

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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George Washington

"First in peace, first in war, first in

the hearts of his countrymen." In

every community in the United States

and in its possessions the twenty-second

day of February is celebrated and the

praises of the first general-in-chief

and the first president of the United

States are sung. The birthday of

Washington, who stood more than any

contemporary for the cause of liberty

without a murmur, and took more dis-

tinguished countrymen than any other,

deserves commemoration. George

Washington, the man, as well as the

soldier and the president, is a great

character in history, ranking high for

his patriotism, self-sacrifice and un-

selfish devotion to liberty.

The people of this country are hard

workers and hard players. When it

is work, there seems to be nothing too

hard to be attempted or to be accom-

plished. Americans play hard as well

as work hard. This has been marked

especially in the observance of our

holidays, patriotic and religious. But

recently a tendency has been noted to

drop much of the frivolity, especially

with regard to holidays commemorating

national events and to arouse some of

the slumbering patriotic fervor in the

bosom of every true citizen.

There is plenty for us to be proud of

and there are to be plenty of great

deeds accomplished in the future of

which we will also have reason to be

proud. Our people need to be taught,

however, how to respect, revere and

honor those who have done much that

the nation may be what it is. One

feature of American life has a detract-

ing effect. Our political campaigns

are so full of crimination and recrimina-

tion that too many people sneer at

those who are high in office, thus de-

tracting from the respect due them,

and, wherever possible, detracting from

their power.

But happily this condition does not

exist long, nor is it a deep spirit. In

time of war every patriotic American

would rise to the defense of his coun-

try, and we have sufficient grounds to

believe that there is plenty of patri-

otism in times of peace. But while we

brag to others about what America

can do, whom we can thrash in inter-

national war, if necessary, and how

big the United States really is, it would

be a good thing to remember that it

is we judge ourselves at heart we are

judged by others. There is room for

an increased respect for our nation's

heroes and their heroic achievements,

and a greater regard for the men who

are doing things now for the advance-

ment of the nation and making possi-

ble greater achievements in the days

yet to come.

Millionaire vs. Professor.

The recent attack by Richard T.

Crane, the millionaire head of a big

Chicago firm, upon the teaching profes-

sion as being of no use to the modern

business world is still the subject of

comment. Mr. Crane had to write a

book to say that if a \$2,000 a year

professor is content to teach a young

man how to go out and earn a \$10,000

salary he is either a hypocrite or is

not able to do what he says he can. In

every way Mr. Crane attacks the

teacher as being a drowsy and charges

that the millions spent annually on

universities, colleges, technical and

agricultural schools and law and medi-

cal schools are simply "swallowed up

in the most gigantic swindle of the

age."

Those who know the eccentricities

of Mr. Crane will not take his out-

break too seriously. His whole argu-

ment is a tirade against the teaching

profession for absorbing so much of

George Washington

so large, hums with business and

Valparaiso is a close rival. All of

these cities are alive with business

activity and have progressed in arts

and education to a wonderful extent.

Our commercial interests would

make a mistake in paying exclusive at-

tention to keeping the door open

across the Pacific and disregarding the

whole continent to our southwest.

Cultivate the trade with Asia by all

means, but let us not overlook the

other nearer home.

Letting in the Light.

A plan is on foot to remodel the hall

of the house of representatives in the

national capital so that it will be

opened up to the sunlight and fresh

air. The rooms in which the house

and senate have both met since the

addition of the new wings to the old

building have been lighted and venti-

lated entirely by artificial means, and

the only sunlight that seeps in comes

through several layers of skylight glass

much more ornamental than useful.

The old legislative chambers, which

have since been converted, one into the

supreme court room and the other into

stairway hall, were free from these ob-

jections and contained outside win-

dows which the rays of the sun might

strike and which might be opened on

days not too stormy. Whether the

statesmanship displayed in congress

during the first half century of the

republic was superior to what we now

get and whether if so the deterioration

may be ascribed to the cold storage air

and filtered light on which our law-

makers subsist would be good subjects

for intercollegiate debate. But, irre-

spective of that, it will do no harm to

let the light of day into the halls of

congress and remove all cause for the

complaint that a congressman's com-

mission is the same as a sentence to a

dungeon.

In Rather Poor Taste.

A brief letter published in the last

issue of the Commoner over the name

of W. J. Bryan contains the following:

"At Santiago I visited San Juan Hill—that

part of 'Fane's eternal camping ground'

on which so many reputations were won.

I was a little surprised at the diminutive

appearance of a neighboring hill (named

Kettle hill because of two immense sugar

kettles that are rusting to death there)

which Colonel Roosevelt charged. I was

surprised, I say, because it seems impos-

sible that so much charging could have

been done on so small an eminence. It is

now owned by Mr. Tingley, the theologian,

and will be included in the campus of the

college.

Historic spots on San Juan are marked

by monuments and a colored custodian

supplies visitors with souvenirs of the

battle fought there. I brought away an iron

ramrod. It has a history, of course, as I

am unable to narrate that history I am

trying to invest it with a breathless inter-

est, by imagining that it fell from the

ribs of that nameless Spaniard who won

renown by falling before the Rough

Riders' unerring aim.

Evidently Mr. Bryan will never for-

get that he suffered the worst of his

three defeats in the year 1900, when

Theodore Roosevelt was elected vice

president and by virtue of his office

succeeded to the White House on the

death of President McKinley. What-

ever may be the glory of Colonel

Roosevelt's achievements at the battle

of San Juan, a man with the inglorious

military record of Colonel Bryan

should be the last one to throw slurs

at any other soldier. Colonel Bryan