

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

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These are fine times for the smugglers of finery.

The good citizen will not forget that Mr. Taft is president of all the people.

In politics as in base ball, the man who plays for his release generally gets it.

Some of England's masculine voters are behaving as horribly as the militant suffragettes.

The aviators at Los Angeles will have to fly high to clear the heads of the Wright injunctions.

While Nicaragua's stormy petrel has perished in the surf, the game warden would better stay on watch.

Is it proper to observe that in the case of the political fireworks the accent seems to be on the fire?

Down in Washington it appears to be an occasion for the cry, "Hold your horses, the elephant is coming."

If one may judge from the feminine fashions, women have discovered the fourth dimension to be thinness.

Judging from the Indiana criticisms, the Lew Wallace statue is not able to live up to the general's reputation.

The nine-dollar hog may fill the farmer's long-felt want, but the popular question is, has he come to stay?

Young Sidis may be able to startle the mathematicians, but what a lot of fun he is missing with Bill and Joe and Tom!

The modern battleship appears to have more trouble with the ice in the Delaware than did George's wooden skiff.

It remains to be seen whether our attempt to denature the Manchurian railways will ruffle Japan's good nature.

Some of the recent examples of frenzied finance demonstrate that the race for a strong purse frequently causes a weak pulse.

Knives are sharpening rapidly to carve the roast which Colonel Waterston expects to eat as the host of the New York World.

When surgery is necessary in an in-surgery it is a comfort to witness courage as well as skill on the part of the master of the scalpel.

It will be noted that the hookworm is again on duty after its mid-winter vacation. While he may promote laziness, he hardly practices it.

From time immemorial one of the chief duties of the world's leaders has been the clearing away of useless timber, whether among forests or forefathers.

We are reminded of the difference in the Russian calendar by the reports of Christmas tree fires in Europe, but the pyrotechnic result appears to be the same.

The former governor of Greenland now complains that Cook stung him in the little matter of some elder-duck rugs. Let him tell his troubles to the policeman of Greenland's ice; we have our own cans.

Masters of Today.

In every form of human effort the tendency is to belittle the current things which crowd familiarly about us and to pay homage to the survivals of times past. This is particularly true of movements in art, music and literature, while we recognize the talent of the contemporary, we are prone to dismiss him with a gracious nod and turn to his classic predecessor.

The correct attitude toward today may be restored to those who are cynical of modernism if they will but reflect that the classic of today represents the modernism of yesterday, and thereby grasp the fact that today's vital and worthy forms of expression are destined to survive as the classics of tomorrow.

The most striking example of modernism of late, because the most sensational departure from ancient standards, is found in music, particularly as represented by the radical innovations of Strauss and Debussy.

These are extremists in modernism, and, as has been pointed out by Redfern Mason in a recent treatise on the subject, they depict such unpleasant characters as Herod by sounds that jar the ear just as the perverted nature portrayed jars the mind.

The conclusion must be, in all the arts and crafts, as illustrated so vividly in the universal speech of music, that the genius of man today is striving to express in modernism the themes that record the spirit of the human race.

Interstate Commerce Court. President Taft's proposal for an interstate commerce court has been so carefully thought out that it is difficult to see how congress can discover any way of improving the definite stipulations he outlines in his recent message.

The delays caused by appeals are the subject of much chafing, when important questions are to be determined, but the president has stipulated a possible means of providing for a minimizing of appeals in the suggestion that the operation of a decree appealed from shall not be stayed unless the supreme court shall so order.

Modern Police Practice. That common sense is law is a cherished maxim, and common sense is permitted to permeate the application of all law, and especially should it govern the operations of the police in their dealings with the criminal classes.

But now and then the police seem to be imbued with the idea that common sense has no part in their work. One day recently in New York City the entire force of detectives at one of the central police stations fought for two hours with two girls to force them to submit to the indignity of being photographed and measured by the Bertillon system for future identification.

Little vexations he yet expects to be solved are the abolition of friction, the determination of gravity, heat, light and electricity, concerning all of which he holds mankind as densely ignorant, and the mastery of obtaining power direct from the sunlight.

One of the really impressive examples of progress of civilization has been afforded by the railroads of the country during the present winter. Time was, not so very long ago, when any one of the several storms that have afflicted this country within the last month would have put the transportation companies entirely out of business.

Whether Boston is to emerge triumphant or a victim of a misguided effort to divorce municipal government from partisan politics is to be determined on Tuesday, when the first election under the new charter will be held.

When good old Bishop Vincent of the Methodist Episcopal church conceived his Chautauqua plan for the purpose of extending the privileges and pleasures of a liberal education to those who had for any reason been deprived of these advantages, he builded far better than he knew.

At night, he believes, will be accomplished, but he does not deem to give the Wrights credit for having devised a practicable machine. The successful aeroplane, in his opinion, must be built on the helicopter principle or it will never defy the winds.

Barium he expects to see abandoned within fifty years.

As the indigo of India went before the synthetic production of German laboratories, for artificial silk is already made superior to the natural; and he adds the comforting thought that the clothes of the future will be so cheap that every young woman will be able to follow the mutations of fashions promptly.

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Boston's Experiment.

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SECULAR REMARKS AT PULPIT.

Charleston News and Courier: A New York minister preached on "Leopold in Hell." Satan, Ahab, and maybe the minister will have the opportunity to change his views.

Baltimore American: The clergyman who accuses his wife of cruel and inhuman conduct because she says his sermons are bad has some justification, for who can be expected to listen to a man's sermons if the wife of his bosom, the partner of his joys and sorrows, can't stand them?

Louisville Courier-Journal: A Texas evangelist says "persons who speculate on the stock market or bet on horse races are bound for hell in a racing automobile," but the experience of an observer is that those who speculate on horse races or bet on the stock market usually arrive there as pedestrians.

Chicago Tribune: By means of a circular the Rev. W. L. Southern of the Baptist temple, New York City, tells his congregation that hereafter copper and nickel coins will not be acceptable as church contributions.

Philadelphia Record: A Pittsburg defaulter charged with squandering \$30,000 of the money of the Presbyterian church is said to be in the city in Chicago, and is quoted as saying that the Pittsburg people will not try to extradite him.

Strenuous objection to "the cooler" illustrates an ice king. Coolers are a necessary asset of the business.

The unusual thickness and hardness of the ice crop, and the trouble of harvesting the same, enables captains of the industry to see a rise in the price.

No use. January will conserve energy by pulling out. There isn't enough interest at the box office to justify a try for the low-down record of December.

Those who see any good in an "old-fashioned" winter are welcome to all the joy in sight. "For me," observes the gutter-nut sage, "the good old summer time."

A bulletin issued by the Illinois Board of Health requires dispensers of soda water to placard the ingredients of the syrups. Is this an intimation of doped waters? Perish the thought.

General James B. Weaver of Iowa threatens to take the road as a "divine healer." Formerly the general was a near-healer in populist circles. The later task calls for a more extensive range of whisks.

"Sight Drafts at Maturity" ANCIENT HISTORY. Some people might conclude we had suddenly assumed a virtue. To show our consistent record we will publish a few letters from old friends. Here is another:

BRANDEIS BOSTON STORE & SONS OMAHA. Omaha, Neb., Feb. 4th, 1907.

MR. H. D. NEELY, Manager, The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U. S., Omaha, Nebraska.

My Dear Sir: Regarding my \$5,000.00 Twenty year deferred dividend policy, No. 244,280, written by yourself February 18, 1887; I elect to accept the cash value, as sum in excess of all premiums paid.

You have written all the members of our firm for large amounts. My confidence in you and your great Company has never been shaken, and now, after twenty years of unbroken friendship and business dealings, I have taken an additional new policy with you in the sum of \$20,000.00.

I think this letter is an answer to your question this morning, "Are you satisfied?"

The Equitable Life Assurance Society Of the United States. PAUL MORTON, President. "Strongest in the World" H. D. NEELY, Manager. Merchants National Bank Building, Omaha

WE Sell 100 Kinds Mineral Waters

We will sell over 100 kinds imported and American Mineral Waters, and as we obtain direct from springs or importer, can guarantee freshness and genuineness. Boro Luthia Water, bot. 50c; case, \$5.00. Boro Luthia Water, pint, dozen, \$1.50; case, \$15.00.

FREDERIC REMINGTON.

John D. Wells in Buffalo News. (A true appreciation overhead in Laramie, Wyo. in 1868, and pertinent now that the great portager of horses and wild life has passed away.) "I knowed the man," the unouth ranger said.

Our Birthday Book

January 9, 1909. General J. Franklin Bell, chief staff officer of the United States army, celebrates his fifty-fourth birthday today. He is a Kentuckian with a brilliant military record and has more than once made visits of inspection to Fort Crook and Fort Omaha.