

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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

This is the open season for doves of peace in Mexico.

Boost for Omaha. Boasting beats knocking, every time.

Thirty states have thus far come in for the income tax amendment. Must be comin'.

Well, we are nearly out of the reach of the coal man for a brief breathing spell, anyway.

Hooray! Hooray! We are just about to build the Platte river power canal again for the 'tenth time.

These million-dollar rains will all be cashed in by Nebraska in the fall in the form of golden grain nuggets.

Colonel Bryan is keeping his party unduly in suspense as to what nominees and issues he proposes to select.

"What is success?" asks the inquisitive Boston Post. Respectfully referred to Colonel Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan.

The question has been raised, "How shall a diva dress?" Give it up, but we know how she will dress—as she pleases.

Uncle H. Gasaway Davis is some political prognosticator. He predicts as the next democratic ticket, Harmon and Wilson.

"Dick" Croker prefers to be in Ireland on \$5 a week to this country on \$25. So does this country prefer to have him there.

That solar eclipse proved to be invisible in Omaha except to Councilman Funkhouser, who saw it ahead of schedule time.

Hooray again! Oscar Underwood has been nominated for vice president on the democratic ticket. That leaves only one to name.

The taunt of Canton has been killed. Such meager tidings, however, convey very little information as to who has been killed.

Mrs. Belmont has shown how perverse a suffragette may become in having a poetic admirer arrested for calling her his "Divine Goddess."

In Tacoma, where they recall mayors over night, the old adage about not swapping horses while crossing streams counts for nothing.

Whatever else comes out of its wet and dry tug-of-war, Lincoln will have learned more unpalatable truths than ever before in so short a space of time.

Here is another Massachusetts man who declares that \$12 a week is enough for a man to live on. It is evident he has no ambition to run for office.

The superintendent of the naval academy who recently apologized to the lady has now resigned. But, of course, the two events have no connection.

A resident of Missouri claims to be 102 years old, and the only reflection on his veracity is his unnecessary addenda that he never chewed home twist or drank "licker."

One of the immigrants who recently landed at New York, when challenged for proof that he would not become a public charge, produced his fifteen children and \$26,500 in \$100 bills. Either answer would have sufficed.

Of course, Nebraska offers as good, if not better, opportunities for profitable investment of capital as any other state in the union. Nebraska cannot prosper, however, unless the surrounding states do, too. It must be a pull by the west, and for the west, and all together.

Early Adjournment Desired.

Many newspapers over the country, evidently voicing a popular sentiment, are advising that congress wind up its affairs and cut short its present extra session as soon as possible. This could doubtless be done without injury to any legitimate interest.

As soon as the reciprocity matter is off hands it is not at all unlikely that the Lorimer case will be reopened. If so, it probably will mean a prolonged fight. It is generally admitted that if a vote is reached at this session Lorimer will lose his seat, so that he and his friends, knowing this, will exert all their power to stave off action.

The Kingly Horse. Every now and then it looks as if the auto had crowded the horse entirely off the track, and just as we are preparing a set of resolutions in sympathy of Old Dobbin, he races madly out of his temporary retirement stall with a proud neigh and a new grip on life.

Over in London, where they are making all sorts of elaborate preparations for the coronation of King George V, the horse redivivus is strikingly manifest. In such great demand is he as to bring \$2,500 for a good carriage span.

The Springfield Union cartoons Governor Foss as saying, "I would rather be writing than president." It might be paraphrased and applied to another great statesman nearer here, "I would rather be talking than president."

The Bee offers the suggestion right now to our native Italian residents to lead off for a good, big demonstration for October 12 next, which will be the first time "Columbus day" will be celebrated as a legal holiday in Nebraska.

It is to be noted that the court house explosion at Omaha is not in the list to which the dynamiters are alleged to have confessed. Apparently no one seems to want to claim credit for such a small job.

The movement to regulate the pool halls has reached the public debate stage. That is making progress almost as fast as the "immediate and compulsory" purchase of the water works.

It is to be noted that General Reyes, a man with patriarchal beard, comes into the limelight just at a time when the debate over whiskers and bald heads is about to break loose.

Overcoming a Handicap. They are slightly saying that Madero, the Mexican rebel leader, is a vegetarian, but that hasn't prevented him from winning recognition from Diaz, who eats 'em alive.

Where Are the Jingles? Philadelphia Bulletin. Now that the Hollanders have seized an island in the Pacific and pulled down the American flag, someone might revive the old song about the "big bass drum and the Dutch have come."

Trouble Hangs On. Philadelphia Bulletin. "The way of the philanthropist is hard indeed," sighs Andrew Carnegie, commenting upon his trouble in the Carnegie Trust company. The old lady seems to have rather an unhappy time of it in his great effort to rid himself of the "diagnos" of dying rich.

Disagreeable Publicity. Pittsburgh Dispatch. Lorimer also says it is none of the public's business how and for what purpose he uses public money to send some scores of telegrams per day. Indeed, Lorimer appears fully convinced that the intrusion of publicity into any of his affairs is presumptuous and intolerable.

A Philanthropic Head-Linear.

The report that Wu Ting Fang may return as Chinese minister to the United States ought to have an interest for the women of this country, since his crusade for the removal of queues from Chinese heads resulted in cheapening rats for the adornment of fair Americans.

Patriotism and Pay. Cleveland Plain Dealer. It is suggested that President Diaz might have better success in recruiting his armies if he raised the pay of volunteers from 20 cents a day to 60. But does it seem right to make a dime the margin between reluctant loyalty and cheerful greed? Nor should it be forgotten that the pay of a private soldier in the union army during the civil war was \$10 a month.

High Levels of Scholarship. Baltimore American. President Faunce of Brown university in paying tribute to the literary quality of the King James version of the Bible declares that in English literature the style of this imperishable translation is only matched by the "Pilgrim's Progress" of Bunyan and Lincoln's second inaugural and Gettysburg address. One reason is that the direct inspiration of the thinker and the rail splitter was the English Bible.

Business Taking a Rest. One of the noticeable features of the present business barometer is the accumulation of bank reserves and the presence of increased funds with investment agencies. As a rule such a turn in finance precedes lively speculation. Now, however, speculation is decidedly tame and the condition evidently presages a period of conservatism in all business lines.

Did You Know About It? Philadelphia Ledger. It is proper to acknowledge the courtesy of the London committee in cutting out from the proposed historical pageant a reference to the assistance of the Americans in the war of 1812. This is out of consideration for the feelings of American spectators. We wonder how many Americans ever heard of the affair at Chateaugay or would have recognized it in the cinematograph.

Progress of Aviation. New York Sun. Prier's continuous flight of 200 miles from London to Paris in an aeroplane and Vedrine's achievement in traveling over the circuitous course from Paris to Pau, 500 miles, in six hours and fifty-five minutes actual time, there having been several stops, seems to prove that flying long distances is a question only of the petrol supply and the endurance of aviators. The aeroplane will stand the strain. Thus, if releases of experienced aviators like Prier and Vedrine could be secured, and weather conditions were favorable, there should be no difficulty in flying from New York to San Francisco.

PEPPERY PARAGRAPHS. Denver Republican. Evidently ex-Senator Life Young means to go right on running the nation even if Iowa did stop his jaw.

Washington Post: The Mothers' Congress proposes to educate parents, so that some day they may know almost as much as their children.

Sacramento Union: What a glorious time Charlie Nation would have had could he have participated in those champagne riots in France and helped to smash a few million bottles of wine.

Wall Street Journal: Statistics can prove anything. Unmarried lady dean of Chicago university asked the girl students if they were planning to get married. Only 2 per cent of them admitted it.

Minneapolis Journal: One chief joy of the blackbirds is that the man who couldn't hit a barn with a hammer, nor throw a fit, is able from that point of vantage to call a \$500 pitcher a "mutt."

Houston Post: If the lord permits us to harvest bumper crops this year and stiam the everlasting lights out of the republican party next year, the millennium can come right along in so far as we are concerned.

Indianapolis News: The theory that women have an extra layer of fat that protects them from cold sufficiently to enable them to wear fashionable clothes may be correct enough, but, really, you know, some of them don't look it.

Telephony in Omaha

Recollections of the Infant Days of the Phone and the Interest the Invention Excited.

The first direct inkling of the birth of the telephone infant was imparted to the people of Omaha when a toy device, connected by a string, was operated from the roof of the old Grand Central hotel, where the Paxton now stands, to the intersection of Fourteenth and Douglas streets, along about 1878. At each end of the string was a piece of tin shaped like the cover of a small soda can, both serving as receiver and transmitter. The curiosity was operated free for a day or two, then the 6-cent rate was put in by the owners, and the line was kept up for some time, but eventually the town's curiosity was thoroughly satisfied.

The coming of the real telephone to Omaha and the development of the infant of yesterday into the giant of today is told in a paper read before the Telephone society of Dallas, Tex., by Frank B. McKnight, manager of the Western Union Telegraph office in this city from 1876 to 1889.

"It was during the early part of the year 1878, I think, that the first Bell magnet receivers reached Omaha, these having been procured by J. J. Dickey, at that time superintendent of telegraph of the Union Pacific railroad, and who afterwards associated with himself a few other venture-some spirits and organized the Nebraska Telephone company. We had just begun to hear of the Black transmitter, but none of us had yet seen one of these instruments, although we were pretty well informed as to its reported marvelous performance and the promise it gave of revolutionizing the telephone industry, which promise was shortly afterwards realized.

"Soon after these Bell receivers came into Mr. Dickey's possession I assisted in some interesting experiments—between Omaha and Fort Omaha, the United States army post, a distance of three and one-half miles, where was an iron grounded circuit used for telegraph purposes. The circuit end of this circuit was carried into the residence of General George Crook, then in command of the Military Department of the Platte, and who became famous as the slayer of the blood-thirsty Geronimo. I am sure that the brave men and women who were seeking to establish for themselves homes among these savages, who were hostile to anything that meant peace and order.

"On the night of our first demonstration the Crooks invited in several members of the general's staff with their wives, likewise a few of the townspeople to witness the exhibition.

"There were ten of the receivers at either end of the line, connected up in series and with these simple magnet devices conversation was carried on and music transmitted with the utmost facility. The event was considered of such importance that the band at the post was ordered out to furnish the music at that terminal and the music, softened and modulated in its journey over the wire, floated in a most pleasing manner. Pianos were also employed with satisfactory results. It is my impression that this was the first public exhibition of the telephone in Omaha.

"The newspapers on the day following printed extended notices of the happening, which indicated that it was regarded by them as one of more than ordinary importance. Demonstrations of a like character were continued over greater distances but successfully until the limit was reached.

"Several years before the time of which I am speaking, while employed as an operator for the Western Union at Cheyenne, on the Union Pacific railroad, I met Mr. Val, then a young man, who was filling a position as railway mail clerk on that road. I was immediately attracted toward him because of his clean, wholesome and vigorous personality, but little did I dream of the remarkable career that awaited him. That he was aggressively ambitious was plainly to be seen and from talks I had with him afterwards it was quite apparent that he had set a high mark which he confidently expected to attain. That he accomplished his purpose is a matter of common knowledge as he heads today two of the greatest public utility corporations in the world—the American Telephone and Telegraph company and the Western Union Telegraph company, the affairs of which he is conducting with such consummate sagacity and skill that he is regarded as one of the real great captains of industry and his achievements are the admiration of financial and industrial circles in all lands.

"That his confidence in himself was justified is best illustrated by the fact that at the age of 27 he became general superintendent of the railway mail service of the United States, a most responsible position at that time because the service was in a formative state and it required the keenest intelligence and the hardest sort of work to solve the intricate problems which if wisely and properly done meant the permanent success of the system.

"In 1879 there came to Omaha two representatives of the Bell company, H. H. Eldred and George F. Durant, the latter becoming afterwards the vice president and general manager of the Bell company of Missouri, which office he held until his recent death. For the purpose of offering to me the right under the Bell patents, to develop the states of Nebraska and Kansas. This I was urged to accept and, of course, I knew I was indebted to Mr. Val for the opportunity offered. However, circumstances were such that I could not see my way clear for the purpose of it, to my everlasting regret, for in November of that year an agreement was made whereby the Western Union retired from the field, having become convinced that their contentions could not be maintained and my obligations to the Western Union were thus canceled, but it was too late.

"Early in 1880 I received a letter from Mr. Val tendering me a position with the Bell company, and in May of that year I entered its service.

"It is probably due to Theodore N. Vall, the first general manager of the American Bell Telephone company of Boston, more than to any other individual, that the telephone service of the country was placed on a developing basis of such importance and advantage to the public from the very beginning."

"Thinking in Bed." Brooklyn Eagle. J. C. Stubbs, director of traffic on the Harriman line, is retiring at the age of 65 to avoid thinking in bed, the thing that killed Harriman, he says. Mr. Stubbs will find just as many farmers and retired persons in the lunatic asylums ridden by their devils. As we go on pecking the human race we shall be amazed to look back and find men of power in high places running away from work to find peace. Harriman knew a lot about rolling stock, but he evidently did not know that he could with inherent power, stop the wheels whirling in his head, for the relation of metaphysics to efficiency in engineering is a subject that must be taken up next.

WANDOUTS FOR OMAHA.

Record-Breaking Decade in History of American Agriculture.

One of the most interesting disclosures of the census of 1910 is the great gain in farm values made in the last decade. That gain has been distributed over the whole country, extending into states where agriculture has been supposed to be declining and "abandoned farms" were much in evidence, as well as into states where agriculture has long been the chief source of wealth. Thus in Massachusetts an increase of 21 per cent is reported in the value of farm land and buildings, of 30 per cent in the value of implements and machinery and of 32 per cent in the value of farm land and acre. The figures for Connecticut are 46, 29 and 43 per cent, respectively, while in the middle west the increases have ranged well up to 100 per cent. Kansas has much more than doubled the value of land and buildings and the average value to the acre, while in Colorado the gains are 283 per cent for the land and buildings and 170 per cent for the average acre price.

The last decade was, in fact, the most prosperous in the whole history of American agriculture. It saw the prices of agricultural products reach unprecedented figures and hold firm for several seasons. The owners of farms lifted their mortgages and improved their property, and land values advanced all along the line. That advance was not due, moreover, to an inflow of population into the farming districts, creating a greater demand for land. In states like Indiana and Missouri, in which between 1900 and 1910 there was practically no increase in the population outside the cities, lands rose steadily in price. The average value to the acre increased 104 per cent in Missouri and 93 per cent in Indiana.

Land values were kept low for many years by the excessive supply of cheap, undeveloped land in the sparsely settled west. That supply has been pretty well exhausted, and the upward movement of land values advanced all along the line. High prices for most commodities, and especially high prices for farm products, accelerated the gain of the last decade, which has largely made up for the stagnation so persistent between 1890 and 1900. The farmer's industry has left behind it the abnormal period of homesteading, and his land is acquiring new value every year. The future of agriculture in this country was never more assured or more promising, because the increase in population from now on will far outrun the possible increase in area available for tillage.

"An expert politician nowadays," remarked the crew roads job lawyer, "is a sort of human vacuum cleaner. He gets the dust and you can't see exactly how he does it."—Chicago Tribune.

"The Malays have a queer marriage custom," remarked the traveler. "The groom holds the bride against a small cylindrical object. I couldn't quite make out what it was." "A grindstone, probably," interposed Mr. Grouch.—Boston Transcript.

"Do your children go to the public school?" "Yes." "What is the curriculum?" "Mumps, measles, chicken pox, scarlet fever and diphtheria."—St. Louis Post Dispatch.

"People who live in glass houses"—what is the rest of the quotation? asked the Wise Guy, again admitting that he didn't know everything. "Live in glass houses should be able to see through the lives of each other," replied the Simple Mug.—Philadelphia Record.

"Did the peanut man get his naturalization papers?" "Yes, he proved to the judge right away that he was a good American at heart." "How did he prove it?" "In answer to a question he told the difference between a double play and a double-header."—Buffalo Express.

Victor—And you always did your daring robberies single handed? Why didn't you have a pal? Prisoner—Well, sir, I was afraid he might turn out to be dishonest.—Toledo Blade.

THE FINAL VARIATIONS. New York Sun. I. This pretty girl of an ago was sweet and she was coy. Quite like a girl she bore herself and never like a boy. She was a thing of beauty and a fond mysterious joy.

II. But soon the dream was broken, boys; it was a sad sad blow to me. Pretty maiden, I am a grown just so.

III. The mystery gets darker, for my sweet Melissa will promptly come down, coming down the way and like a rig this.

People Talked About



GEORGE C. BOLDT.

George C. Boldt is known to fame as the manager of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York, but his success in that line is not his only distinction. He is the boss Chanteur of a chicken ranch on an island in the St. Lawrence river.

The exchange of American and English preachers and sermons is esteemed a notable exhibit of what the people of both countries will stand for the sake of international peace.

Governor Foss has sent twenty special messages to the Massachusetts legislature since the session opened. The legislature is ready to admit his literary ability if he will agree to quit.

Charles A. Wallace, 23 years old, of Friendship, Me., is being acclaimed the champion "fish" of his locality. On one side this year he dug seventeen and one-half bushels of clams, which he sold for 40 cents a bushel.

Mrs. Mary M. Emery has presented to the University of Cincinnati what is said to be the only municipal bird reserve in the world. This reserve comprises a large area of wooded land within the limits of Cincinnati, surrounded by an iron fence, which is as nearly cut and boy proof as possible.

In reply to a request by a Syrian priest for protection against indignities offered to his luxurious whiskers, Mayor Gaynor solemnly quotes the Scriptures: "Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shall thou mar the corners of thy beard." Clearly the promoters of the bowl-and-bald-head debate overlooked an expert umpire.

PROSPERITY ON THE FARM.

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The easiest way By night By day THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY NIGHT LETTER DAY LETTER