included in the land fraud ring, now is the time to uncover them. The administration covets just such facts as are here hinted at, for the more shining the example, the more lasting will be the lesson that these prosecutions of the government against public domain jugglers are intensely in earnest.

The Family and the Public.

Just now much attention is being demanded by reformers of two sorts as wide apart as the poles. One set is clamoring loudly for the abolition, or at least the restriction, of divorce, setting up that under the laxity of the law which readily dissolves the marriage bond the family is threatened with all but extinction. Much able argument is brought to the support of this position and the status of society when the family shall have become extinct is painted in darkest tints.

Another set of reformers, almost as numerous and equally clamorous, are apparently bent on destroying the family. In the name of society these good people go into the homes and undertake to regulate the conduct of parents towards their children and, failing in this, remove the children entirely from the charge and keeping of their natural parents and with the sanction of the law thrust them into detention homes whence they are taken, if at all, to places where they may be reared at least in a manner different from what might have happened had they remained with their parents.

Between these two sets of reformers happily stands the large body of citizenship who hold aloof from divorce court and juvenile court alike. The family is still the unit in American society and must remain so. On its perpetuity practically rests the safety of the government. It has not been established that the so-called divorce evil is a serious menace to the sanctity of the home, nor has it been established that the intervention of the law for the alleged purpose of protecting children from parental neglect is working the wonders the reformers promised for it. Abuses have arisen under the divorce laws and cases have come up wherein the juvenile court has served a good purpose, but so far experience has proven that the demand for reformation represented by these two methods is more apparent than real. The family, if left to itself, is quite as apt to work out its own salvation as it is when directed in its development by a law designed and administered by theorists.

King Albert's Opportunity.

Under the reign of Albert I, to be ushered in this week, Belgium may be expected to take a long stride forward in economic and social progress, in case the new monarch lives up to his opportunity. The masses of the population have for decades been ground lower and lower under a most oppressive national debt and a system of taxation that has constantly grown more burdensome. So that they might not rebel against the terrible drain of the public revenues, which have taxed even the trades, they have been kept in ignorance and in a country whose constitution forbids all armed aggression, the ministry of war spends nearly twice as much as does that of the interior and public instruction.

King Albert gives promise of changing all this, for he has spent his youth in studying the American and other advanced systems of government, and it is expected of him that he will seek to lift his people from the slough of oppression, ignorance and debt. Instead of maintaining the throne for selfish exploitation or private aggrandizement, such a modern and high-purposed ruler should be able to institute fiscal reforms, remodel and extend the schools, and lead his subjects into the ways of an enlightened civilization. Immediate improvements are possible, and if Albert undertakes them with the far-sightedness that is said to be one of his characteristics the progress will be steady and secure.

The world at large will be the gainer to a considerable degree from an intelligent application of what the young king has learned from his travels among the nations. Belgium is too crowded with people to hope ever to regain its lost possibilities as an agricultural country. In mines and manufactures it is susceptible of vast improvement, but it must buy its food from other lands. Lifted from abject poverty, the masses will demand more and more of the world's produce, and the granaries of the United States will have a new market as the Belgians are developed along modern lines. Prosperity for this long down-trodden people will be a source of additional gain for progressive producing nations. King Albert has it in his power to lift his millions of subjects from ignorance and want into education and happiness, and in so doing he will be benefiting humanity at large, from every high, as well as every selfish point of view.

Congressional Criticism.

Some of the members of congress have been taking up the time of the house with attacks upon officials of the executive department for criticisms of that body. One of the representatives even went so far as to assert that the auditor of the district ought to be discharged for making some such statements.

Sensitiveness is an excellent thing in public servants, for it enables those who do not agree with their attitude on any matter to say the very things that will touch the spot aimed at, while the man with a walrus hide must frequently be given up as hopeless. The public will therefore welcome the knowledge that congressmen are susceptible to criticism, albeit that is a weapon that some times cuts both ways.

But the attempt to smother a citizen's ideas just because he happens to be in the government service will meet with considerable opposition from those who hold that this is a land of free speech. How would it do for all those public servants outside of congress to agree to cease public discussion of congressional acts when members of the house shall cease open attacks upon fellow members and upon administration policies and their exponents? What a dull and somber place the floor of the house would get to be!

Censorship on News.

That is a rather unusual process reputed to be under way in Washington for the enactment of a law designed by the officers of the general staff to establish a legal censorship of news relating to the movements of land and naval forces in war times. As framed the bill is said to authorize the president to issue a proclamation forbidding the publication of news relating to the armed forces of the government, or the means and measures by which the war is to be prosecuted. Further provision is alleged to be a proposal for the definite establishment of a press censorship in the War and Navy departments to which correspondents in period of stress must submit matter and ask leave to publish. Fines of $5,000 and imprisonment of from six months to three years are attached as penalties for violation.

One of the promoters of the bill is said to be General J. Franklin Bell, who, it is stated, desires to see the measure enacted before he turns his duties as chief-of-staff over to General Wood on being assigned to take charge of military matters in the Philippines.

The very name censorship is abhorrent to every American, savoring, as it does, of methods Russian, Spanish, monarchical and tyrannical. During the civil war the government had no trouble to bring action for sedition or treason against editors who offended the union interests, and it would seem that the present regulations provide sufficiently for proper control of those publications which have no respect for truth and patriotism. Fortunately, that class of scandalmonger is rare, and the great mass of prudent and painstaking newspapers should not be made to suffer for the sins of the few.

War correspondents in the field have customarily proved themselves to be brave and honorable men, picked for the service, and they have been sufficiently hedged about with restrictions without being subjected to an espionage which would render their work virtually valueless. Newspapers spend many thousands of dollars to get the truth, in war times, and in case this country should become involved in a conflict the people would demand the facts without suppression.

The reader will be apt to cry out that a censorship such as proposed would be unconstitutional, yet it has been found possible to enforce similar prohibitive laws in some cases. In Massachusetts no newspaper is permitted to discuss in any way a case that is on trial before any court in that commonwealth, and some of the most conservative papers in that state have violated the statute for the sake of testing it, and have been heavily fined as a result. Nevertheless, it is well for the advocates of the proposed censorship to recall the constitutional provision, which reads:

"Congress shall make no law which, respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

The fact that this was adopted as the first amendment to the constitution would tend to prove that a free press was to the minds of the states an essential bulwark of the nation.

Sugar Ring Convictions.

The wisdom of deferring congressional exploitation of the sugar ring frauds is manifest in the success of the prosecution under way in New York, where five of the offenders have already been found guilty. When the government shall have exhausted its ability to reach the ringleaders with the arm of criminal indictment will be time enough for a congressional committee to expose any ramifications that are beyond the power of the prosecution because of the statute of limitations, and exposure then will be just as effective without having hindered the administration's efforts.

Five verdicts of guilty are a distinct encouragement. The jury's disagreement over the case of Bendernagel, a former cashier, while disappointing to the government, may prove to be of real service, for Bendernagel testified that his deeds were at the instigation of men higher up, and on his retrial the prosecuting attorneys may be able to disclose some of the chief offenders not yet discovered. Fortified with the records of the cases just closed, the government may be regarded as in a position to present even stronger evidence in the trial of the additional indictments now pending, and the public may confidently expect that no offender is to be permitted to escape if guilt can be fastened upon him beyond the reasonable doubt to which every defendant is entitled.

The people of Kansas City have registered a vote against the extension of the franchise of the street railway company of that city. Without reference to the existing terms on which the extension was sought, the verdict may be interpreted as indicating the purpose of the citizens to have the valuable franchise come directly within their control. While the present company still has sixteen years of life, it will eventually find itself in a place where the public may prescribe the terms under which it shall exist. This is in line with the general trend of modern thought. While in many cases the people expect, perhaps, too much of a public service corporation, it is but the swinging of the pendulum to the other extreme, for in the past it has been too frequently the policy of the public service corporation to give too little. Valuable franchises will no longer be awarded merely as an encouragement to enterprise, and corporations formed for the purpose of providing public service will necessarily have to make their offers attractive in order to secure the privileges sought.

New York state is about to abandon its candle-power tests of gas for those showing its heating power, a fact which emphasizes another phase of modern development. Electric forms of lighting have in a large measure supplanted gas, and those who still use gas for light have discovered the efficiency and economy of the incandescent mantels, while gas for cooking has come into practically general use. This is one of the marked evolutions in household economy.

New York republicans have lost an able leader in the death of State Senator John Raines, who for seven years had been the chief on the floor of the capitol, at Albany. His famous liquor tax law of 1896 made his name celebrated throughout the country.

Society women in New York have abandoned the slumming fad for the real work of supporting the working girls in the waistmakers' strike. Here is an opportunity for the sex's persuasion to become effectual. If the women who buy support the women who make, the men who sell will be forced to capitulate.

Relatives sought to have declared insane the millionaire who planted Michigan barrens with thousands of apple trees, but now the trees are harvesting a fortune and taking state fair prizes, and the barrenness has been transferred to the relatives' codicil in the crazy man's will.

Attorney General Wickersham's announcement that hereafter no assistant district attorneys will be appointed for political reasons has cast a gloom over partisan circles in some of the large cities, where the feeling grows more acute that all the joy is steadily going out of politics.

A woman is in Washington to urge congress to establish a school to teach farmers' wives how to cook. Any farmer's wife who thinks she cannot, will please rise up. But then the appealing theorist is a spinster who has never kept house, so she may be forgiven.

SERMONS BOILED DOWN.

No man helps people much who thinks only of pleasing them.

One way to defend the right is to attack all wrong vigorously.

Making the best of that which is wrong is often buttressing an evil.

Many believe in the discipline of suffering, provided others take it.

No man hits the mark of righteousness by aiming at respectability.

If you never dream of the impossible you will never do the possible.

You cannot sow weeds in your heart and keep the burrs to yourself.

You will never lead a boy into your faith until you have much faith in him.

Many talk so freely of religion because they have never met the real thing.

The best way to get the help of heaven is to give some other fellow a little help.

Many a saint eats pickles and cream and then goes to sleep waiting for a vision from God.

Many a man is so busy making a living for his children that he forgets to think of their real lives.

The world is not likely to believe in your faith if when it looks for fruit you can show only sound roots.—Chicago Tribune.

SECULAR SHOTS AT PULPIT.

Chicago Record-Herald: A Philadelphia preacher has arranged matters so that half a dozen of the prettiest young women in his congregation act as ushers. A largely increased attendance of men is reported.

New York Tribune: That young minister who wants to divorce his wife because she does not appreciate his sermons ought to prepare a discourse on the text about a prophet not being without honor save in his own country.

Charleston News and Courier: A Pittsburg Presbyterian elder has departed with $100,000, more or less, of money belonging to the presbytery, of which he was treasurer. He is reported to have gone to Japan, but not as a missionary.

Philadelphia Press: President Taft has missed no opportunity since he was inaugurated to emphasize his confidence in missions, and his speech last night in New York, at the diamond jubilee of the African mission of the Methodist Episcopal church, adds to the many occasions on which he has given foreign missions his personal support and approval.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Golden text for today: If you haven't, do it early tomorrow.

Kermit Roosevelt shot a bongo, but the whangdoodle got away.

A special election enabled the Traction managers of Kansas City to see stars without a telescope.

Fining the New York Ice trust the awful sum of $5,000 is about as painful a penalty to the concern as the melting of ice cakes carefully placed on sunny doorsteps in midsummer.

No United States senator is to be elected by the Illinois legislature at its present session, and the more hopeful patriots expect it will devote its talents to business worth while.

A salaried scribe on the Detroit Free Press pipes off the sentiments of the Fourth estate in two lines. He will embrace spiritualism as soon as a medium makes the ghost walk twice a week. No less.

A Pennsylvania grocer attempted to prove the "strictly fresh" quality of his stock of eggs by eating a sample. He expects to return to duty before Christmas. Thereafter he will simply insist on the integrity of the printed label.

Every well regulated boy and girl can increase the store of parental esteem by cutting out the habit of spooking around in places where packages might be stored away. Catching on before the appointed time dims the glitter of the Christmas tree.

Expert rock sharks express surprise because they did not find a fragment of the shale rock in a Chicago sewer trench for which the city paid the contractor an "extra" of $46,000. The conclusion is that the contractor made a clean job of it, especially the city "rocks."

THE SHIPS OF YULE.

Bliss Carmen in the Delineator.

When I was just a little boy,
Before I went to school,
I had a fleet of forty sail
I called the Ships of Yule.

Of every rig, from rakish brig
And gallant barkentine
To little Fundy fishing boats,
With gunboats painted green.

They used to go on trading trips
Around the world for me,
For though I had to stay on shore
My heart was on the sea.

They stopped at every port of call
From Babylon to Rome,
To load with all the lovely things
We never had at home;

With elephants and ivory
Bought from the King of Tyre,
And shells and silk and sandalwood
What sailor men admire;

With figs and dates from Samarcand,
And squatty ginger jars,
And scented silver amulets
From Indian bazaars;

With sugar cane from Port of Spain,
With monkeys from Ceylon,
And paper lanterns from Pekin
With painted dragons on;

With coconuts from Zanzibar,
And pines from Singapore;
And when they had unloaded these
They could go back for more.

And even after I was big
And had to go to school,
My mind was often far away
Aboard the Ships of Yule.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

"Mother, I got engaged last night."
"Take him, my daughter, and be happy."
"But you don't know who he is."
"I don't care. The man who will get engaged to a girl this near to Christmas will always be good to her."—Cleveland Leader.

Belle—Mr. Higgins started to kiss me last night.
Beulah—And weren't you surprised?
Belle—I should say I was. He didn't do it!—Yonkers Statesman.

She—Some day I want to show you our family tree.
He (looking at her admiringly)—I should like to see it. I am sure it must be a peach.—Somerville Journal.

"What do you do while your wife is engaged with burning thoughts at the suffragette meeting?"
"I stay home," answered Mr. Meekton, "with the burning biscuits."—Washington Star.

"There's Mrs. Nuritch," said the first woman at the reception. "I understand her husband is at death's door."
"Sh!" cautioned the other woman; "I believe she doesn't say 'door,' but 'porte-cochere.'"—Catholic Standard and Times.

"Sir, I wish to make your daughter my wife."
The old man hesitated. "Hadn't you better see her mother first?" he asked, gently, after thinking a moment.
"I've seen her mother, and it doesn't make any difference—I'm willing to take the chances!" exclaimed the youth, with all the ardor of honest love.—Puck.