

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

DEVELOPED BY CARLISLE

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

Daily Bee (including Sunday), per week 15c

Daily Bee (without Sunday), per week 12c

Daily Bee and Sunday, one year \$4.00

DELIVERED BY CARRIER

Evening Bee (without Sunday), per week 10c

Evening Bee (with Sunday), per week 12c

Evening Bee, one year \$3.00

Saturday Bee, one year \$1.00

Address all complaints of irregularities in delivery to City Circulation Department.

OFFICES

Omaha—The Bee Building

South Omaha—Twenty-fourth and N.

Central Office—1500 Broadway

Lincoln—618 Little Building

Chicago—154 Marquette Building

New York—100 Broadway, No. 24, West

Third-third Street

Washington—Fourteenth Street, N. W.

CORRESPONDENCE

Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed: Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

REMITTANCES

Remit by draft, express or postal order payable to The Bee Publishing Company.

Only 1-cent stamps received in payment of mail accounts. Personal checks, except on Omaha or eastern exchanges, not accepted.

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State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.

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Royalty Versus Sale.

For more than a century, in fact, ever since the foundation of the republic, the policy of our government with reference to the public domain has gone on the theory that these lands, while belonging to the people as a whole, were to be given over to private individuals as needed for homesteading and for the development of mineral and other natural resources.

In a word, the policy of the government was to sell the public land at nominal prices to those who would actually settle upon it or work its mineral deposits. Nor is there any question but that this liberal policy hastened the building of a mighty empire in the west by many decades and made returns in wealth and taxes to the government far beyond all expectations.

It is now proposed to reverse this policy, at least in part, and instead of granting patents to the lands remaining in the public domain, for the government to retain title in all, except possibly that which is purely agricultural, and to exact a royalty for its private use.

The great argument in favor of this change is that the country has now progressed to a point where the pioneer work of settlement and development is completed, and what remains of this work will be done in time without this munificence from the government.

The plan recommended by President Taft in his conservation message is, first, to classify the public lands remaining subject to entry "according to their principal value or use," and while disposing of the agricultural lands as heretofore, "to reserve for other disposition the treasure of coal, oil, asphaltum, natural gases and phosphates." To do this the title to the surface will be separated from the right to mine below or to exhaust natural resources, and while agricultural land would still be sold, the coal and other minerals would be "disposed of by lease on the royalty basis," subject, of course, to requirements of a certain amount of development each year and safeguards against combination for monopoly.

The difficulty of framing a law so as to retain government control over property developed by private capital, without frightening away the investment of necessary capital, is foreseen by the president, who says it may therefore be necessary to enact laws that are really only experimental to determine from practical operation the best method of securing the result aimed at.

The change from the system of sale to that of royalty is the essence of the so-called Roosevelt policy of conservation, to which Mr. Taft is committed and which he is consistently advocating. It is such a radical change that, naturally, those charged with the responsibility for making it want to feel their way carefully and avoid unnecessary mistakes, that would jeopardize private rights legally acquired or block the further development of the country and have to be undone later.

There is one other side to this proposed change of policy deserving of passing attention, and that is the relation of the public domain to the states in which it is located. So long as the title of these lands remains in the government they are exempt from taxation, and if the royalty plan had prevailed from the first and were applied to all the lands many states would never have acquired any large area of taxable real estate. If the government is to stop future sales and resort to ground leases and royalties, provision should be made at the same time to give the respective states some equivalent for the revenues from taxes they will be compelled to forego.

The Hog Crop.

No charge of artificial manipulation can answer the fact that the hog crop of the country appears to be short.

From November 1, 1909, to January 24, 1910, 6,400,000 head of hogs had been packed at the big meat packing centers of the country, as against 8,800,000 head during the corresponding period of the year before. A shortage of 2,400,000 head of hogs in the marketing of three months is a genuinely serious phase of the food situation in the United States and accounts in itself for the high prices charged for pork products on the market.

Another feature is that during this time the price of live hogs has been ranging at \$2 per hundredweight more than for the year previous and \$4 per hundredweight more than during 1908. In this fact is proof that the hogs are not to be had. It is not likely that the farmers would hold back on the marketing of the animals at a time when the price at the stock yards is the highest in history.

What is true of hogs is in some measure true of cattle. The supply has been short, and continues below the demand. Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture has dinned this into the ears of the American people for many months. Not posing as a prophet of evil, he has persistently pointed out that the farmers are not producing enough to supply the demand; that the number of farm animals was not increasing as rapidly as the needs of the world for meat, and that the advancing prices was but the result of the growing shortage. He has urged that more attention be paid to farming; that the farmer be encouraged more so that the tide would be turned from the city back to the farm.

In all ways the government of the nation and of the several states have co-operated to protect the live stock industry, especially as carried on by farmers. Free treatment for diseased animals, strict quarantine to prevent the spread of disease and assistance in all reasonable ways have been given

Invite the Governors.

Returning from attendance on the state executives' conference at Washington, Governor Shallenberger refers to the fact that the governors have decided to meet next time at some place other than the national capital, and expresses an opinion that they might come to Nebraska if sufficiently urged.

We suggest that Governor Shallenberger extend the invitation, with full assurance that the governors will be properly taken care of when they arrive, if they accept. The natural place for such a meeting would, perhaps, be at the capital of the state which is acting the host, but Nebraska has a metropolis as well as a capital, and if Lincoln is not ready to meet the demands Omaha will cheerfully do so, and Omaha has never fallen down in any such undertaking. If Governor Shallenberger's influence with his fellow governors is not by itself strong enough to secure recognition of Nebraska's claims, The Bee hereby offers to second the motion.

A Cog Slipped Somewhere.

Our attention has been called for an article in the Newman Grove Reporter, whose editor has been one of the rampant anti-declining against nearly anything and everything connected with the Taft administration, in which the unqualified statement is made on the eve of its foregathering that the recent meeting of so-called insurgents at Lincoln was "to select the proper man to represent the party in the United States senate." Further along the Reporter becomes more explicit, with this declaration:

Each day it grows clearer that there is but one man that can wear the nomination from Senator Burkett, Congressman Norris. He stands now head and shoulders above any other progressive in the state. He has no mistakes to explain away. If the meeting at Lincoln this evening will only content itself with putting Mr. Norris at the head of the progressive republican party in this state it will have done its manifest duty.

If the Lincoln insurgents are bent solely on defeating Senator Burkett and there is "but one man" that can wrest the nomination from him, clearly the cog or failed of its "manifest duty" for it is plain that the insurgent bunch not only neglected to put Mr. Norris at the head of their movement in this state, but by acquiescence undertook to clear the track for Mr. Whedon and to relegate Mr. Norris to a race for reelection as congressman from the Fifth district. As the noise maker of the insurrection the Lincoln Star has even gone so far as to implore the democrats to show their appreciation of republican insurgency by making no nomination in the Fifth district and letting Mr. Norris hold his place for another term by default.

Some way to arbitrate between the Lincoln end of insurgency and the upstate members is apparently in order. If the Newman Grove Reporter properly voices its following, otherwise the cogs of the insurgent machine are in danger of revolving at cross purposes.

Missouri does not like the idea of losing to Minnesota the president of its university, which it got from Nebraska. Speaking of President A. Ross Hill, the Kansas City Star says that because Minnesota is making a special effort to get him is one of the very reasons Missouri needs to keep him. The last time Nebraska made a change in the headship of our State university it was discovered that the supply of talent for such a place is decidedly short of the demand, and Nebraska can readily appreciate the reasons why Missouri does not want to lose a university president who is giving satisfaction.

There is no dearth of suits instituted to test the federal corporation tax law by petitioners bearing all sorts of relations to the corporation. One suit is brought by the guardian of a minor child for whom stock is held in trust, and another by a stockholder of a life insurance company on whose profits the policy holders are supposed to have a claim, to say nothing of other suits with still different complications. Whatever the final decision, the court will not be unaware of the multitudinous ramifications which the corporation tax involves.

The income tax amendment to the federal constitution has been ratified by the lower house of the Kentucky legislature, and the assurance is given that the other branch will follow suit promptly. Kentucky will therefore be the second state to ratify, Alabama being the first. Thus Nebraska is shoved further down the list, irrespective of the fact that it is Mr. Bryan's home state.

The governors of nine states are said to have offered to co-operate for a sane Fourth of July, and more governors coming. What the governors can do in this direction is problematical. We would rather have nine chiefs-of-police on the job for a sane Fourth than all the governors put together.

One of the members of the committee which is looking into the "rumors" peddled by our own Congressman Hitchcock has had the bad taste to explain that some one has been giving

Around New York

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

The rare spectacle of a woman confessing bankruptcy in court, with debts aggregating \$500,000, makes a huge breach in the walls enclosing a pasture hitherto monopolized by the sons of old Adam. In New York business circles the failure of Mrs. Dora Lyon is considered an achievement worthy of the male persuasion—especially impressive for a beginner. Mrs. Lyon did not have the \$50 fee required for the filing of her papers, thus relieving creditors of the worry incident to valuing and marketing uncertain assets. There are no assets. Entertaining constantly and on a large scale, Mrs. Lyon's duties in the field of women's club life were very extensive. Her friends have known for some time that she had been financial straits. She was compelled to give up her handsome residence more than two years ago, and later found her fine studio apartment in the National Arts building beyond her means.

Mrs. Lyon is one of the most widely known members of women's clubs in the country and was for several years a foremost figure in the women's organizations of this city and state. In 1908 she was elected president of the New York City Federation of Women's clubs and also was president of the Eclectic club.

From Bad to Worse.

The coffin trust'll get ye if ye don't watch out! Manage to eat enough to keep soul and body together.

Can't Explain It.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Governor Hughes says he will retire from politics and earn some money. To some politicians this will appear a paradoxical statement.

Distinguished Lonesome.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Brazil has just adopted a postal savings bank system. The United States and China are the only great nations that have not accepted this convenience.

Passing Strange.

Chicago News.

It is singular that the Americans should come to look to the president for the passage of laws we want instead of getting our representatives in the law-making body to pass them for us.

Restless to the Post.

Charleston News and Courier.

The report from Omaha that Mr. Bryan will be a candidate for the presidency in 1912 should never have been sent over the country as news. Everybody who knows anything at all knows that we nominated him months ago to make a fourth trial.

Redeeming Platform Pledges.

Slooj City Journal.

If President Taft comes through with his interstate commerce and postal savings bills and makes a start on his conservation program, all at the present session of congress, he will have delivered a pretty large commitment of good in redemption of republican platform pledges and his own pledge to carry out the Roosevelt policies.

Land Grabs and Optimism.

Philadelphia Record.

It is easy to believe that in the last eight years over 50,000 acres of public coal lands have been obtained by fraud, and that this single item of land plunder is worth \$10,000,000. It is not so easy to believe the optimistic general land office when it says that 50,000 acres of patented land will have been recovered for the nation, "and that the cash collections will approximate or exceed the million dollars appropriated for the work." It is seldom that any plunder is recovered.

The Cowboy of Romance.

An Eastern Product Never Seen in the West.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The shooting of one elk by another in a "cowboy play" in New York calls to mind the curious fact that such plays are almost, if not quite, unknown to the boys of the west. Here the cowboy has never been the hero of a romance any more than the farm hand has been held up to the sickle admiration of the city folk. Even Bret Harte did not find him especially picturesque. But by grace of the dime novel he has been transformed in the mind of eastern juvenility into a being of superhuman courage and horsemanship whom it is the noble and manly thing for boys to emulate.

Out here the cowboy pursues his humdrum duties without a fringe on his trousers or pistols in his belt—providing he has a belt; and his appearance on the stage would put an audience, even of Sunday school boys, to sleep. The dime novel or its sickle admirer never had much vogue here. Boys do not flock to the public library looking for stories of western adventure. Plays in which Indians and cowboys figure have never made anyone rich in these parts; and the "Wild West" shows, which even vitiate the dialect of the eastern high schools, are as rarely seen here as the state is heard of.

There is only one way to cure the cowboy hallucination and that is to go west. The only way to study and experiment with the disease is to go east, where its victims are.

Our Birthday Book

January 28, 1910.

Edward Rosewater, founder and for thirty-five years editor of The Bee, was born January 28, 1847, and would be today if he were still alive. He was born in Bukowina, near Prague, in Bohemia, and worked his way up from boyhood, when he was thrown on his own resources. He served as a military telegraph operator in the union army, and came to Omaha in 1863 to help work the Pacific telegraph, later starting The Bee in 1871.

William Vincent Allen, who has the record of being the only United States senator from Nebraska elected as a populist, was born January 28, 1847, with a good foundation for public office, having his birthplace in Ohio. Judge Allen is a lawyer by profession and was elevated to the district bench before he went to the senate. He is again practicing law at Madison, Neb., which has been his home since he is located in the state after the war, in which he served honorably.

Harry Fischer, lawyer and organizer of the Retail Grocers' association, of which he is secretary, was born in Germany, January 28, 1859. He worked as a grocery clerk while he studied law, which explains his later intimate connection with the grocers' organization.

George Alexander Lathrop, one of the Bohemian brothers, and brothers of the Omaha Commercial college, was born January 28, 1859, at Basco, Ill. He was educated at Carthage college and Rochester business university and has made a great success as a business college teacher.

John Sebastian, passenger traffic man for the Rock Island, was born January 28, 1858, at Newport, Ky. Mr. Sebastian has been one of the old standbys in western railroading and has been the guiding spirit of the publicity work, as well as the passenger business of the Rock Island from time immemorial.

Insurging

Plattsmouth News: The move of the insurgents to carry their fight into the state university should be condemned and the action of the students in refusing to be pulled into the fight speaks well for them.

Bloomington Advocate: The movement to bring out C. O. Whedon of Lincoln as a candidate against Elmer J. Burkett at Lincoln is being engineered by Frank Harrison. That in itself is enough to cause the stamp of disapproval to be placed upon the movement.

Tekamah Journal: A bunch of sore-heads down at Lincoln think they have a right stirred up against the renomination of Senator Burkett. The most of the critical howling is done by the Lincoln Star, which is anti-administration and thoroughly democratic in everything but name.

Falls City Journal: The State Journal of Lincoln is largely responsible for this insurgency nonsense and now seem to be in doubt whether to acknowledge it or not. The child was born in wedlock or in the woods. Some days it leads one to believe that it intends to disown the kid, but the next day it puts it on the back again.

Beatrice Express: While the Lincoln "insurgents" are "insurging" why shouldn't they renounce the silver issue and declare for free coinage in order that we may buy wheat and other things without feeling oppressed. As free coinage didn't act as a price raiser, it might work as a price reducer. Anyway, it would add a congenial plank to the "insurgents" platform and make the performance seem still more like old times.

West Point Republican: Under the guise of "progressive republicans" a number of Lincoln statesmen and political philanthropists are burning red fire and firing long range shots at Senator Burkett, who is in Washington attending to congressional duties. The personnel of these progressive republicans, say the opinion makers, are the head pasty chat of the Cafe Martin and well able to provide for a wife. The immigration officials thought well of him and permitted him to take the young girl to Manhattan and marry her. An inspector accompanied the couple and when they returned to the island after the ceremony the bride was formally released.

Two men were hurrying along Park Row on Friday when the wind seemed to be blowing from all directions, to the peril of umbrellas and everything not firmly anchored. One of them noticed the handle of a checked umbrella which had been thrown into the street along with many others, and, stopping to pick it up, remarked to his companion that it was too good to pass. As he stooped a gust of wind captured his hat, and it went spinning along toward St. Paul's chapel. He after it. He ran into a man, slipped, fell in the mud and arose in time to see his hat run over by a truck. At a nearby restaurant, where he was drying his clothes, he said: "I lost a \$5 hat and spoiled a suit of clothes for the handle of a 30-cent umbrella. That would not be so bad, but I see the handle is broken."

"Hello Bill!" Farrell strode along a Harlem street bearing a forty-pound bronze elephant on his shoulder. A policeman wanted to be shown. Farrell objected, and landed in court.

"Where did you get that badge of the G. O. P.?" the magistrate inquired.

"Buckin' me, your honor," said Farrell.

"It's an elk," he told the judge. "I found it in an Italian's possession and bought it for a quarter. He told me it was an elk. Now, I'm an Elk, too, and I said to myself: 'How pleasant to have the emblem of my society about my neck! But no citizen has ever been beat it with my quarter than I found the elk had only one horn.'"

He pointed in disgust to the elephant's trunk.

"Your honor can imagine how I felt," went on Farrell. "The only way I could claim any outrage against me was to throw that miserable one-horned spalpeen into the Harlem river. I was on my way to do so when yonder cop locked me up."

A dairymen's league is being formed in New York and parts of Connecticut and New Jersey forming the milk-shed of New York City and the suburbs, of which is to withdraw the supply of milk sent to the metropolis from these sections and convert it into butter and cheese, continuing the policy until such time as the New York milk trust comes to the producers' terms. In Orange county, New York, it is estimated that 90,000 cows will be thus withdrawn from production for New York.

"Here's the last quarter I've got in the world. Give me some oysters, and go as far as you like," was the combination announcement and request with which John Olson, a sailor employed on the Steamer Ketchikan, greeted Mr. William Gau, proprietor of a market at Hoboken, as he entered that establishment on Saturday. Mr. Gau proceeded to open oysters. The sailor looked hungry, so he made haste.

As the third oyster was piled apart Mr. Gau uttered an exclamation. There was a big pearl. "Well, that's the best luck I've had in a long time," he observed.

"Isn't it a beauty?"

"Wait a minute," piped up Olson.

"Didn't I buy the oysters and didn't you take the money? My oyster, my pearl, hand 'er over."

The oysterman protested, but the sailor argued so convincingly that Mr. Gau finally acquiesced. They journeyed at once to a jeweler, who appraised the jewel at \$200 and threw in an exclamation of admiration upon its white color for good measure. It weighed about three carats and the jeweler thinks he won't have to worry about getting square meals for some time.

A Great Opportunity.

Springfield Republican.

John Redmond's great opportunity seems at hand. No Irish leader since the fall of Parnell has occupied the strategic position he will occupy in the next Parliament. Mr. Redmond personally is a very able man, with statesmanlike qualities, but his severest task will be to prevent his followers from demanding too much.

Absurd Navigation Laws.

Indianapolis News.