

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSENWATER... VICTOR ROSENWATER, EDITOR... BEE BUILDING, FARNAM AND FIFTH.

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DECEMBER CIRCULATION... 50,119

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas... Dwight Williams, circulation manager of the Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the above daily circulation, less paid-up and returned copies, for the month of December, 1911, was 50,119.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed to my presence and sworn to before me this 4th day of January, 1912. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

Any old kind of publicity will do for a faker.

Even the gas froze in Kansas City during the cold wave.

That was a fierce blizzard that blew into Washington from Bermuda.

Does Dr. Wilson still desire to knock Mr. Bryan into a cocked hat?

How high does a man's brow have to grow to make him a high-brow?

"Is your 1912 on straight?" asks the Washington Post. Yes, drive on.

Oh, very well, then, Colonel Guffey, you may remain on the committee.

No, gentle reader, the "flaming ark" traces no lineal descent from Noah's.

Evidently the packers not only had a pool, but they refused to spot us a single ball.

It seems odd that a three-time runner should have to beg to have his name scratched off a ballot.

The weather man renews the insinuation that he guesses, but he has certainly had the rest of us guessing.

One more of the last eye-witnesses of the clash between the Monitor and Merrimac has died. Next!

They threw Mr. Bryan over the transom, but he got revenge by speaking until 3 o'clock in the morning.

A Sioux City merchant advertises: "Extra good ladies woolen hose." All others, evidently, must go without.

Wa Ting-fang is a good fellow, all right, but Uncle Sam is a Missourian when it comes to recognizing new republics.

Mayor "Jim" says he heard and believes that money was paid, but protests that he didn't get any of it. Now, "Jim"!

All of which goes to prove again that a person who expects some day to run for high office has no business writing letters.

The man who hopes to be consulted as the oldest inhabitant of the future should be making notes about the wonderful winner of 1912.

That Kansas divorce proctor who has made the discovery that poverty is the general cause of divorce, could never have heard of Reno and New York.

This garden-wall courtship between Mr. Bryan and Mr. La Follette is getting very interesting. The question, "Will you support me?" may be popped any minute.

The United States is eager for a republic in China, as well as elsewhere, but its anxiety does not transgress the bounds of prudence, either by sending troops into China or prematurely giving official recognition to the new government.

The Des Moines Register and Leader has a page feature story on "Why Perry G. Holden is a Candidate for Governor of Iowa." Without reading it through we venture to guess that the professor is a candidate for the same reason other men go into the political game.

The worst part about that telephone merger is that it knocks all those beautiful arguments about the wonderful advantages of two telephone systems into a cocked hat, and forces the very people who used that argument with such telling effect to backtrack and swallow their words.

A Flash in the Pan.

Scrutiny of the convention call formulated by the democratic national committee discloses that all the talk for "letting the people rule" in selecting the democratic candidate for president turned out to be a flash in the pan. To be sure, the democrats, like the republicans, have authorized the choice of convention delegates and their instruction by popular vote in those states which have primary laws for that purpose, and the democrats go a trifle further by permitting the state committees to provide for direct election. If, in the opinion of the respective committees, it is deemed desirable and possible to do so with proper and sufficient safeguards. Whether any democratic committee will take advantage of this opportunity is decidedly open to question, for, despite loud professions that the democratic party is the party of the people, there is, in fact, less popular government in the democratic organization than in the republican organization.

But the selection of delegates is entirely distinct and different from the instruction of delegates by a presidential preference primary. If the delegates are to be sent to the democratic convention uninstructed—whether they get their credentials from a primary or from a convention—the rank and file of the party will have no more to say about who shall be the next democratic standard-bearer than they have had to say in the past.

The strangest part of it all is that even with Mr. Bryan present as a proxy, after having championed the enactment of a presidential preference primary law in this state, he did not even propose to incorporate a recommendation of the presidential preference vote in the democratic national convention call. Such a proposition was, of course, foredoomed to defeat, but no more than was the effort to oust the distasteful member from Pennsylvania.

So it is a fair surmise that Mr. Bryan and his followers were more eager to force the primary upon the republicans than to have it for themselves, and that for themselves they want, not a popular expression of preference as between democratic aspirants, but a convention no divided or uninstructed that the democratic bosses will be free to make the same deals and deals as of old.

The Big New York Fire.

The real wonder of the Equitable building fire in New York is, not that it destroyed \$6,000,000 worth of property, but that it was prevented from destroying many times that amount of property. The district within which this fire occurred is reputed to be the most serious conflagration hazard in the world. Says Arthur E. McFarlane, a student of such subjects, in the December number of McClure's:

The eight square miles between Forty-second street and the Battery in New York City contain the greatest congestion of population, the greatest mass of buildings and the greatest accumulation of property value ever brought together on the same area of which we have any regard in history.

After the Baltimore fire the insurance companies instituted an examination of the cities of the country with reference to their fire hazard and President Roosevelt "loaned" Captain John S. Sewell, the army engineer fire expert to help out. Captain Sewell is quoted by Mr. McFarlane in his report as pointing out the frightful dangers of a conflagration in this very district, together with the miserably inadequate fire alarm facilities, "the poorest in the country." Captain Sewell stated: "The conclusion is inevitable that the magnificent personnel of the fire department has been the only thing that has prevented sweeping conflagrations in the past."

Yet, in spite of this report in 1905 and another one in 1908, this dangerously deficient fire alarm system remains practically unchanged. It appears that the fire which destroyed the Equitable with several lives and so many invaluable records and securities, would have spread into a conflagration but for the "magnificent personnel of the fire department." When the chief called out the full force \$2,000,000,000 of property was threatened and how many more it is impossible to state. Men talk of fireproof buildings; this was supposed to have been one, but experience shows that "prevention is better than cure" with reference to fire even in a fireproof building, so-called. Fire, once under headway and beyond control in this district of New York, might produce more havoc in one hour than the flames did in San Francisco in a day.

It is said on good authority that not a big insurance company but is carrying more risks in this district than it desires or should. The total amount of insured property there exceeds \$1,500,000,000, while the total "loss-paying ability" of the insuring companies is about one-fifth of that amount. So that it is little wonder the companies hesitate to increase their risks. This Equitable fire, disastrous as it is, will serve yet a very good purpose if it brings New York to do what it should have done before—all it can to lessen the conflagration hazard and remind other cities of their duty.

The Star of Promise.

That \$100,000 with which Baltimore bought the democratic national convention is hailed by the party of Bryan, Parker, Wilson, Harmon and Underwood as "the star of promise." It is undoubtedly a star and it was a star stroke to nab this nest egg for the campaign slush fund at this early date, but whether it is a star of promise or not, remains to be seen. All stars do not promise good. Some portend ill. What is this star's name? It is Bootes, whose rising and settings with the bright star Arcturus, as the ancients interpreted the signs, portended great tempests? Is it Canis, whose rising with the bright star Sirius, brought the intense heat of July? (It is possible this question may occur to the democrats, themselves, when the fervor of Baltimore's June sun gets down to real business.) Or is it Castor or Pollux, of better omen?

St. Louis, evidently, and the other cities contesting for the convention, lacked the astrological training that enabled Baltimore to win the fair prize. They came mumbling the nomenclature, not of gods, but of men, in the stupid expectation, evidently, that that would get them anything with this bunch of astrologists. These amateurs talked of "central locations," "railroad facilities," "strategic states" and such mundane non-essentials. Baltimore did not talk at all, but produced, and got results.

In the meantime, what a grand thing it is to be a reformer. This \$100,000, we are told, will be turned into the fund for the campaign, which will be replenished by many such bagatelles. It is a new idea of selecting convention cities, putting the convention up at auction to the highest bidder, which, in this case, proved to be the only practical bidder. Now, for a clean campaign.

It is to laugh to see our democratic contemporary trying to get under cover by allusions to "the grand Omaha has look in point of being a clean, orderly and law-abiding city," from which it is suddenly to be rescued by a new democratic sheriff. Everybody knows that for six years Omaha has been administered by a democrat mayor, vested with full executive power, who has run the town just as he thought the people who elected him wanted him to run it, and the hyphenated was counted as his chief supporter and defender. So beholden was this management of the city to the democratic organ that it did its very best to reward the mayor chiefly responsible for it by promotion to the position of chief executive of the state.

"Why wait" for the regular grand jury to investigate the "ugly rumors" of city hall corruption and shakedown, asks the World-Herald of The Bee. We know of no reason for waiting except that the grand jury about to be drawn is to sit in February, which is probably as early as a special grand jury could sit. As a matter of fact, there would be no need of waiting for a grand jury at all, if, instead of our present democratic attorney, we had a county prosecutor up to snuff, and on the firing line all the time.

Newspapers throughout Nebraska are coming to the front in the campaign to impress farmers with the necessity of making sure of planting seed corn that will grow. Whenever any movement is started for the purpose of improving general conditions, or enhancing the prosperity of the people of the whole state, Nebraska newspapers may be depended on to do their share, and more.

The city council seems to be perturbed because the Auditorium company has not seen fit to supply an official list of stockholders. If the council will send a clerk over to the Public Library to go over the files of The Bee, or other local newspapers, for the time the stock subscription for the Auditorium was on, it can get for the copying a list that will be as accurate as any.

The Lincoln Journal declares that the selection of Baltimore for the democratic convention city "is another brick aimed by the national committee in the direction of William Jennings Bryan." Some people are so used to dodging that they see bricks coming their way all the time.

Our democratic United States senator away in Washington ventures the view that Mr. Bryan can pull his name off the primary ballot, or put it on a second time, by mandamus. Quite possible, but, if so, so can anyone else.

Uncle Joe in Repose. Cleveland Leader. The public is entitled to observe that one of the best things Uncle Joe Cannon does is in the extinct volcano line.

Far-Fetched Criticisms. Sioux City Journal. It is carelessly observed that President Taft is trying "to force his resignation." La Follette, we are to understand, is not trying to force his nomination, and it is expected of us, if we are not too dull to understand, to agree that the president has a monopoly of force in playing the game. The president has led up to this by saying he would not be forced to quit pending the determination of the national convention.

Looking Backward This Day in Omaha

Compiled from Bee Files JAN. 11.

Thirty Years Ago—Mr. and Mrs. William A. Paxton gave a large reception at their elegant residence on Farnam and Eighteenth streets, 290 chairs seated as present were Mr. and Mrs. O. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Peck, Mr. and Mrs. Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Darlow, Mr. and Mrs. George I. Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Her, Mr. and Mrs. Swobe, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Haney, Mr. and Mrs. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, Mr. and Mrs. Pritchett, Mr. and Mrs. Brownson, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Connel, Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose, Mr. and Mrs. Colpeizer, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Cowin, Mr. and Mrs. Mauderson, Mr. and Mrs. Guino, Mr. and Mrs. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Goble, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Kimball, the Misses Berlin, Kennard, Sharp, Ambrose, Hans, Hanson, Messrs. Her, Galtich, Gray, Sharp, McMillan, McCormick, Remington, Swanson, Murphy, Berlin, Megouth, Williams, Paxton Love and Francis.

At the Land league fair a silver toilet presented by A. B. Giverman, the jeweler, is exciting a lively young contest between the friends of Colonel J. J. Dickey, superintendent of telegraph of the Union Pacific and Hon. J. A. McShane, one of our representatives in the state legislature.

Fresh vaccine virus, with full directions for using, just received at Kennard Bros.

The Omaha Barbed Wire company has purchased fifty carloads of wire and has shipped enough ahead to consume the entire amount.

Dr. Ayres made a vaccination record by inoculating 28 persons with the virus yesterday.

During the month of December there passed both ways over the Union Pacific bridge at this point just 7,801 loaded cars of freight. At the rate charged—\$19 per car—this shows a revenue of \$148,019.

The practical completion by the Omaha water works is called to mind by the resignation of Mr. Chester L. Davis, who since shortly after the works were commenced has filled the position of engineer in charge of construction.

An exciting runaway on North Eleventh street, witnessed a wagon belonging to C. F. Goodman, the wagonist, and hattered by Ingrid Smith, the driver.

Twenty Years Ago—The Co-Operative Plasterers' International Association of America and Canada opened its convention at the Delone hotel.

An overheated salamander in the unfinished residence of L. Mendelson, at 233 Dodge street, caused a fire, but no particular damage was done.

These officers were elected by the Nebraska Life Underwriters' association: President, M. L. Roeder; first vice president, I. B. Mapes; second vice president, O. H. Jeffries; secretary, W. S. Wilson; treasurer, W. J. Lawson. The president appointed this executive committee: G. H. Jeffries, John Steel, W. J. Fischer, H. D. Neely and H. O. Lyman.

Another attempt was made to organize an Afro-American league in Omaha, but the cold wave prevented a good enough attendance. E. R. Overall, Rev. Mr. Woodbee and Rev. Mr. Williams thought Omaha should by all means perfect such an organization at the earliest opportunity.

Chief of Police Seavey submitted his annual report to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. It showed 7,281 arrests made during the year, 233 of which resulted in convictions, 18 went to the district court and 472 were dismissed by the police judge.

B. W. Peterson left for California to spend the remainder of the winter.

The Board of Trade directors elected these officers for the year: President, Euclid Martin; first vice president, Max Meyer; second vice president, S. A. McWhorter; secretary, W. N. Nason; treasurer, C. F. Goodman. The committees were headed by these as chairmen: Appeal, James A. Connor; transportation, E. E. Irace; arbitration, S. A. McWhorter; auditing, D. H. Wheeler; railroad, James Stephenson; grain, C. H. Fowler; live stock, E. A. Cuddeback; water and means, H. G. Clark; manufacturers, H. T. Clarke; membership, Max Meyer; memorials, Clampton Chase; meteorology, John Evans; provisions, A. H. Koyro.

Ten Years Ago—Mrs. Susan Frater of East Omaha was kicked by a horse she was driving, when the buggy upset in the road, and as she was trying to dismount herself from the muck, the horse kicked her and she was taken to St. Joseph's hospital.

Samuel Edmonston, 74 years old, 1914 Cuming street, died of injuries sustained by a Missouri Pacific train while attempting to cross the tracks in the railroad yards.

Mrs. W. J. Brough entertained a small whist party in the afternoon for Mrs. Erwin.

Charges of jury tampering were made by T. W. Blackburn in the form of a letter at the annual election of the Omaha Bar association and Mr. Blackburn called for the appointment of a committee to investigate the situation. W. P. Gurley, president, said he would appoint such a committee. Mr. Blackburn said he was certain in his own mind juries had been fixed and the matter received much discussion. Mr. Gurley was elected president, J. A. C. Kennedy secretary, Howard Kennedy treasurer, and these composed the executive committee: W. D. McHugh, J. H. McIntosh, C. C. Wright, A. C. Winkler, F. A. Brogan.

Yudett Carlson, 15 years of age, died at the family home, 28 North Twenty-fifth street.

The 6-months-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Abbott died of pneumonia. John J. Byrne, for thirteen years agent here of the P. F. Collier Publishing company, returned from Europe after an extensive visit on the continent.

Gould P. Dietz, for eighteen years a resident of Omaha, died suddenly of heart disease at his home, 103 North Twenty-eighth street. He had been ill for ten days. He left a widow and three sons: C. N., J. F. and Gould Dietz.

The Smoking Out Process. Brooklyn Eagle. Roosevelt says, "I am not a candidate." Bryan says, "I am not a candidate." Hundreds of thousands of entirely sincere advocates of each man regret the declaration. Hence these sporadic "smoking out" efforts. Enemies do not see such tares. We think the "smoking out" idea is a laudable endeavor, whether it succeeds or not. The fairest and manliest thing for an aspirant to do is what President Taft has done. Letting concealment like a worm if the bug feeding on a damask cheek is just as bad in Oyster Bay as in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Taft and Roosevelt

Recollections of Old-Time Friends and Their Bearing on Present Relations.

Washington Dispatch to N. Y. Post. Friends of President Taft have had no difficulty in learning the state of his feelings toward Theodore Roosevelt. It is not the question as to how the president regards his predecessor's political attitude or his possible ambition to succeed the man who succeeded him which has the strongest interest for those personally close to Mr. Taft, for he has spoken his mind on these subjects. Before there was a suspicion of "a second elective term" purpose, the ties which had bound the two men together had been cut in a dozen places.

Men who draw their information from a sure source say that in the time to come, when retirement has claimed both the president and the colonel, Mr. Taft believes that he and his predecessor in office will be as good friends as they were in the days when one of them was in the White House and the other was in the War department.

To Mr. Taft what Mr. Roosevelt has done is a case of what might have been expected. The president, his intimates say, understood the temperament of Mr. Roosevelt so thoroughly that he knew that whether approving or disapproving of administrative acts, retirement could not keep the colonel quiet. The president knows that human nature prompts most men to think that they could do the thing much better than the man to whom the thing appointed to do.

One day in the White House the subject of Colonel Roosevelt's attitude toward an administrative measure was under discussion. Senator Root was present. As a friend of the president tells it, Mr. Root said:

"Mr. President, once on a time you succeeded me as secretary of war. I watched you in office, and before you had been there long I began to think how much better I could do certain things than you were doing then. Later on Mr. Knox became secretary of state, an office which I also had held. I watched Mr. Knox and I am still watching him. In the pride of spirit I have thought occasionally how much better I could do things if I had held on to the job. I only thought these things, I didn't say them. It is human nature to think them, and with some men it is human nature to speak them, but some men speak them more frequently and louder than other men."

It is said that the president in kindliness of judgment feels that Mr. Roosevelt "constitutionally" is compelled to speak, and to speak quickly, when any subject which affords a base for difference of opinion intrudes itself. It is also said that Mr. Taft knew this before he ran for the presidency, and that he was certain that on some matters of administrative policy he and his predecessor would disagree and that the White House would hear from it.

Not long before the president became a candidate for the republican nomination Mr. Roosevelt, in speaking of his own administration, and what it was trying to accomplish along certain legislative lines, said that the country had been good enough to call these endeavors of his "Roosevelt policies." Then he said that he didn't know whether they were rightly named. He thought it was possible that they ought to be called "Taft policies," and then he added that "some years before, at a time when he had no idea that he would be president, he had thought on certain questions, hoping that some day some one might give him legislative form. Mr. Roosevelt said that at the time he found out that another man was giving consideration to the same questions, and was thinking as he thought. With the other man, he had corresponded, and he found that their aims were identical. The other man was William Howard Taft."

A visitor at the White house the other day told Mr. Taft this story. He had never heard it before, but he said that as far as coincident study of the subjects to which Mr. Roosevelt had referred was concerned, the story was true, and that he had exchanged with Mr. Roosevelt that the time letters in which each set forth views which were virtually identical. The White house visitor discovered quickly that Mr. Taft liked the story of a day when there was no question of the Roosevelt torality.

People Talked About

Mrs. Antoinette Funk, who has inherited a legacy of \$200,000 left by her father-in-law, Duncan F. Funk, of Bloomington, is one of the best-known woman lawyers practicing in Chicago.

Tips have been ruthlessly cut out of the travel bills of Kansas state officials. Since the festive pass ceased to be an official perquisite the Sunflower squad has not had such provocation for a "holer."

Mrs. Mary Harriman, widow of E. H. Harriman, has decided to the town ofodus, near Rochester, N. Y., three parcels of land for a park, to be known as Harriman park. The property includes a beautiful chestnut grove.

No matter what capers Jack Frost may indulge in during the winter the heat of local politics in Chicago will maintain a summer attitude. Factions of the rival parties placed rallies of men at the window of the county register to secure the advantage of the first filing on February 8, which carries with it the first name on the party ticket. But the police chased the patriots away.

HOME AND PEACE.

Thomas Moore. I knew by the smoke that so gracefully curled Above the green elms, that a cottage was near. And I said, "if there's peace to be found on the world, that is humble little hope for a here!"

It was noon, and on flowers that languished around In silence reposed the voluptuous bee; Every leaf was at rest, and I heard not a sound. But the woodpecker tapping the hollow beneath tree.

"Here in this lone little wood," I exclaimed. "With a maid who was lovely to soul and to eye. Who would blush when I praised her, and weep if I blamed. How could I ever live, and how calm could I die!"

"By the shade of you sunnith, whose red feety dig In the gush of the fountain, how sweet to recline. And to know that I sighed upon innocent lips. Which had never been signed on by any but mine!"

PRESIDENT AND POSTOFFICES.

Congressman Norris Lines Up with President Taft.

New York Tribune. If Representative George W. Norris of Nebraska, a leading western insurgent, thinks that he is making capital against President Taft by introducing a bill to put all postmasters and postal employees under the aegis of the civil service regulations he is egregiously mistaken. For President Taft has gone much further than any other president in making progress to take the postoffice out of politics by establishing a tenure based on competency and good behavior. The president would be heartily glad to surrender his present power to nominate postmasters for fixed terms, but congress has turned a cold shoulder to his suggestions, because representatives and senators hate to surrender the influence which they now exert in the selection of postmasters in their states or districts.

The right to confirm presidential appointees is one most jealously guarded by the senate and the traditions of politics practically compel a president to consult to a large extent the opinions and wishes of senators in making nominations which the senate must approve. To take postmasters from the exempt class and give them indefinite terms under the protection of the merit system would strip the senate of a perquisite which it especially prizes. No federal officeholder is in a better position to do party work than the postmaster of a town or city, with his facilities for reaching and influencing voters. The service was once a vast political machine and has ceased to be so only because of the steady pressure of public opinion and the increasing discrimination of administrations to permit postmasters to be active in politics.

President Taft believes that efficient and economical administration is a far safer reliance than patronage in seeking popular support, and he would be delighted to free himself of the annoyance

and drudgery involved in continually filling vacancies in postoffices, marshaling collectors and surveyors merely because the four-year terms of the incumbents expire. Instead of resenting Mr. Taft would welcome the passage of some such measure as Mr. Norris has introduced.

LAUGHING LINES.

Neil—Why are you so angry with Jack? Heine—I told him never to attempt to kiss me again. Neil—And he did? Heine—No, he didn't.—Philadelphia Record.

"Men these days have plenty of skill and resource at hand, but they have nothing on some of the smart ones of a couple of generations ago." "How so?" "Look at old General Putnam, for example. He jumped into a hole to get out of one.—Baltimore American.

Official to barber: "I've culminated to death—on an ash boat a time now, my poor man, you must prepare for your doom. Have you any last thing to say?" "Confound Barber, cowardly—Yes, I'd like to shave the crown prosecutor.—London Opinion.

New Year's eve revels were at their height. "Then a man with a preternaturally solemn face arose, wine glass in hand, to propose a toast." "May we never," he said, in deep, measured tones, "drink any more of this stuff!" He paused, and a horrified silence reigned for several seconds. "Well, now, it's good for us!" "Then the revels broke loose again.—Chicago Tribune.

"Conversation is the life of trade," said the business man. "Of course it is," replied Mr. Dustin Stax. "Only we want to get trade so regulated that folks will be competing for a chance to buy instead of a chance to sell.—Washington Star.

Singleton—"It's wonderful what love will enable a fellow to see in a girl that he never saw before." Weimore—"Yes, and it's equally wonderful what love won't let him see that he'll see later on.—Boston Transcript.

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