

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.  
FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER  
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR  
BEE BUILDING, FARNAM AND 17TH  
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CORRESPONDENCE.  
Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to Bee, Editorial Department.

## MAY CIRCULATION.

50,421

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, Mr. Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, say that the average daily circulation for the month of May, 1912, was 50,421. DWIGHT WILLIAMS,  
(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.

Where are any flies to swat? None on Omaha.

Marconi ought to try his hand at inventing wireless conventions.

The California couple married in an orchard doubtless expects a fruitful life.

The Cummins crowd does not seem to take Colonel Young's surrender seriously.

Lillian Russell did not have to marry an editor to get a lot of free advertising.

Mr. Lady, who is running for sheriff in a Kansas county, ought to land the women's votes.

Turkey, of course, never had as many Turks as the Italian war reporters have killed.

Mr. Rockefeller says he is a has-been. His income has dwindled down to \$140 a minute.

In a few short weeks the decorative numberboards of graduates will be tossed into the world's busy ring.

The story of that \$25,000,000 at least goes to show that Mr. Morgan's financial credit was O. K. with Uncle Sam.

A sapient Bostonian has now settled it that the Panama canal is in reality only a lemon. Then we will get the juice.

Evidently, Mr. Rockefeller has improved his opinion of money, for up to last accounts he was still holding on to a little.

By carefully noting the daily roar from the political bleachers, base ball fans may secure a few emphatic variations of their favorite "roarer."

General Wood's popularity is being subjected to some severe tests. The house and senate vote to set him back and Cuba sends word it does not care for him as a mediator.

The Rev. Dr. Anna H. Shaw opines that were she president she would make Andrew Carnegie secretary of war. Why, the government is able to endow its own war department.

"St. Louis is an ideal place for a home for wild animals," says the Post-Dispatch. On account of its forest of streets, no doubt—Walnut, Pine, Olive, Locust, Mulberry, Spruce, Elm, etc.

It is up to President Taft to save the court of commerce if he has any further use for it; both houses of congress have voted to abolish it. That means, does it, another reorganization of circuit courts?

A rich old goose paid \$100 to charity in Chicago for the privilege of kissing the prettiest of a lot of young women boosters. If charity can find enough such poultry it may soon become financially independent.

Prince Henry of Reuss, accompanying the German naval visitors, says that American girls are the prettiest in the world. The prince is a man of good taste, artistic discrimination and perspicacious temperament.

The combination of traveling salesmen which proclaimed war on the tipping evil is beating a retreat to the entrenchments of state laws. When drummers fail to deliver the goods, who can hope to succeed?

A cleverly turned compliment to the race was paid by Mayor Gaynor to the German naval officers in New York. "You Germans," he said, "speak English and everything else—all languages. And you know how to keep silent in all the languages."

## Omaha, a Home City.

In the great prosperous year of 1906 Omaha issued permits for the building of 691 dwellings at an aggregate cost of \$1,713,050. In 1911 its people built 748 dwellings for \$1,730,050. The average shows that some very modest homes were founded. At the same time other homes costing high up in the five figures were built. Omaha people of all classes and degrees of circumstances are rapidly becoming a home-owning people. Perhaps the remarkable increases shown in the business and capital of our building and loan associations is an index to that.

But we have reached the point in Omaha where our homes, large and small, characterize the city. They are uniformly well built and well kept and make an abiding impression upon the stranger who takes the time to go over any of our residence districts. The fortunate thing is that no one part of the city has been built up or beautified to the exclusion of another part. We doubt if this is so largely true of any other city in the west. All sections seem to be building alike, engaged, as it were, in a wholesome rivalry to see which can achieve the best results.

This enormous amount of home-building going on without cessation all these years gives the aspect of newness to our residential districts. And to deepen the impression of this, the general effort to beautify the home in the outer surroundings—in streets, boulevards and lawns, has a vital effect. Altogether, from the humble cottage of the wage earner to the most imposing residence of the capitalist, a uniformity of self and civic pride is apparent, making on the whole a spectacle for home comfort and beauty that not easily to match.

Such ambitions and attainments cannot help but show themselves in the making of a better, happier people and city. Centering time and money on the building and maintaining of the home is laying the effort at the very root of righteous living, enriching the soil of habit from which stable character is bound to spring.

## The Call of Humanity.

The American people are making some headway toward the conquest of tuberculosis and some other forms of insidious disease. They have done much to reduce death by accident and violence. But so much remains to be done in both lines that our efforts thus far seem very feeble.

One of the big life insurance companies has called attention through one of its publications to a few pertinent facts in this connection. For instance, in commanding our manifest grief over the Titanic's destruction of 1,635 lives, it reminds us that 1,731 lives are wasted every week by violence in the United States, 2,835 lives are wasted every week by tuberculosis—in short, 1,730 lives are lost every day by preventable causes. Or, it says, "An American dies every minute from a preventable cause."

It goes after American cities for caring more for a low tax rate than they do for a high death rate and urges the importance of employing efficient health officers. This, of course, is important, but there are other ways in which we need to rouse ourselves to this supreme and solemn obligation. Humanity makes no louder call than for reform that looks to the conservation of human life. We vaunt our superior government and rightly so, but this greatest of governments, as John Mitchell says, is killing three men to any European government's one. By their fruits ye shall know them."

Olympics and Americans.

A ship loaded with lusty American youth is steaming towards Stockholm, where the youngsters will compete with others of their years in the most elaborate athletic exhibition ever staged. The young men who are going from this country are the very cream of its youth, so far as athletic ability is concerned. Each has been chosen because of his established ability to outdo all others at his particular feat. The choice was made as the result of open competition, and without any doubt it has fairly collected the ablest of all the runners, jumpers, vaulters, weight throwers, swimmers, riders, marksmen, and others of like bent, who represent the great out-of-doors games of the country.

Other problems of equal weight are pressing for solution. None of them, perhaps, are so immediate as that of newer and stricter regulations to govern the building operations, but all must eventually be met, and it is not too early to begin the consideration of them, that a solution may be accomplished more readily when the time comes to act. One of the first that will be pressed for consideration is the matter of the downtown sewer system. Omaha has entered upon what has been called "the sky-scraper age," and with it has come the problem of how to take care of these buildings. Since the sewers were planned the business part of the city has not only been almost wholly rebuilt, with larger structures than had been contemplated, but it has also been extended so that what was residential property, but a short time ago is now well within the business district. All of this increase in growth has had a direct effect in adding to the demands upon the system of drainage, and the problem of how to make the existing system adequately accommodate the new conditions have taxed the ingenuity of the engineers and architects.

The matter has been presented to the council in such form as to demand attention. It is simply a problem in city building, and as such it must have careful consideration. While the council is setting about to reg-

ulate other folks' building, it must look carefully to its own.

## A Few Horses and Mules Left.

Every now and then someone becomes pessimistic about the amazing multiplicity of automobiles among the people and about how they are rapidly putting the horse out of commission. Doleful tales are told of how folks are squandering money they cannot afford on these luxuries.

York county, one of the wealthy and progressive centers of Nebraska, with a population in 1910 of 18,721, furnishes some statistics which ought to give a silver lining to the picture and dispel some of this gloom. Since August 1, 1911, York county people have bought 158 automobiles and since July last they have taken out 505 licenses, showing something as to the number of machines there. The aggregate assessed valuation of these autos is \$215,720.

The same county has 13,805 horses, or, at least, the assessor could find that many, and they have an aggregate assessed valuation of \$1,260,250; 1,468 mules, with an assessed valuation of \$167,605.

Giddap!

Victims of sentimental fits run from one extreme to the other. The governor of Arkansas has released all the convicts in the state penitentiary because the building is reported to be unfit for convicts. Two of the number turned loose were convicted of capital crimes and sentenced to hang. The excuse offered for disregarding the rights of society to protection from lawbreakers is well calculated to press the movement for depriving state executives of the power of pardon. The difficulties, not to speak of the cost, of securing convictions in criminal cases furnishes ample reason for denying to any one official the power to nullify the verdicts of courts and juries.

Out of every tragedy some good springs. The Titanic disaster already has wrought vast reforms for the safety of ocean going travelers. Not only is live-saving equipment sufficient for passengers and crew installed, but some of the lines have placed two captains on each steamship, so that one may be on duty at all hours. New officers have been appointed whose duties are to conserve the welfare of the crew, steerage passengers and passengers of the second and third class. Equipment, watchfulness and forethought are the keynotes of steamship management this year.

First of the progressive policies which is touching the pocketbook conscience of Wisconsin's plain people promises to be short-lived. The state income tax law takes a stated amount of income of single persons over \$800, and from married persons whose incomes are over \$1,200. But everybody with an income of \$500 or over a year must make a return to the assessor. Strenuous objection to the searching features of the law is converting progressives into reactionary repealers.

Frederic Thompson, partner of the late Elmer S. Dundy of Omaha in founding Luna Park at Coney Island and the New York Hippodrome, has filed in a Brooklyn court a petition in bankruptcy, showing liabilities of \$684,854 and assets of \$7,831. The difference represents fire losses chiefly, with incidental joy riding during business hours.

John D. Rockefeller differs little from the average mortal in viewing with alarm the activities of the tax assessor. But his protests carry more weight. A mere hint from his oil king cut the valuation on his Cleveland home from \$1,121,270 to \$883,550, the tax board ruling that the "scenery" of well kept grounds was not taxable.

Baltimore does not anticipate undue risk to property from the coming of the democratic leaders and banner bearers, nevertheless the American of that city cautions householders to see that doors and windows are well protected by locks and fastenings for convention week. Fakirs and smooth workers trail every circus.

A page of hot stuff piped by Tom Lawson in New York tells the investigator that the Money trust is composed of "a few men desirous to make vast wealth for themselves." A vote of thanks is due the mining stock plunger of Boston for banishing from the public mind the idea that the Money trust was a benevolent institution.

A variation in costly financing by municipal experts, surpassing the smooth work of the Omaha Water board, is drawing the perspiration of Los Angeles taxpayers. Ten million dollars, accumulated from the sale of bonds, will lie idle in the city treasury for a year and eat up \$450,000 in interest charges.

"Seeing America First" is easily the most economical and enjoyable invitation tendered to plain people and plutes. Raid the folder rack of a ticket office, hide to the shady side of the porch, cigar and Stein at the elbow, and the pictured scenery in plain and rainbow colors will do the rest.