

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE
FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR
BEE BUILDING, FARNAM AND 17TH

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50,109
State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss
Dwight Williams, Circuit Court Judge

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

Vote early. Polls close at 6 p. m.
A \$7,000,000 bond deal is not put through every day. Keep it dark.

Digging dandelions is just as good
exercise as feeding the furnace.

The Springfield (Mass.) Union
calls it "The Primary Farce." Oh, no!

No doubt Eve took pains to see
that her washwoman used nonshrinking soap.

If you do not do your duty at the
polls, be prepared to forever hold your peace.

Kentucky's famous men are rapidly
passing. Ed Callahan, the noted feud leader, is gone.

Our oft built Platte river power
canal seems to be keeping mighty quiet these fine spring days.

A certain species of newspapers
deny to Robert T. Lincoln the right to defend the name of his father.

A good boy would be almost justified
in playing hockey this kind of weather, to say nothing of a bad boy.

Prophet Hicks is interpreted as
predicting another 1911 summer. Just think of it, plus a 1912 campaign.

Have patience and the official
canvass of that April 19 state-wide primary will be along in due course of time.

One cannot help feeling that in
boasting of its ripe strawberries, St. Louis seeks to divert attention from its base ball team.

What has "Charlie" Withnell done
to our nonpartisan democratic organ that he should be the only stepchild in the democratic family?

A Keep-it-Dark Bond Deal.
The announcement that the Water board has stealthily sold and delivered at a merely nominal premium the \$7,000,000 of 4 1/2 per cent thirty-year water bonds without inviting bids or giving consideration to any but the favored syndicate should shake our people out of their hypnotic spell.

This keep-it-dark bond deal is of a piece with the peculiar star-chamber management that has characterized the Water board's transactions in connection with the water works throughout since "immediate and compulsory" purchase was started nine years ago.

Omaha just a week ago sold \$600,000 of 4 1/2 per cent twenty-year bonds at a much better price, and at the same rate this present sale of \$7,000,000 of securities should have brought \$100,000 more than the city is getting.

If this sum has been deliberately given away out of friendship the Water board has been making a present it had no right to give. If the bonds have been sacrificed below their market worth through over-haste or ignorance, then there is still less excuse for it.

Had the \$7,000,000 bond deal been consummated in the open and awarded to the best competitive bid, the suspicion which will always attach to it could easily have been avoided.

The Heat of the Campaign.
Looking back over the first contest under Omaha's commission plan of city government culminating in today's election, no one can fail to observe that the heat of the campaign makes self-styled reformers talk and act very much like professional politicians. If there has been any appreciable difference in this campaign between one side and the other in resorting to odious personalities and in recklessly bandying charges and countercharges, it is hard to observe.

This election, we were told, was to be entirely devoid of partisan politics, and waged upon a high plane of civic pride and patriotism, but, as a matter of fact, both the self-laudatory uplifters and the chronic office-seekers have waded into the same mire, and indulged in worse mudslinging than in the old-time partisan campaigns, to say nothing of the accompaniments of threats, bulldozing and lying. If we believe all we hear, both sides are trying to "steal" the election, and will be prevented by nothing but the vigilance of the other side. If candidates from both sides should by chance win out it would require a miracle, assuming that they have been expressing their real convictions of one another, to get them to work together in double harness for the good of the city.

Fortunately, we can ascribe most of the bubbling over to the heat of the campaign. Social and political equilibrium will be soon restored, with the one lasting object lesson that the entry of so-called reformers into politics does not make the political millennium.

A Start Toward Parcel Post.
The house has settled on a form of parcel post, so far as it is concerned, but the senate, of course, will have the last word. The house's proposition calls for little more than a trial, but if the senate sends it to the president for final approval, it will certainly prove to be at least a step in the right direction. There is no way of inaugurating parcel post except piecemeal, as we did with free rural delivery. That was introduced on an experimental, partial basis, and it developed quickly because it turned out to be exactly what was wanted. So it may be expected of parcel post. Those who are complaining because we are not likely to get a parcel post law all at once applying the system to the whole country, urban and suburban sections alike, should have patience and rest assured that if the plan is as meritorious as they believe it will expand just as rural free delivery did. For this reason we cannot help thinking that some of the criticism of the proposal for a partial introduction rests upon a biased motive. The need of parcel post, the encouraging conditions and the room for development are, we think, just as favorable as those that lay before the new mail delivery system in the country.

The Palpitating Heart of Labor.
May is living up to its reputation as a breeder of discontent in the labor world, though as yet, happily, it has not come up to its record for strikes. The engineers, firemen, coal miners, freight handlers and local unions here and there either threaten to strike or have made progress toward virtual peace, but, excepting the situation among the newspaper unions in Chicago, there is open trouble nowhere.

The Chicago situation, where stereotypers have struck because of the employment of some nonunion pressmen, lacks even the endorsement of the Stereotypers union and other unions. In fact, the national head of the stereotypers advised against the strike, so that there seems to be ground for the employers' charge that the walk-out is in direct violation of contracts. The strikers have added to this unfair action violent treatment of little news-

boys, making a very bad state of affairs, though it is only local.
The country may well afford to look past Chicago to the situation of the engineers on the fifty-one eastern railroads and to the anthracite coal mines, where, though delay may occur, a strike now seems to be out of the question. And the final effect upon the labor and industrial worlds is sure to be far-reaching. Every time a serious labor dispute like one of these is peacefully adjusted it becomes, or should become, that much easier to adjust the next one. So that aside from the immediate good accomplished in avoiding a great paralysis of some industry, there is the further influence in the future.

Federal Control of Rivers.
No jealous regard for states rights obtrudes itself in the presence of the necessity now existing for federal control of river levees. That necessity has been made very plain to the people of the states where millions of dollars' worth of property and some lives have been destroyed by the Mississippi river floods, and now Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana are ready to unite and are uniting in a demand for federal control.

Of course, it is out of the question to think of any one or all of these states adequately fortifying themselves against the rampages of the swollen river, which is the drainway of the two great central basins extending from the Rockies on the west to the Alleghenies on the east. It is clearly a matter for the national congress. And it is a matter that must receive adequate attention. It has been fully demonstrated that the levees of the great river are not equal to the emergencies of an overflow. It is explained that the constant increase in the tide of the river is due largely to the closing up of the vast basins that formerly absorbed much of the spring floods. Deforestation and the building up of the adjacent country is a contributory factor.

But whatever the causes, here are the great stretches of tilled soil inundated, homes and farms engulfed, families fleeing in boats for their safety, millions in money gone and some life wiped out. Whatever it is possible to do to prevent that should be done promptly. Congress, acting upon the president's direction, has granted some temporary relief, and has shown a disposition to give the matter thorough consideration. The senate finance committee has determined that at least \$4,000,000 of the \$6,000,000 annually devoted to river improvement must go to build and maintain river levees. This should be encouragement to the southern states and also help allay their fear of federal interference.

To the Editor: If you had endorsed my nomination for councilman, I would write you a nice letter thanking you for your disinterested and public spirited course, and praising your many, courageous and unselfish attitude, but since you have failed to do so, I can only denounce you for prostituting your high calling for the attainment of wicked personal ends.—(Signed) Sour Grape Candidate.

Maryland's sixteen delegates are to be bound to support the candidate for whom they are instructed by preferential vote until they conscientiously believe he has no longer a chance of winning the nomination. But what about the Massachusetts delegates instructed for Taft by a clear majority in the primary, yet claiming the right to disregard their instructions?

Mr. Bryan does not care how much time and money Wilson, Harmon, Clark, Underwood et al. waste in their little play presidential contest, so long as he holds the power to nominate.

Never mind, after it's over, who ever is elected will forget and forgive, and the also-rans will try to look pleasant and pretend they like it.

The Massachusetts Primary.
A primary law like that in Massachusetts, which gives one man the preferential vote and another man the delegates, works about as the old convention system did when the bosses concluded to take things into their own hands.

Mighty Billboards Untagged.
It is a wonder some ardent insurance company does not paint its advertisements on the front of those billboards that are being seen in all parts of the Atlantic. Think of being assured that a company "Has the Strength of an Iceberg."

Something of a Sinecure.
Colonel Bryan's job of watching to see that Governor Harmon does not get the nomination at Baltimore has so far been something of a sinecure. If the governor of Ohio does not soon get some delegates the gentleman from Nebraska will feel obliged to turn to something else for amusement.

A Logical Explanation.
As an entirely logical explanation of the present great rise in price of wheat the following is offered from Chicago: "The retail butcher is blaming the wholesaler, the wholesaler the packer, the packer the farmer and the farmer the high price of corn." In this house that Jack built only one item was omitted. Everybody should blame the consumer for kicking at the price.

Looking Backward
This Day in Omaha
COMPILED FROM BEE FILES
MAY 7.

Thirty Years Ago—
A sprinkle of rain was followed by a storm all day this Sunday, which left the streets in a very soft condition.

The lot on the southeast corner of Ninth and Jones is being graded by the Union Pacific.

The Baptist church has been very fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Arnold, soprano; Mrs. Shreve, alto; Mr. Shreve, bass, and retaining Mr. Wesley Wilkins, baritone.

The choir of the Second Presbyterian church has been newly constituted as follows: Miss Day and Miss Mail, soprano; Misses Fannie Wilson and Leslie Sharp, contraltos; F. S. Smith and David Wells, tenors; J. L. Smith and Charles Keyes, basses.

Lovers of the eminent Irish poet, Thomas Moore, will celebrate his anniversary under the auspices of the Emmet Monument association on the evening of May 30. Judge L. C. Northrup will deliver an address and there will be an original poem and music.

The Bee prints this note, headed "Personal": "E. M. L.—Yours received. Would like a personal interview. Call at our office at 1 o'clock May 7. If not satisfactory, appoint a meeting, either through these columns or by mail."

George Heyn, the photographer, announces a new method of making instantaneous photographs, by which a picture may be taken in the fraction of a second before the most restless child can move.

Miss Mollie Brownson was a westbound passenger on the noon train. Mr. J. R. Collins, was in the city. Mr. G. T. Walker, superintendent of the Omaha Mill works, has returned from San Francisco.

James C. McKell of Burlington, Ia., was the guest of his sister, Mrs. Howard B. Smith.

Twenty Years Ago—
Judge H. J. Davis returned from Washington and New York, where he had been for two weeks.

At the permanent organization of the Omaha freight bureau, led by the Omaha Commercial association, of which Charles F. Weller was president, these were chosen as the executive committee: W. N. Babcock, J. S. Knox, A. C. Foster and J. N. Hake of the South Omaha Live Stock exchange; E. E. Brown, druggist; A. B. Jaquith, grain; John S. Brady, grocer; Dan Farrell, Jr., zyrrup, and D. A. Baum, hardware.

Mr. Kate Ciampitti returned from the east.

A joint committee of fourteen, representing the Board of Trade, Omaha Real Estate Owners' association, county board and city council, met at the Board of Trade rooms to devise a new system of assessing and taxing property in Omaha. Dan H. Wheeler was made chairman and N. N. Gray secretary.

The statement of real estate transfers for the week showed \$48,778.

The boys and girls of the Lake school, under direction of Miss Whitmore, principal, overran The Bee offices and building for a part of the day. They were taken through every step in the process of newspaper making and had a great time.

Ten Years Ago—
Robert D. Bosworth and Miss Nellie Hamer were married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Hamer, Thirty-eighth and Charles streets, at 2 p. m. Mr. Albert Lindquist was best man and Miss Anna Hamer bridesmaid.

Andrew Peterson, who had served 20 years as letter carrier in Omaha, announced he would leave on May 14 for a long rest in Europe.

Dr. W. H. Hanchett had to make his call on horseback because Peter Hofeldt, Dick O'Keefe and Henry Ostrom, county commissioners, had, by mistake, got his phaeton out of the livery barn and sent for a big drive over the country. When the doctor was asked if he were worth, he replied: "Well, I had to make my calls by horseback, and not being used to the saddle, I naturally feel a little sore."

The Bee's Letter Box

Not Endorsing Candidates.
OMAHA, May 6.—To the Editor of The Bee: It is being flagrantly declared by one of the leading candidates that the Ministerial union in inquiry has received secret assurances of a satisfactory attitude from the Citizens' union candidates on certain questions.

In accordance with its well known policy the Ministerial union has made no endorsement of candidates. It has asked no questions of any candidates and has received no assurances, secret or otherwise, from the Citizens' union ticket.

E. B. CRAWFORD, President.
H. B. SPEER, Secretary.

American Criticism Abroad.
LONDON, April 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: This from the Pall Mall Gazette looks good to Americans over here. Hundreds of them have been writing to the London papers, but nobody got anything printed until this chap came along. Whoever he is, he is there with the goods. It is so good, I guess they had to print it. W. W. T. of Lincoln, Neb.

Sir: Why must you and I become 100 to 1 shots immediately we go to sea? This thing of "boats for women and children" does not make a hit with me; and I am 1,000 miles from home (California) and expect to return ere long.

Through cabinet matches we learn from personal statements of women survivors in at least three boats that they were in the cars because the "crows" of their Heloise-stokers, waiters and cooks did not know how to.

After a captain has thrown away his ship, because he has disregarded wireless warnings sent him almost hourly from the captains of other vessels, it is all very well for him to shout through a megaphone "Be British!" But why should you and I remain on board to drown like rats in a big iron cage while stokers and stewards are busy with care and boats are escaping in the guise of "boat's crew" I can vouch for three of the Titanic's stewards and coal-passers, useful seamen and powerful fellows, such as a lifeboat needs—Major Butt, Mr. Astor and Mr. Fritelle. It is heartrending that they perished when they were entitled to man one of the boats in which women struggled at the oars.

Suppose it had been a dirty night! Dark, with hail and driving rain, and driving an ugly sea fierce with great waves! Then what need for strong men at the helm, and a kind of desperate women and unskilled ship's waiters and cabin attendants! Would the Carpathia have found 700 persons to rescue at sea?

Giving one's life for women and children is one thing. Self immolation for the benefit of stewards and coal-passers is another. This is something the shipping companies will have to face. What would your rowing readers do in such circumstances? I don't know about the peoples of the eastern states and eastern provinces of North America, but I could tell you pretty nearly what would be done by any man coming from west of a line drawn through Hudson bay to the mouth of the Mississippi. Respectfully, E. G. B. FITZHAMON, Oakland, Cal.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.
True Inwardness of the Magdalena Bay Scare.
Now the facts that suspicion feeds on in this case, which was said to involve the Japanese government were these, according to the State department. An American syndicate having a concession in connection with a tract of land at Magdalena Bay was tired of the bargain and desired to transfer its rights to a Japanese syndicate which was represented by an American attorney. He sounded the State department. Would the United States government oppose the transaction, looking at it through the Monroe doctrine spectacles? The syndicate would not take over the rights without the commencement of the Japanese government, and it seemed polite to inquire whether the United States would regard the transfer as objectionable. The State department did not encourage the project, intimating that in some quarters it would provoke "a great outcry," which would be embarrassing. Subsequently the American concessionaires planned a partnership with the Japanese promoters, the Americans to retain control and management of the enterprise. The State department declined to sanction it, and there the matter dropped. Naturally the department "cannot assume that there is on foot any project calling for action on the part of the government of the United States." It refers to the rumors of Japanese designs on Magdalena Bay as "of a kind that all too frequently occur to the detriment of public opinion in the respective countries and are so alien to the cordial relations of the government's concerned."

The incident shows how apprehensive the Japanese government is that the investments of its citizens in this hemisphere may be misunderstood and excite suspicion, and at the same time how careful the United States government is, in deference to mistrust of Japan, to withhold official sanction of a business contract about which no questions would be asked if the aliens interested in it were of any other nationality than Japanese.

One Term for Presidents.
Philadelphia Record.
There is very much to recommend the constitutional amendment making presidents ineligible for re-election. It is not so certain that the term should be prolonged to six years. There is no necessary connection between the two, but propositions to make the president ineligible for a second term are usually coupled with this prolongation of the term. There is a common impression that a presidential campaign is had for business, but 1892 was a notably good year, and business has for several months been steadily improving, though presidential campaign is already well under way. The recommendation of six years seems to be that it is splitting the difference between one term and two.

Senatorial Bad Taste.
Philadelphia Record.
Irreverence is a national fault. It is far more than a matter of manners; it is very closely connected with morals. A parody on the Apollon's Creed is in the very worst taste, to put the thing in its mildest form, and it is strange that a United States senator should have given such wanton offense to all religious people. Some clergymen have protested openly, and plenty of laymen are as deeply pained at such facetiousness as any ecclesiastic can be. We need to cultivate a sense of reverence, and we can well spare any jests that depend for their prosperity upon shocking universal Christian susceptibilities.

Breaking Into the Smart Set.
Chicago Record-Herald.
Only one member of China's new national assembly wore a queue when he reported at the opening of the session. Most of the others wore smart American clothes and looked as if they were there for business. China has a chance.

FORSAKING THE MAIN ROADS.
Populistic Notions Sway Both Parties in Nebraska.
St. Louis Globe-Democrat.
Nebraska is still in both parties, populistic. It has small use for conservatives, or for men who think because they know that the progress which has been made under established constitutional forms of government in this country is a sufficient guarantee of further progressiveness whenever public opinion demands it. Nebraska wants men wanting new constitutional forms for taking short cuts and displacing the forms which follow charted roads and main traveled ways. In understanding the result of the Nebraska primary, the first thing to do is to understand Nebraska. And it will be easier to get an understanding of Nebraska through considering the primary as a whole, and not as two separate party primaries, than it will be to attempt drawing party distinctions where none exist whenever the question is one of "progressiveness." Looking at the results from that practical point of view, we find Mr. Roosevelt astride of the heap, flanked on one hand by Mr. Bryan and on the other by Mr. Clark. They three are victors in the clash between such as want to keep to the middle of the road and those who want to leave the road altogether and take to the woods.

SAD IN FUN.
Johnny-Paw, what does a newspaper mean when it says "our esteemed contemporary"?

Mr. Rivers—it usually means my boy. "The miserable, contemptible, lying, snarling little sheet that pretends to consider itself an organ of public opinion!"—Chicago Tribune.

Poor young Philetus Scraggs, in 1874—"Why, of course, an income tax is all right. I only wish I had a taxable income!"

Rich old Philetus Scraggs, in 1882—"An income tax is an outrage! It leads to bribery and extortion and criminal dishonesty!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Things didn't seem to work together in your series of dramatic representations."

"They didn't," admitted Mr. Starnington Barnes. "When we played tragedy the box office receipts were a furore, and when we played farce they were a tragedy."—Washington Star.

"To show how unconsciously a man's business may be in his mind at all times, I took a financial operator in a financial office to select a dog, and what kind of a dog do you think he asked for at once?"

"What kind?"

"A water dog. Said he had heard it."

was a good stock proposition."—Baltimore American.

Dantes-Penley, the novelist, was in that morning and had a tooth pulled. Friend—An! An extra from a popular author, as it were.—Boston Transcript.

"These people in the house over the way, I am informed on credible authority, are leading a double life."

"You don't say so?"

"Yes; they're got twins."—Baltimore American.

TO ONE COMING OF AGE.
Archibald Rutledge in Youth's Companion.

A thousand minds for you have thought, A thousand hearts more kindly grew; For you a thousand hands have wrought To make you wise and brave and true. Within your eyes there shines that light, Of stars that long ago have set; An deep within their happy night, Are splendid stars untried yet.

For you the cloudy battle roared Along the plain of Marathon; For you the Roman eagles soared Against the thunder and the sun. The faculties of every race, The noble deeds of every age, Are yours to teach you knightly grace; Are yours to lead you to a hero's life.

O loyal friend with eyes so true, By gentlemanhood treasure fast; The trust of those who died for you, Far in the dim and shadowy past, In their proud giving they were glad To have the dearest, dearest foam; They willed to you the best they had, To make your world a sweeter home.

O friend, the latest and the best, Of nature's plan and man's desire, You, too, must labor and not rest; Must pass perchance, through flood and fire, Where honor leads, there boldly charge Into the furthest of the fight; And your bright memory shall emerge To glorify some future night.

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THREE PER CENT interest is paid on savings deposits and COMPOUNDED SEMI-ANNUALLY. Funds may be withdrawn at any time without notice.
The combined capital and surplus is \$1,400,000.00. It is the oldest bank in Nebraska. Established in 1856.
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