

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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Secretary Hillies must be the city editor of the White House.

There have been more "coming" men than most any other kind.

Also, the water wagon is a more or less popular resort these days.

Where will McAleer get his base ball crowds when congress adjourns?

Somebody ought to take a clapboard to the Lumber trust for putting Lorimer over.

Speaking of dissolving the Standard Oil, isn't that the oil that is supposed to be insoluble?

Speaking of a vegetable hat, those adorned with potatoes probably will come the highest.

Mr. Pinchot is entitled to a few smiles, but excess in indulgence is bad this sort of weather.

Old Sol, in his nation-wide dry siege, certainly showed those prohibitionists a thing or two.

The circus doubtless took a lot of money with it out of town, but the rain was worth the price.

Ever since that last conversation the loquacious Mr. Hines could be easily mistaken for a mute.

The circus had hardly pitched its tent till old Pluvius spled it and shed a few large tears just for old-time's sake.

It is feared the cry, "Remember the Maine," will not go down in history as the equal of other American shibboleths.

Again do we see vindicated the superstition about "13" in Mr. Wolgast's Fourth of July triumph over Mr. Moran.

Without Mr. Bryan that coming democratic state convention at Fremont will hardly be worth paying railroad fare to go to.

Have you signed the commission form petitions? If not, and you do not hurry, they may get in without bearing your signature.

The Elks will meet at Portland next year. All right—B. P. O. E. No. 29 will have a glad hand for the delegates that go through Omaha.

The kaiser is saying nice things to Uncle Sam, while sticking pins in France—Baltimore American.

Yes, and your uncle is closely eyeing his fingers.

Our Congressman Lobeck resents the imputation that he is in danger of becoming a chauntauquo orator, and insists that he will never wilfully fall so low.

As soon as the reciprocity bill passes the senate the commander-in-chief of the army and navy will call out, "You may adjourn when you're ready, congress."

The irony of fate is perfected in a mob asking a victim if he has chased a mile if he has anything to say, just before he is drawn up, why he should not be lynched.

The Kansas City Star thinks the trouble arose because the equator got unbuckled and slipped as far as Oklahoma. Then Texas had better take a half-hitch on its trousers, quick.

Talk about a city ice plant may sound good, but it does not relieve victims of the ice holdup who have to say \$3 per cent more for ice in Omaha than is exacted in any other neighboring city.

It has remained for one of our district judges to invent a device to undo a divorce in order that the post-mortem widow may get the ex-husband's life insurance. In this case no doubt substantial justice is done, but it only illustrates the elasticity of the law.

Water Works Questions and Answers.

The Bee has given space to a letter from one of our subscribers propounding certain questions as to the pending proposal to vote water bonds. As evidence of good faith the writer says he is sending the same communication to all the newspapers, although he doubtless knew he would get divergent answers, as the Water board and the Water board organs have steadfastly persisted in a policy of misrepresentation and suppression of the true facts.

I. The original water works franchise gave the city an option to purchase by the appraiser plan, without paying for any franchise value, at the end of a twenty-year period. The water company has always contended that the franchise runs indefinitely, subject only to this option and a stipulated right of the city to regulate rates and make a new hydrant rental contract after twenty-five years.

II. When we voted the \$6,400,000 water bonds in 1909 the Water board issued over its members' signatures an appeal giving reasons why they should be voted, among them the following:

4. It is important that the bonds be voted now that the Water board may be in position to make immediate compromise of the litigation, if this is possible.

5. We do not intend to, nor will we, pay the amount of the award (\$6,250,000) unless compelled to do so by the decree of the supreme court, where the matter is now pending.

12. If the bonds are voted the judgment can be paid by the proceeds of the bonds. Despite this promise, no attempt to compromise was made before the adverse decision of the supreme court.

III. The Water board says it will not issue the \$3,600,000 bonds voted in 1909 nor the \$5,500,000 bonds voted in 1909 if another \$8,250,000 bonds are voted in 1911, but the present proposition does not specifically rescind the previous bond issues.

IV. We have already expressed our opinion that voting \$8,250,000 water bonds now is just as much putting cart before the horse as was voting \$6,500,000 water bonds two years ago, because we are still waiting for the decree informing us just how much we will have to pay.

V. The decree of Judge Sanborn requires the city to pay \$6,263,235.49 and interest at 7 per cent from the date of the appraisal, first deducting the net earnings of the water company. It is from this order that the city has appealed, which appeal is still pending.

VI. If we vote \$8,250,000 water bonds and use the proceeds as outlined, the water plant, which we were told could be purchased for \$3,000,000, will cost us \$8,250,000. That is to say, the plant will have to earn interest, depreciation and sinking fund charges on \$8,250,000 instead of on \$3,000,000.

VII. Member Charles R. Sherman of the Water board in a public interview two weeks ago declared that the failure to vote the \$8,250,000 bonds "would not have any effect in hastening or retarding the actual possession of the plant by the city," which waits the outcome of pending litigation.

Training the Child to Observe. There is more than mere fancy in the old philosophy that when you have a child taught to observe and then to think you have it educated.

The power of observation dwells within every child's mind, but, like any other faculty, it has to be "led out," to come to the literal definition of the old Latin's e-duce—to educate.

Intelligent Self-Interest. Cleveland Plain Dealer. It has been decided by an Omaha debating society that a horse is more desirable than an automobile. Nebraska has more cars than gasoline.

The Lure of a Clack. Indianapolis News. And that ice famine was so sudden, too. Nobody except the lozenge had heard a word about it until it landed with both feet on our pocketbooks.

Feastless Precedents Hold On. Pittsburg Dispatch. The fact that the United States senate has just broken a precedent by permitting the installation of electric fans encourages the hope that some day it may abolish that other fossilized precedent that permits an obstructive minority to hold up public business indefinitely.

Senator Hoke Smith in the List.

The most notable fact in the career of Hoke Smith, the new senator from Georgia, is that he resigned his place as secretary of the Interior under President Cleveland in August, 1896, in order to support William J. Bryan for the presidency. He defied the old-line democrats there and then and has done so since whenever it seemed to suit him.

Hoke Smith is one of the men who have made Georgia politics as uncertain as Tennessee's. He and his political arch rival, Joseph Brown, have been having a sort of four-year go-as-you-please governorship race.

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Withnell and Mr. and Mrs. John Withnell and daughter left for Toronto.

The Board of Trade held the liveliest meeting in its history, at which it was decided to give Omaha a grain market. The board committee appointed at a previous meeting to visit other cities and report was composed of Euclid Martin, L. D. Fowler, D. H. Wheeler, F. E. White and W. N. Nason.

It was decided to hold "the largest exposition this year that has ever been held" at the "grand old structure on North Twentieth street," beginning September 1 and lasting until September 28.

Ex-State Treasurer Joseph S. Bartley was paroled by Governor Savage from the penitentiary. The liberation of the delinquent created great consternation and protest.

Charles H. Picken received a telegram announcing the death of his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Picken, at Salt Lake City.

Mr. Mel Uhl and family left for Platte Canyon, Colo., to spend the rest of the summer.

Dr. David R. Kerr, president of Bellevue college, announces a gift of \$2,000 from a friend, who withholds his name from the public.

County Commissioners Hoctor and Hoefeld forced through a resolution at the county board calling for \$60,000 for grading work. It was opposed by Commissioner Ostrom.

Mountain Out of a Mole Hill. The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, writing about the democrats' investigation of the Controller pay land case, says:

The Controller pay incident promises, after the dust has cleared away, to go down in history as an attempt to make a mountain out of a mole hill. The vital question involved is whether or not the president and former Secretary of the Interior Richard A. Ballinger gave a monopoly of salt to the sea for a railroad connecting with the rich coal mines of southwestern Alaska. No such monopoly has been granted.

This correspondent, whose paper was among the powers that from the first opposed Ballinger and have at times criticized the Taft administration severely, goes on to say that there is nothing to the story that Charles P. Taft interceded with his brother, the president, in behalf of the Guggenbeims and that the whole charge of unfair dealing is based on error. This testimony surely cannot be regarded as biased.

But what effect will this and other equally relevant testimony have upon those who are seeking to make political capital out of this case at the expense of the administration? One thing is certain—if the democrats go very far with their scheme it is likely to react with serious results upon them.

The president, after conferring with his cabinet officers, has directed that everything bearing on the Controller pay case be turned over to the investigators and that all possible assistance be accorded them in any effort they may make to get at facts, for it is facts only the public wants.

It looks as if the democrats had driven their ducks to the wrong market this time.

The ex-city school superintendent that Omaha unloaded on Milwaukee is on the resolutions committee for the National Educational association at San Francisco. If he is to write the report we trust he has as able an assistant to rewrite it into English for him as he used to have for his superintendent's reports as head of our public schools.

Of course, there is no agreement among dealers to raise the price of butter, eggs and milk. It will be purely accident if all their prices go up at the same time and to the same point.

The meeting of the Missouri Valley veterinarians here in Omaha is just a reminder that the auto has not yet made good on its promise to demote the horse and mule.

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Looking Backward This Day in Omaha COMPILED FROM BEE FILES JULY 13.

Thirty Years Ago— Coup's circus is in town, with tickets on sale at Edholm & Erickson's jewelry store, opposite the postoffice. The big show pulled the usual street parade stunt in the morning to a host of onlookers.

The rules and regulations of the water works have been printed and are now being distributed. Applications will be received from those desiring water in their houses.

General Manderson returned from Lake Minnetonka, and Will A. Redick left for the same place to spend his vacation.

County Treasurer Hoins is whooping it up for the delinquent taxpayers for current and former years.

The Omaha Land league held a meeting in Clark's hall, with President Gray in the chair. Mr. Donovan announced that he had forwarded \$300 to the Irish World. John Rush was one of the speakers.

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People Talked About



Life father, like son, Sothern at the present day is one of the greatest actors of Shakespearean roles in this country.

Isaak Walton's "The Compleat Angler" has nothing to say as to the risk of angling with a steel rod behind a power house. That lesson Max Engles learned for himself Friday at Marlette, Wis. But they had to work over him for some time before he knew that he had learned it.

Tom Farrell, a potato raiser, of Gaylord, Kan., has adopted the method of paying his obligations by writing checks payable for a bushel of potatoes, the checks passing readily at the banks or stores for \$2.7 a bushel. Farrell has promised to issue no more paper than he can readily redeem at any time.

Dan Coughlin, fashion oracle of Chicago, announces in Boston that the hipless trousers are all that is needed to lend grace and beauty to the forms of Boston men. With Chicago's cultured draperies supplementing the stock on hand, the sacred codfish will be able presently to sit up and take something besides salt water.

Anthony Hope is an enthusiastic Londoner and up to the time of his marriage to an American it was hard to get him away from the city. He likes to guide his American friends through quaint and little known London streets and he is particularly devoted to the region of the Inner Temple, where he spent his years of training to become a barrister.

Norris' Big Bomb

Congressman's Exposure of the White House Publicity Bureau and the Alleged Conspiracy.

Washington Letter in Boston Transcript. Since the publication by Representative George W. Norris of Nebraska of a letter written by him to the Krepapian Progressive league of his state, charging the White House, or the White House "press bureau," with issuing false political statements, newspapers men have been curious to learn the facts, if any, upon which Mr. Norris bases his charges.

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TAFT'S BUSINESS METHODS.

Success of Administration Policies Demonstrated by Surplus. Washington Post.

No better evidence can be given as to the success of the business side of President Taft's administration than the announcement that for the first year since 1887 the United States treasury has a surplus. In the last fiscal year approximately \$700,000,000 was collected, including \$28,000,000 from the corporation tax. The gross surplus is said to be \$48,000,000 and the net surplus is about \$21,000,000.

The closeness with which the estimates were prepared shows clearly how well President Taft has impressed upon his subordinates the necessity for estimating accurately. The old method was for the head of a bureau to give a guess and then add a few millions, while congress, knowing the departmental method, gave another guess and slashed off a few millions.

The guess made on each side made an element of chance to the appropriations bill. The present time, the work of congress in the future will be simplified. Appropriation committees can accept it as a fact that the department chiefs have pared down their estimates to the very bone. Not only is economy effected scientifically at the outset, but the valuable time of congress is saved simultaneously.

The size of the corporation tax receipts is an evidence that business is booming. The tax is dependent on the amount of earnings and it is clear, therefore, that the earnings

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must have been large. Altogether, considering the business depression and general conditions that prevailed when he came into office, President Taft has reason to be proud of the business side of his administration.

MERRY JINGLES.

Found a Substitute. "Bobby, you're shy a thumb. Poor little man. Firecrackers? No, by gum—Electric fan!"—Chicago Tribune.

The Swatter. "Swat! Swat! Swat! At the fly and bug and flea. And it might not be polite to utter. The thoughts that arise in me."—Emporia Gazette.

Mary's Hair. "There was a nut from our town. She had her hair cut. And when she'd eaten it all up. With her it disagreed."

"I might have known as much