

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR. BEE BUILDING, FARNAM AND 17TH. Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

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State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss: Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average daily circulation, less spots, unused and returned copies, for the month of January, 1912, was 49,728.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 23rd day of February, 1912. (Seal.) ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

Now, for the flying leap. The ring is filling up with hats. The boy scout business ought to pick up briskly now.

Every Mexican president has a revolution all his own. Colonel Roosevelt will not need to go to Mexico to get into a fight.

It was very natural that Secretary Knox should make his first real stop at Colon. Now, the recall as exercised by Colombia on Senator Ospina is not objectionable.

The game of governors now stands nine to seven in favor of the Tafts, who are still at bat. The colonel firmly believes in the recall, particularly the recall back to the White House for a third term.

Senator Lodge has different views on the matter of old friendships than those held by some of his old friends. "What is a Democrat?" asks the Baltimore Sun. A good man gone wrong in trying to find the pie counter.

In the meantime, the convention delegates elected from day to day are being regularly instructed for President Taft. As was naturally to be expected, the democratic World-Herald offers consoling balm to the outgoing republican postmaster.

Coming so close upon the heels of the two national conventions this year, a sane Fourth of July will seem as dull as a Quaker Sunday. It never rains but it pours. The construction of two Platte river power canals by two different sets of promoters now confronts us.

It may be observed that moving picture shows are not the only places in Omaha and South Omaha where children are employed in violation of the child labor law. Bryan is up in Idaho, seeking, it is said, light upon the various democratic candidates. As they used to say in the old game of "hunt the thimble," you are getting cold, Mr. Bryan.

Candidates for congressional nomination are beginning to compete in the construction of personal platforms designed to catch the elusive voter. The strange similarity of some of the plans would indicate a decided sameness of purpose.

The Labor league has put up a set of seven candidates for commissioner supposed to stand in with organized labor. Another list will later be produced by slate-makers supposed to represent organized capital. But, of course, there will be no politics in our impending municipal election.

The San Francisco Chronicle persists that "California is for Taft." It will be recalled that a staff correspondent for the Chicago Tribune wired his paper when the president war on his western tour that "there are not enough anti-Taft men in San Francisco to man an election booth." If they are still counting straw votes, here is one.

Just Suppose.

Suppose the pages of history turned back to 1896. Suppose in that memorable campaign William Jennings Bryan elected president instead of William McKinley.

Suppose as the campaign approached four years later Mr. Bryan announced his candidacy for re-nomination. Suppose people then reminded him of this sentence in his letter formally accepting the democratic nomination:

I hereby announce, with all emphasis which words can express, my fixed determination not, under any circumstances, to be a candidate for re-election in case this campaign results in my election.

Suppose the response of Mr. Bryan to be, "When I said that, I did not expect to be a candidate again. Times have changed. What I meant was that I would not be a candidate again after I was once re-elected."

Just suppose, if you can, what Theodore Roosevelt would be saying about Mr. Bryan.

A Good Point Raised. In the whole investigation it makes of the so-called money trust, congress should carefully avoid action that would tend merely to prejudice public opinion against the banks of the country.

The people of this country know so little, have a chance to find out so little, about these great financial affairs in the cities that I believe it will be educational to them, and, possibly, to some of the members of the house, to know more of the great business of the country and how it is conducted.

And so must other thoughtful persons think it is a dangerous procedure. And even if all that those carefully-worded resolutions charge were true, it would still be dangerous for the simple reason that the consequences of impaired confidence in the banks fall heaviest on the people.

The government's statistics on agriculture in Nebraska make a potent appeal to the man with money to invest in farming land under the most favorable conditions.

From 1900 to 1910 the value of farm property, including the land, live stock, equipment and improvements, increased \$1,331,869,000, or 178.1 per cent. The average value of an acre of Nebraska farm land, with buildings, today is \$49.95; without buildings, \$41.80.

The minimum average value, according to counties, is \$4.66, and the maximum, \$135 and over. When it is remembered that a large part of the western half of the state is new, unsettled and land unimproved, the significance of these figures may be appreciated.

First of all, it should be remembered that they are not the fictitious values fixed by land boomers, but the tangible valuations determined by the government's critical experts, on the basis of what the land actually produces.

This new portion of the state in the west is an empire of itself, Cherry county alone having an area larger than that of Rhode Island and Connecticut combined, or than three eastern states separately, and land in Cherry county and other counties adjacent is so cheap now only for want of improvement and development, not for want of natural resources.

This is only a hint of the future of the state. Nebraska's crop values have risen with its land values, its annual cereal output a year now bringing about \$155,000,000, three-fifths of which represents the income from corn alone.

Out of every 100 farmers in 1909, eighty-seven raised some corn, so that corn is king. The average size of the Nebraska farm, like that in most western states, increased in the last decade and is now 297.8 acres and the total number of its farms in 1910 was 129,678.

But Nebraska outranked some of its neighboring states in the proportion of farm owners to renters, having 79,250 farms operated by the owners, 987 by managers and only 49,441 by tenants.

Another very healthy sign is in the comparatively small number of mortgages, in spite of the fact that the individual farmer is steadily increasing his holdings. Only 39,839 farms, or 39.4 per cent were mortgaged in 1910.

As compared with 52 per cent in 1890, or even 45 per cent in 1900, this showing is full of meaning and promise. All this progress in Nebraska, it must be borne in mind, is the result of natural process and not of ingenious campaigns of publicity

and advertising, for the state really has not done as much of that as it should have and will in the future.

Postmaster Wharton. Congratulations are due all around on the accession of Postmaster Wharton to the office of which he has just taken charge.

The welcome accorded him by the postoffice clerks and carriers, and employes generally, indicates that the change affords them an overdue relief, and that they have centered great expectations upon serving under a new head who, not only stands high in the community, but inspires their confidence.

The Bee can well repeat what it said at the time Mr. Wharton's selection as postmaster was made public: It goes without saying that the new postmaster has a man's job to do in order to restore efficiency in a thoroughly demoralized institution, and make it fully responsive to the growing needs of the community.

This task cannot be performed in a week or a month, yet its accomplishment will measure the success of the postmaster. In working out the problem he will be entitled to the support and assistance of both the employes inside, and the patrons outside, of the office.

We believe this characterization fits the case in a pre-eminent degree. Central Labor Exchange. The commission investigating the problem of Chicago's 125,000 idle men has promptly come to the conclusion that at the outset the city should maintain a central labor exchange, where idle men may go and, free of charge, find work.

The idea is for the employers seeking help to communicate with the exchange and for the unemployed to do the same, in fact, for the exchange to become absolutely the headquarters for information pertaining to the whole labor situation, equipped with experts capable of meeting the demands on both sides.

This looks like a good plan, but it is not to be regarded as a cure-all for the problem. In the first place, as has already been shown, a large number of the idle men in Chicago—and, presumably, in other cities—are idle because they prefer to be.

For them this central exchange can have no particular meaning. But for the man honestly seeking employment, it should become a most helpful agency. In Chicago and elsewhere, of course, there are private and semi-public employment agencies, but there is no systematically organized plan of helping the man out of a job and who desires to get one.

Here again, in this central exchange idea, we are borrowing from our more conservative neighbors in Europe. Prof. Charles R. Henderson of the University of Chicago, the active leader of this work in Chicago, says there are twenty such exchanges over there and they are doing excellent work.

There seems to be no good reason why the plan should not work as well in this country. At least, it will do to give it a trial. The Wheels of Justice. The first official act of Postmaster Wharton is to order restoration of Letter Carrier Tillotson to the route from which he was arbitrarily removed to wreak the vengeance of the former postmaster.

Letter Carrier Tillotson manfully refused to be a passive victim of official despotism, and made complaint in which he preferred charges which he offered to prove. Every charge Letter Carrier Tillotson made was fully sustained in the evidence produced before the government inquisitors, and having made good on his promises, he is entitled to have his grievance redressed.

This award of justice to Letter Carrier Tillotson must reassure all the postoffice employes, who ask only honest dealing and fair treatment on their merits. The "Progressive Republican League" of Texas, which endorsed Taft for re-nomination this week, has the same right to call itself progressive that Senator Lorimer's organization in Illinois has to call itself the Lincoln Republican League.

This is the same "Progressive Republican League" that was supporting La Follette in Texas and only left his banner when he virtually eliminated himself from the race. For a few days, therefore, it was a close question whether it would throw its support to Taft or to Roosevelt. It was "progressive," of course, to the Star, so long as it was back of La Follette, and would have been still "progressive" had it gone over to Roosevelt. In Texas it is the "machine" crowd that has the Roosevelt end.

Well, that part of the code of medical ethics that prohibits legitimate newspaper advertising ought to be thrown into the discard, anyway. From Grave to Gay. Washington Post. Apropos to Governor Wilson's metaphorical reference to political riding, we have observed that the severest critic of the sport usually winds up by buying a car and going after the speed record.

Divisions of Congress. Baltimore American. If things go on at the present rate, congress will have to be divided into two great branches—a portion to make laws and another to make investigations. Otherwise, as subjects for investigations increase in the natural proportion of the law of growth, there will be no time for the national legislature to attend to its original function.

The Bee's Letter Box

Uncle Dave Speaks Out. SOUTH OMAHA, Feb. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: As one of the oldest and most loyal republicans in Nebraska, and having assisted in organizing the G. O. P. in 1864 and 1884, I naturally conclude that my own republicanism is most definitely and firmly established.

Governor Aldrich, however, is so consumed with his own personal popularity and self-importance that he expects republicans to re-nominate him, and re-elect him as governor of this republican state while he has spent most of his time advocating insurgency.

I believe all substantial republicans desire to see the democratic party nominate a patriotic and worthy candidate, as many staid republicans would prefer such a staid and stable governor to a disturber and malcontent such as Aldrich has proven to be. DAVID ANDERSON.

Wootter Comes Back. SILVER CREEK, Neb., Feb. 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: I am not disposed to pay much attention to the altogether scurrilous letter of your Elm Creek correspondent. I wish, however, to write a little history.

During the winter of 1910-1911, I met in Lincoln on their invitation, certain gentlemen from Elm Creek they called upon Union Pacific right-of-way matters. I saw at once that while their intentions were undoubtedly perfectly good, they were not only utterly ignorant as to right-of-way questions, but had very crude and hazy ideas as to what should be done.

In child-like innocence they had conceived the idea that they should advise with the governor and the attorney general. But fearing they might lose their way or become abused and helpless in the immediate presence of supreme executive power, they generally hired my correspondent, an ex-Philippine soldier, who has no interest in the right-of-way, to escort them. I have reason to believe your correspondent earned his money and proved to be an excellent chapman.

I admit that I undertook to give those gentlemen some good advice. I further admit that I think they showed a great deal of sense in not accepting that advice. I did not attempt to dictate, or to threaten. But I will not longer remain silent while unthinking men, ignorant of their rights of the law, are sacrificing their real interests on advice of attorneys who originally were doubtless as ignorant of the whole matter as themselves and yet have much to learn if trying honestly to serve the interests of their clients, a thing of which I have very grave doubts.

In my opinion a winning fight could be made for the right-of-way farmers in the courts. I believe the law officers, themselves, of the Union Pacific are of that opinion, or else they would long ago have seen that a case went to the supreme court to be definitely and finally settled. Now, it looks to me as though the Union Pacific had a case they would be willing to take to the supreme court. And why? Simply because Prince and Mahoney, the attorneys of the farm-ers in those Dawson county cases, have admitted the main contention on which the company have heretofore relied. The bill in congress is simply to draw attention of the farmers while the smooth work is being done.

CHARLES WOOSTER. The Presidential Primary. KENESAW, Neb., Feb. 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: In a recent issue of The Bee appears an editorial calling attention to the difficulty of arranging the names of candidates for delegates to the national conventions in a manner to satisfy all factions. And while criticizing the law as an ill-considered measure, you offer no suggestion for its improvement—even after its dissection for months by interested persons as a working proposition.

The presidential part of the new primary law was before the legislature more than two months and passed as introduced by me, except for minor details. Being the first act of the kind ever introduced in the Nebraska legislature, and no other state having had actual experience in the operation of a similar law, it would not be surprising if defects are discovered.

Nebraska's first direct primary law was passed in 1907 and was a good law, and yet it has been amended at every sitting of the legislature since. While the presidential primary bill was before the legislature neither The Bee nor any other great newspaper suggested change. I imagine it to be a more important public service for a newspaper to try and perfect legislation at the time it is being considered by the legislature, rather than to appear only after the fact. But even now the Bee offers no suggestion of amendments that would, in its opinion, make it a more workable law.

I am aware of the efforts to designate or tag the different party factions on the presidential ballot. The law certainly does not provide for any such labeling, and I for one am awfully glad it does not. A republican candidate for delegate ought to be satisfied to go on the ballot as a republican, not as a Taft republican, or a La Follette or Roosevelt republican. And similarly for the more numerous factions in the democratic party.

The theory and intent of the law is, of course, that the preferential vote on president should decide whom the delegates shall support in convention. What would really be an improvement is the provision in the Wisconsin law—where the direct primary originated—permitting a first and second choice. In that way nominations and preference votes would in most instances represent a majority of the voting and not a mere plurality.

There are other amendments which I think would improve the law. The date of the presidential primary should be a fixed day, and no other than national matters should be considered at such primary, the regular primary being used for local and state nominations. Petitions for presidential candidates should be substantially increased and an acceptance required, as for other candidates.

The number of petitioners for delegates-at-large and national committees should be greatly reduced. The present requirement is enormous. Without good reason, this is one place where the bill, as introduced, was amended in committee to its hurt. I. D. EVANS.

Greatly Reduced Prices. Indianapolis News. Speaking of political economy once more, it looks as if the federal corrupt practices law were resulting in greatly reduced prices for congressional nominations—if one only judges by the statements filed at Washington by the candidates. Boston Transcript. Governor Wilson declares that the president's selection of Chancellor Pitney for the supreme bench is one eminently fit to be made. As Governor Wilson did not appoint him to his present position, and as their politics are opposite characters, this looks like praise from Mr. Hubert.

Around New York

Ripples on the Current of Life as Seen in the Great American Metropolis from Day to Day. Important Wage Conference. All the railroads east of Chicago and north of Virginia, a total of forty-eight companies, will be represented by their best talent at a wage conference with the officials of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers which begins in New York next week.

The engineers demand a new pay schedule uniform over the territory, which will aggregate an increase of \$2,000,000 a year. The new wage scale includes the following: Pay for running passenger engines having cylinders of twenty inches or under, \$4.00 per 100 miles or less, and \$4.00 for larger cylinders; overtime to be computed on a basis of twenty miles per hour at 70 cents an hour. Electric engines are to be operated by members of the brotherhood at the same rates charged for steam service.

On freight engines the rate will be \$5.25 per 100 miles when the cylinders are twenty inches in diameter, \$5.50 for engines with cylinders of from twenty to twenty-four inches, \$5.75 for larger cylinders, except with the Mallet type of engine, and \$7 for Mallets. One hundred miles or less or ten hours or less is to constitute a day's work. Overtime is to be computed on the minute basis at the rate of ten miles an hour. Rates for operating switching engines in yards are put at \$4.50 a day, ten hours being a day's work. Belt line rates are demanded at \$3 a day for ten hours.

In all classes of road service in which there are delays within the terminal amounting to one hour pay is demanded for one hour overtime. On hour and thirty minutes will count as two hours. Settlement for overtime must be made at the end of each trip.

Mayor Gaynor's Doctor Bill. The question of the ethics of doctors' bills is brought up again by the suit of Dr. W. J. Arlitz, head surgeon of the Hoboken hospital at which Mayor Gaynor was treated following the attempt on his life, to recover from the mayor the difference between the \$7,500 charged in his bill for four months and \$2,500 allowed by the Board of Aldermen.

"Does the size of the bill depend on the importance of the patient?" asks the New York World. "That is the general popular inference. Congress appropriated \$5,000 to pay for professional attendance on President McKinley. For professional services to Mayor Gaynor the aldermen allowed a total of \$2,500, of which two of the attending surgeons received \$5,000 each and the third \$3,500, while Dr. Arlitz's bill was scaled down to the extent which has provoked the suit. In addition the hospital benefited from a fund of \$5,134 raised by public subscription.

"If instead of the mayor the patient had been a minor city official would the bills have been anywhere near as large? Are his bills for professional attendance the penalty of personal prominence?" Decidate on \$250 a Month. The "high cost of living" figures in the suit which Mrs. Louisa Sutton of Brooklyn has brought against her husband, Francis M. Sutton, although she owns and lives in a fine house in one of Brooklyn's best neighborhoods, she declared that she was "destitute." Mrs. Sutton alleges that what she received from her husband was not sufficient in this time of high prices to support herself properly. She put in a statement showing that her average monthly expenses amounted to \$24. Of this \$24 was for "car fare, luncheons, hire for conveniences, entertainments and amusements." She said that her husband, who is in the exporting business in Manhattan, had an income of at least \$30,000 a year.

Mr. Sutton stated that he bought the house in which his wife lives, that he gave her \$10,000 three years ago, and that he makes her a monthly allowance of \$250. Sprucing Up Broadway. Broadway is soon to undergo the greatest cleaning up it has ever experienced. From the Battery to Forty-ninth street, on both sides of the historic thoroughfare, every obstruction which extends beyond the street line is to be removed, sliced off, carted away and thrown in the dump.

Broadway was ordered spruced up by the board of estimate which recently has adopted the project of cutting off the excessive decorations, which slowly have been encroaching on the big street for decades. Hundreds of stores, office and manufacturing buildings probably will suffer in the five-mile slice that is to be drawn along the edges of the street, taking off porches, stoops, signs, pillars, sidewalks, stands, cases for displaying goods and perhaps even parts of buildings.

Some of the buildings which will lose parts of their ornamental fronts are the Standard Oil, New York Life, Western Union and Postal Telegraph in the downtown section. Snowfalls Are Costly. "It isn't the high cost of living that keeps New York broke," mused the Honorable "Big Bill" Edwards, breaking in on a discussion of the real issue of the day. "It's the high cost of snow." "Snow" scoffed one of the party. "Yes, snow! S-N-O-W! Plain, everyday snow. The cost of removing an inch of snow from a street of this burg, would provide every man, woman and child, who needs it, with a week's board and give warm clothing in addition. An inch of snow skins off \$5,000 from Father Knickerbocker's bank-roll. We'll have enough inches this winter to run the total cost of removing them up to about \$2,000,000.

"When you're troubled with insomnia just figure up the cost of the snow that means. It's a far more effective remedy than counting sheep." Light Breaking In. New York World. The liberals have won, despite extraordinary efforts to defeat them, the first by-re-election, held in Canada since the Tory victory at the general election last year. The legislature of Saskatchewan recently adopted a resolution in favor of reciprocity by a handsome majority. The proof multiplies that the defeat of reciprocity last year was due to an anti-American spam produced by the Tory press and Tory speakers.

Peace Worth While. Boston Transcript. Governor Wilson declares that the president's selection of Chancellor Pitney for the supreme bench is one eminently fit to be made. As Governor Wilson did not appoint him to his present position, and as their politics are opposite characters, this looks like praise from Mr. Hubert.

Looking Backward This Day in Omaha

COMPILED FROM BEE FILES. FEB. 20. Twenty Years Ago—The Sundown club undertook to explain "The Law's Delay," and the discussion consumed several hours. T. A. Creigh acted as chairman. Her. W. J. Harsha opened the discussion and was followed by Judge W. W. Keyser, who maintained that many delays in litigation were not the fault of the law or judges, but were necessary to secure absolute justice. He also scored lawyers for negligence and inefficiency in preparing pleadings. Judge Irvine said that since he had become a judge he was convinced that the lawyers were chiefly to blame for delays. Other speakers were J. T. Moriarty, T. W. Blackburn, Thomas Kilpatrick, W. S. Curtis and A. C. Truap.

Cyrus W. Bell announced that he would start a weekly paper in Omaha April 1, in the interest of the colored people, and that it would be independent in politics, with democratic proclivities. W. A. Paxton returned from a month's recreation in New York, much improved in health. V. O. Stricker, a prominent poet, made this prediction: "I want to tell you something that is going to happen. The matter has not been heralded about the country as yet, but just as sure as the sun rises next Fourth of July General C. H. Van Wyck of Nebraska is going to be nominated in this city for the presidency by the independent national committee.

An enjoyable dancing party was given by Mrs. Andrew Haas for her sister, Miss Nathalia Anspacher, it being her fourth birthday, which made her sweet 16. Most notable among the many gifts from friends was a picture presented by Marc Pollock, a clever bit of color from his own brush. Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Lyon, 218 North Nineteenth street, tendered a reception in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Grandmond of Binghamton, N. Y.

Platform Fitted to Needs. New York Post. The colonel was simply obliged to come out in favor of the recall of judicial decisions, for otherwise he could not recall his own decision not to run for a third term.

LAND OF LITTLE CHILDREN. Baltimore Sun. The land of little children will be Paradise for me. When I have met the Pilot at the border of the sea. I want no other heaven than to be transported there. To rest my weary spirit from the sorrow and the care.

The land of little children—I have dreamt of it today! Beyond a gate of roses in the rosy vales of May: The music ringing through it of their laughter and their song. And troops of dancing playmates that have never done me wrong!

The land of little children—when I go when I go the golden secrets that I'll know some day have to know; And I shall count the moments with impatience till my friend Lenus down to lead me onward to the Light that marks the end.

The land of little children—I have thought of it through tears Amid the roaring tempests and the war-fare of the years; And I shall ask no heaven any brighter than will be That land my Pilot takes me when I meet him by the sea.



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