

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION... Sunday Bee, one year...

DELIVERED BY CARRIER... Omaha—The Bee Building...

REMITTANCES... Remit by draft, express or postal order...

OFFICES... Omaha—The Bee Building, South Omaha—215 N. St.

CORRESPONDENCE... Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

FEBRUARY CIRCULATION... 49,463

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas... Dwight Williams, Circulation Manager.

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

Yes, the groundhog for once appears to be onto his job.

The political fence is full of non-participating old friends these days.

Millet's "Man With the Hoe" has that tired look like Gray's weary plowman.

No, Mr. Iqman cannot see you now; he is busy finding reasons for raising prices this season.

Between groundhogs and March lions, this has been a great season for stirring up the animals.

Dr. Wiley's resignation may take some spice out of the pure food campaign, but none of the purity, we hope.

Dr. Wiley may be reticent about discussing his case now, but just wait until he becomes a contributing editor.

Mr. Associate Justice Pitney may console himself with the thought that he fared better than the peace treaties, anyway.

Senator La Follette threatens to make some of those pretended friends sick who jumped onto him when he was indignant.

Those Virginians vent at the capture of their desperadoes in such a different way from that pursued by our orderly Nebraska officials.

Mr. Bryan is lavish with praise of La Follette, which he would quickly retract, or explain away, if the Wisconsin man ever got in front of a democratic nominee for president.

Colonel Roosevelt showed about the same appreciation of that lawyer's peremptory challenge of him as a juror as he might expect the courts to show of his proposed recall of decisions.

"Under no circumstances will I be a candidate for or accept another nomination."—November 8, 1904. "I will accept the nomination for president—paraphrased—if I can get it."—February 25, 1912.

A committee of the Builders' exchange has approved the court house construction, so far as it has gone. Entirely lacking, however, is any assurance as to the date when the building will be ready for occupancy.

The complex of Warwick, touring the country in a private car to preach socialism, may know ever so much about socialism, but she lacks knowledge of human nature or she would quit her private car for a tourist sleeper.

It's easy enough to talk about the need of high-class men for councilmen under the commission plan, but to get them is the rub. Erroneous now drawing a salary and perquisites in the city hall, however, is quite willing to be drafted or even to volunteer.

The seats of southern delegates to the Chicago convention are to be contested by the Roosevelt campaign managers. They were contested four years ago by the so-called "allies" who were working for Foraker and Cannon, and used the very same arguments.

Governor Aldrich puts some of the blame for the murderous post-mortem outbreak upon the yellow journals that have helped to stir up discontent and insubordination among the convicts. The newspapers that have been hit—and the governor names them—will promptly start a bonfire at the other end of the line.

The Spring Overflow.

An alert press correspondent once wired to a New York newspaper that a tornado was headed toward Omaha and asked for instructions as to how much of a story to send in when the demon storm broke.

Without wishing to wigwag any false alarms, we can see now that, unless all signs fail and precedents miss fire, portions of the Missouri valley are to be visited by more water this spring than they will really need. Five feet of snow has fallen on the level lands of Nebraska, so that very much more than that precipitation has reached the mountains to the north and west of us. When the break-up and thawing time comes the old Missouri and other streams are sure to receive larger volumes of water from the hills than they are equipped to carry off. Omaha may be high enough to escape damage, and yet there are some points within sight of Omaha that are not so high and these are likely to be inundated.

Some day provision may be made for storing this vast volume of water against a time of necessity. If storage reservoirs could be constructed sufficient to take care of part of the water that overflows river banks, not only would it save destruction in the spring, but other destruction by means of prevention later in the year when water is at a premium.

But Peace Moves On.

The senate's reactionary action in defeating the arbitration treaties may have killed those two compacts, but it has by no means deadened the cause of world peace. What the president, backed by the people, sought to do in this case will be achieved as soon as we get a senate with enough members whose vision of large things is not circumscribed by a foolish mirage of personal importance, which goes by the misnomer of senatorial dignity.

Let the real champions of universal peace take heart and be glad that they have overcome this one obstacle which had to be met sooner or later in their course toward inevitable success. The idea that nations may agree to arbitrate some things, yet refuse to arbitrate when they feel strong enough to overpower the other, is not one of the ideas on which nations are going to be brought into a great union of amicable arbitration. Many hypothetical questions, which have no likelihood of ever being raised, were used to help block the way, but they will not form much of an obstruction when the full power of the popular demand comes to actual expression in the senate, as it certainly will.

Intervention in Mexico.

Two views of Uncle Sam's proper attitude toward Mexico in the present crisis, diametrically opposite in the main, are at hand, which furnish interesting contrasts and open up the subject to profitable thought. One view is expressed by John Barrett, director general of the Pan-American union and one of the best versed men in Pan-American problems. The other view appears in the National Review of London over the signature of A. Maurice Low, the well-known correspondent at Washington, D. C.

Mr. Barrett sees no necessity or warrant for either American invasion or intervention. He says for us to do either would be to "strike a self-inflicted and gratuitously staggering blow to our own commerce and prestige throughout all the Americas, nullify half the good of the canal and delight all our competitors for the favor and trade of the world." He thinks we can easily afford to be patient and endure temporary annoyances for the sake of future possibilities. He is undoubtedly right in his contention that the United States should proceed cautiously in any intercourse with Mexico, for a clash is undesirable. Just as Mr. Low is right to assume that a war would entail heavy toll, mortally and financially, beside hurting us abroad, and that, even after we had triumphed on the field, we would yet have the immense task of evolving peace and order out of the chaos. And it would be a long time before we could hope for the confidence of the natives, an essential element in working out the ultimate solution.

"Constant turmoil in Mexico the United States cannot permit," says the British Journalist. "Perpetual anarchy is bad enough in Central America." He then points to the large American, British and German interests in Mexico and to the fact that every nation must protect its nationals. "By virtue of the Monroe doctrine," he adds, "this obligation is imposed upon the United States, which must either perform that duty or confess its inability and permit Europe to act, but there need be no fear that the United States will shirk its responsibility or afford any European power an opportunity to laugh at the Monroe doctrine and make the United States ridiculous in the eyes of the world."

No, nor is the United States going to be coerced or calmed into poisoning onto Mexico. There is no occasion for the ship-on-the-shoulder attitude or jingoism, and Uncle Sam will act cautiously, but even Mr. Barrett's pleading for silence lent some casual remark about intervention or war

reach the sensitive ears of Central or Southern Americans, will not constrain this government beyond the point of prudent statesmanship in dealing with this turbulent little neighbor to the south of us. Intervention, war and annexation are all to be abhorred, but either Mexico must soon straighten up and act soberly or else this "self-constituted policeman of the western hemisphere," as our British cousins say, will have to do something to command order.

The Logic of Reform.

Before we go too far with the current idea of reform, which presupposes that the task in hand is to restore certain standards of purity and certain traditions of perfection that have been overthrown by unscrupulous forces in a mad race for self-aggrandizement, had not we better stop and remember that the standards and traditions of the past never were anywhere near pure or perfect and that, even if they were, they could not, in this day, be advantageously restored. It would help us to see the truth and to attain it if we would frankly divest ourselves of the false notion that our early economic and political life and our early leaders in commerce and politics were not faultless.

It is better standards and progress we must achieve, not old ones and retrogression. The fundamentals have not been disturbed, so with them we need not be seriously concerned in this discussion. The logic of reform gains nothing from the current idea that the nation has been shaken at its base by a few unscrupulous individuals. Of course, wrongs and evils exist, but the nation is secure at the base and, since from its first, its masses have boasted that it was a government of, by and for the people, why now assume entirely to blame a handful of powerful persons for what, in all fairness, the people as a whole are responsible?

What has come about is not an accident. It is the result of a constant wideawake competition between, we may say, selfish industry and unscrupulous politics on the one hand and the mass of American voters on the other, all assuming that the national economic and political system was framed for their special benefit and engaging in the competition to secure the prize. As one writer has expressed it: Thus the abuses of which we are complaining are not weeds which have been allowed to spring up from neglect, and which can be eradicated by a hoe. They are cultivated plants, which, if not precisely specified in the plan of the American political and economic garden, have at least been encouraged by traditional methods of cultivation.

No matter how grave the mistakes of the past, capitalizing upon passion or prejudice for personal gain in the name of reform is clothing greed in the garb of deception and only complicates the problem. The old idea that a man could be patriotic without being public-spirited or disinterested has nothing to lose in comparison with that.

The corn market has seldom seen a more strenuous time than this year. Bulls, determined to drive every short to seek shelter, have succeeded, by the aid, partially, of favorable weather conditions, in forcing it up close to 72 cents. At the close of the week, however, it had struck the down grade with the milder weather and the sunshine, and shorts were beginning to find it possible to smile a little. It will be a wonder, from now on, if this market can be held up artificially as against all the natural conditions, which favor a slump.

The rule of the people exercised by choosing candidates, initiating and adopting laws, and affirming or reversing judicial decisions, may look fine in theory, but when it comes to fitting it in with an eight-foot ballot requiring each voter to make ninety odd crossmarks, theory and practice may diverge.

George Washington is being quoted as having said that he could imagine an emergency that might call for the re-election to a third term in the White House of a man on whom the people universally agreed. Yes, but where is the emergency or the universal agreement?

Wonder how many city hall officials have been making pretended "loans" from paying contractors, corporation lobbyists and other recipients of public favor who are not generally known to loan money except with a cinch on getting something more valuable in return?

Roosevelt boomers are appealing to leaders of the negro race for their support, but the negro has never had a better friend in the White House since Lincoln than President Taft.

Where Are the "Common People"?

Washington Post. The people in America are individual. They think for themselves. They are beyond the stage where they respond to impassioned appeals directed at them as a herd. They want logic these days, and not the phrases designed to make them act as a mob. They can do their thinking for themselves, and to about about the wrongs of the negro race known as the "common people" will not excite any of the persons who are supposed to make up the class so designated.

Looking Backward This Day in Omaha

Compiled from Bee files. March 18.

Thirty Years Ago—At the opera house that famous actor, Milton Nobles, appeared in his great play, "The Phoenix," and "the villain still pursued her."

At the request of a large number of prominent citizens, Miss Lizzie Calderwood had consented to a benefit concert prior to leaving for Boston to pursue a course of vocal training to fit her for a professional music career.

Street cars all stop now before going over a railroad crossing. A fair is in preparation for the benefit of St. Joseph's hospital. Proclamations for the approaching city election have been posted.

County Clerk Baumer is making out the fee bills to the deputy sheriffs employed during the strike, which swell up to a considerable sum.

President Barton of the smelting works has 125 men at work, having taken back all the old force they desired and refusing to employ quite a number.

A conference was held in this city today between Sidney Dillon, Thomas L. Kimball and Samuel L. Potter of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy as to the joint use of the depot in Denver.

A new dry goods store has been opened up at 1115 Farnam street in Little's new block by George P. Brown, who comes from Colorado.

George Fitchett, corner St. Mary's avenue and Convent street, wants returned to him a setter pup about 3 months old, which he thinks has strayed or was stolen.

Memorial resolutions for Edward Roddis adopted by the congregation of St. Margaret's church are subscribed with these names: James Patterson, rector; H. G. Clark, senior warden; William Cleburne, B. C. Cooper, S. Robinson, William Tudor Tucker and L. Webster, vestrymen.

Twenty Years Ago—Captain John Palmer of Albany, N. Y., commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, came in from Dakota on a tour of inspection of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Fifty saloon men held a meeting at the Young Men's Institute on Fourteenth street preparatory to organizing the Liquor Dealers' Benevolent association. The meeting was called to order by Ed Rothery after which John A. Wetzel was made chairman. Fred Miller introduced Charles Schweickart of St. Louis, secretary of the Missouri Benevolent association, who told the men how to go about it.

W. K. Kurts returned to Omaha from Washington, Philadelphia and New York, where he had been for some time pushing several real estate deals. He said he heard much talk of Omaha in connection with the coming people's party national convention and the national convention of the Christian church.

County Commissioner Timms returned from Chicago much improved in health. Mrs. Joseph C. Griffith, formerly of Falls City, who had been visiting her parents for several months, Mr. and Mrs. George Powell, 16 North Nineteenth street, left for her new home at Madison, Ill.

Deputy United States Marshal Hill came in from Hillmore county with a couple of alleged counterfeiters. At the request of Superintendent Porter of the Census bureau, County Clerk Sackett disclosed the records of chattel mortgages filed in his office for the ten months ending February 25, the number being 1,435 and the cash amount, \$1,955,628. Only 1,146 were released.

Ten Years Ago—

General Manager Bidwell of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railroad said the scarcity of steel was becoming serious and might become appalling. Railroad construction work that was very necessary had to be delayed for lack of steel.

Walter Moise & Co. bought the Willow Springs distillery for \$200,000. Joseph Levine, 225 Cuming street, broke his right collarbone, dislocated his right arm and fractured a rib as the result of a collision of two street cars on Sixteenth between Chicago and Davenport streets in the morning. Mr. Levine was standing near the door holding onto a strap and the impact of the collision threw him forward in the car.

Horace Houghton died at the age of 56. Mrs. Martha Atwood, 71, died at the family residence, 1028 South Thirty-second street.

The city council confirmed the appointment of Mayor Moore of Dr. J. B. Ralph to be health commissioner, succeeding Dr. Victor Coffman, the salary being fixed at \$200 a year. Dr. Ralph had been assistant to Dr. Coffman and Dr. H. L. Arnold was made assistant in place of Dr. Ralph.

All but one of the twenty-nine Douglas county assessors met at the court house and decided that the basis of assessment for the year should be one-sixth of a fair cash value of the property. F. D. Weed, C. C. George, J. S. Knox, A. L. Reed and C. F. Harrison of the Real Estate exchange were present to plead for a full return of the personal property.

The Bee's Letter Box

Where Light is Needed. OMAHA, March 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: I often wonder if in this country that boasts of being the land of the free and the home of the brave if the negro, who has fought so hard to uphold the constitution, has any rights which the white man is bound to respect? The negro without one selfish motive has again and again proved his loyalty to this country. And what is his reward? Discrimination, Jim Crow laws and that most heinous of all, the lynch law. A few days ago Lewis, a negro, was barred from a lawyer's association, not because he was not a gentleman or had failed to meet any of the requirements, but because he was a negro. It is safe to say no such action would have taken place had Lewis been a Japanese, although no Japanese resident ever charged up San Juan hill in defense of the Stars and Stripes.

The much-talked social equality does not interest the negro one iota. All he wants is his rights as a law-abiding citizen. He wants to be treated fair and square in this country he fought for and helped build until today it stands second to none. Since this country has so much sympathy for the Jews in Russia, why not pass a law against the persecution of the negro here? Charity begins at home. More than one senator is kept before the public because of his ability to vilify the negro. Japan, a country that is seeking the weak spots in this country's armor, has students in West Point. It almost takes a special act of congress for a negro to be admitted there. Do you know what would have happened had two negroes confessed to blowing up the Times building in Los Angeles? Their bodies would now be lying beneath California sod. The negro is in the country by no action of his own and he is here to stay, so treat him as a man.

Wootter Doesn't Forget. SILVER CREEK, Neb., March 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: I am in receipt of one of those informal invitations which the president of the Lincoln Bryan club is sending out to democrats over the state to attend the annual Bryan birthday banquet in Lincoln.

Kindly permit me in this informal manner to inform the Lincoln bunch that I shall not be present, and that they need reserve no plate for me. I have a lively recollection of the fact that a year ago many democrats from out in the state were indiscreet enough to attend that Bryan banquet and that as a part of the menu they got a dose of vile abuse from Mr. Bryan's man Friday, alias Bishop Beasleys, alias H. L. Metcalfe. It has never been charged that Mr. Bryan resented, or even disapproved of that attack on his invited guests, and it is fairly to be presumed that it was with his full knowledge and consent.

It is further to be presumed that at the banquet this year Mr. Bryan's man Friday, with a beaming smile on his countenance, will sit in silence while each guest is served a dish of harmony instead of a dish of abuse. Two years ago Mr. Bryan and Mr. Metcalfe tried their best to defeat and destroy five-sixths of the democratic candidates in the state. This year when these two detestable democrats are candidates themselves they want harmony and votes. Outside of Nebraska Mr. Bryan don't want harmony until he has killed off every promising candidate for the democratic nomination for president, and then he would be pleased to have the national convention harmoniously bring the nomination to him on a silver platter.

For his dastardly work in the campaign of two years ago Mr. Bryan said he had no apologies to make and that he should "continue the fight." Fellow democrats, let us heap coals of fire on his head by now giving him a boost when he wants it so badly, and in return later on if he don't get what he wants out of this presidential mixup he will, if he keeps his promise, stick his neckers into us up to the hilt.

Causes and Effects. OMAHA, March 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: All the world is holding up its hands in horror at the spectacle of a Virginia court being literally shot to pieces by a band of miscreant outlaws. Judge, clerk prosecuting attorney and jurist, all murdered by desperate men. What an awful disregard for established law and order.

On the same day in our own state the warden and his assistants are killed by desperate criminals, who had been able to secure arms and who "shot their way" out of state's prison. Another awful exhibition of the law's futility in dealing with the criminal instinct.

But were we shocked when a man of culture and discernment stood before an audience of intelligent business men a few days ago and berated the courts, asserting their failure to afford justice or equity? Were we astonished when a man high in the esteem of his countrymen proclaimed that court decisions ought to be subject to popular reversal by plebiscite? Or did we protest when magazines of professed high purpose attacked courts in general and specific terms, and held them up as failures or when newspapers of general circulation, by inference, at least, denounced the courts as agents of oppression?

How can we expect the ignorant to respect the law, when the leaders so openly preach heresy that finds natural expression among the thoughtless in alleged "reformers" to review the fruits of their agitation? OLD FOGGY.

Why Living Comes High.

KEARNEY, Neb., March 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: I see that President Taft has asked congress to make inquiry why living is so high in this country. It seems to me that you don't have to look far from home to find why it is so. Take the bread question first. The miller here at Kearney pays 30 cents per bushel for wheat, which is its cents per pound, and sells the flour for 2 cents per pound and the bran, etc., for about 15 cents per pound, which makes the miller about 100 per cent, and of course he turns his money right or ten times per annum. His profit is evidently too high. One remedy would be for each county to build a grist mill and grind the people's grain at cost.

The next is the meat question. The butcher pays from 5 to 6 cents per pound gross for stock to kill. He sells it out at retail for from 15 to 20 cents per pound and scarcely any for less than 15 cents per pound. Cattle dress away about 50 per cent and hogs about 20 per cent, so you see the meat men make about 100 per cent, which is 50 per cent too much. One remedy is for people to kill their own meat and eat less meat anyway. So you see the causes of the high prices of meat and bread are right here at home. People have got so they want more profit than they should have.

I should like to have someone tell me why coffee retails for the price it does when the wholesale prices quoted in New York are 10 to 12 cents a pound. The kind of coffee offered at the back country towns is sold wholesale in New York for from 8 to 9 cents a pound, and the same coffee retailed in the country for less than 20 cents is not fit to drink. The coffee quoted at 10 and 12 cents wholesale in New York costs us 40 to 50 cents per pound.

MIRTHFUL REMARKS.

"See Dinah is a very good cook, but she has one failing. She's passionately fond of perfume." "You can lock them away from her, can't you?" "Of course. But I can't get used to hearing her sniffing under the door."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"I was talking with a casual acquaintance I met on a car going home the other evening and I happened to remark that I did like some touch and go about a man, what?" "When what?" "He grabbed my watch and jumped off the platform in a twinkling."—Business American.

Miggs—Your wife doesn't seem to like me. Riggs—Naturally! You're the man I always lay the blame on when I am detained downtown evenings.—Boston Transcript.

"And does this fat little boy belong in your crowd?" "No'm, we just use him to try the ice water before we go skating."—Houston Post.

"So you're going to make a lawyer of four boy Josh?" "Right! Think he'll make a lawyer." replied Farmer Cornsness. "But I want him to study law so that he'll see how it works out and maybe have sense enough to keep out of lawsuits."—Washington Star.

WHO WEALTH PRODUCE.

"It's not the magnate with his stocks and bonds; 'Tis not the banker with his hoard of gold; 'Tis not the man who simply buys and sells; Who wealth produce in this our busy world."

All wealth produced comes from Old Mother Earth. Produced by daily toil, and sweat, and blood. The honest toil of those who dwell in the world's wealth that is for the common good. S. C. HASSETT, Gibbon, Neb.

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People Talked About

Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor, says that fine art schools are a humber and a snare and ought to be closed or turned over to the teaching of young men and women how to make useful things.

Three of our army men (Captain Henry B. Richmond, Captain Conrad S. Babcock and Lieutenant Adna R. Chaffee) are taking a graduate course in horsemanship at the Sumner Riding school, in France.

Horace S. Withee, who has been a mail carrier on route No. 1, Showegans, Me., for the last ten years, has never missed a trip or failed to reach the postoffice on time. He lives four miles from the postoffice, and travels three-and-one-half miles every mail day. He estimates that in all he has traveled 10,000 miles, equal to sixteen trips to the Pacific coast and back.

W. T. Hornaday, the famous curator of the Bronx Zoological Gardens, in New York, who has been identified with collections for the Zoo for many years, is considered one of the best known students of animal life in this country.

Pelix Schwetshoff, the German comedian, who died recently, left an estate valued at 1,025,000 marks. He was a model citizen as well as a great actor, says a friend. "He was thrifty, but his purse was never closed against the poor and what he did for them was done in secrecy."