

**THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.**  
 FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.  
 VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.  
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**CORRESPONDENCE.**  
 Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed Omaha Bee, editorial department.

**FEBRUARY CIRCULATION.**  
**50,823**

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss: Dwyer Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average daily circulation for the month of February, 1913, was 50,823.  
 Dwyer Williams, Circulation Manager.  
 Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 28th day of March, 1913.  
 ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.  
 (Seal.)

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

Tornadoes always have the last word.

If you sympathize, now is the time to help.

Many a man began to slip by placing his foot on the brass rail.

Nothing but the mortgage left to indicate where many a home stood.

Now watch for end-of-the-worlders after these elemental disturbances.

Get the ghouls, who, for any purpose, attempt to coin money out of human misery.

It has been a week of national agony, but the spirit of Americans is unconquerable.

In the matter of tornado insurance again, hindsight is usually better than foresight.

A correspondent writes to ask what great purpose has the boy scout movement met. Give it up.

The senate may be sure that James Hamilton Lewis is to have the very latest thing in togas.

The universal brotherhood of man has not been realized, but we have made notable progress toward it.

The British suffragettes should see by now that dynamite blows them into prison much faster than into possession of the ballot.

Some newspapers are commenting on the long life of our navy officers. Why not? What could be more conducive to health than riding around on the beautiful ocean?

If our law-makers at Lincoln will pass the appropriation bills, they may adjourn any old day now without drawing down on them the slightest resemblance of public protest.

The way to "spare us a special election" is to kill the water district bill altogether, and no long-felt want will be denied, except the want of the \$5,000 political engineer for a perpetual guaranty of his job.

Mr. Bryan is unfitted by nature for any official position which demands judgment.—Mr. Hearst's newspapers.

Yet Mr. Hearst and his newspapers fairly tore up the earth in one campaign trying to elect Mr. Bryan to the highest office in the land.

The wonder is that many deaths were not caused by live wires immediately after the tornado, when people began tramping about in the darkness over the devastated district. There is occasion here for thanksgiving.

They're taxing this and taxing that.—From real estate to last year's hat; The whole blame thing's been done to death.

Why not begin to tax our breath? —Philadelphia Inquirer.

Sometimes even that seems to be taxed as heavily as the traffic will bear.

Lincoln seems to be going through the same experience that Omaha had in its first commission plan of government try-out. All kinds of timber available for commissionerships, but altogether too much basswood and willow and not enough oak and hickory.

Out-of-town visitors are unanimous in their verdict of praise for the prompt, systematic and energetic way in which Omaha has taken in hand the work of relieving its tornado sufferers, and repairing the damage done. There is satisfaction in that.

**Where It Hits Hardest.**  
 Where disaster like our terrible tornado hits hardest is in its blinding blow to hopes and ambitions. Sudden death is tragic and heart-rending, and physical suffering carries deepest distress, because nothing can replace loved ones lost or mitigate the cruel agony of broken limbs and torn flesh. Time, however, assuages grief, and in time also wounds will heal, though leaving scars, and in time houses will be repaired or rebuilt.

Blasted hopes and crushed ambitions, however, often fail to revive. Think of the man or woman who has toiled for years to get ahead in the world, who underwent sacrifice to educate children, whose hard-earned savings have been invested in a home, be it ever so lowly, who was beginning to plan for the future, and then in a moment is set back to start all over again at the beginning, with the years flown and the strength to do again stopped.

That is where the blow strikes heaviest, where its denuding effects last longest, where it takes a mightier effort for the fallen to rise, where mental anguish is keenest, where comfort, sympathy and help are most needed.

**Attention to Rural Churches.**  
 Most religious denominations are perplexed with the reported decay of the rural church life, especially marked in the last decade. Some are attempting to devise ways of rehabilitation, and one hits upon the idea of inducing the cream of its seminary graduates to devote the first three years of their active ministry to country churches. If the retrogression in the country is due to a lack of capable leadership, this plan should work out with splendid results, if it can be made to work at all. The tendency is for the young minister to do the best he can in selecting his first field of labor, and that seldom means a country church, or a mission church, as it happens to be in many cases. The result is that those who cannot get the attractive pulpits go to the remote places and, a leading church paper says, this has become so common as to suggest that the young man who takes the mission church could do no better, and this invites odium, which hinders good work.

The idea is to create a fund under home mission boards for aiding ministerial students through seminary with the agreement that they are to give their first three years to the home mission or rural field. This, it is believed, would give the country the advantage of exceptional ability, rejuvenate country life and in turn create new religious resources available to the entire population. The theory seems plausible. Inasmuch as the church, as well as most other great agencies, has drawn much of its sinews from the country, it seems high time it were looking more sharply to the importance of cultivating its source of supplies.

**Simplified Spelling.**  
 In glancing over the list of words contained in the fourth edition of new spelling recently issued, one is inclined to believe there are some things even worse than the old system of orthography. There may be an advantage somewhere in spelling "following" without the "w," "echo" with the "h," and "zone" with the "e," but where, may we ask? Or why spell physician "fizician," and odd "od," and phonograph "fono-graph," and enough "enuff"? Do we really owe that much to simplicity, or even to euphony? Have we not some slight debt to the appearance of things, if not to our ancestors?

But if revisions in our spelling are begun, why not go the whole distance? For instance, why stop at spelling physician f-y-s-i-c-i-a-n? If we are going in for simplified spelling, let us go in, right and spell this word "fishan," which is much more simple than the other. And so on down the list many such improvements suggest themselves. Whatever great and important need is to be met by this spelling reform—we confess our ignorance of it—certainly cannot be met by any half-way work. Reform to be effective must be drastic and complete.

**The Home in Court.**  
 The Chicago Tribune suggests that our courts are rapidly becoming demoralized, that whereas family quarrels in the past were quietly settled around the fireside by calling an elderly uncle or aunt to act as arbiter, the man and wife today parade their grievances before the world in civil court; that instead of a bed slain in the hands of a stern, but loving father for the boy who stole an apple, today the lad is jailed before an austere juvenile judge. All of which, opines the Tribune, suggests the wisdom of women as judges and assistants to judges as specialists in domestic problems.

Perhaps we shall come to that—we have come to so many queer ends—but where is the assurance of its accomplishing the desired object? It is sad to observe how poorly our present modern methods of reform seem to compare with the past in conducting the wholesome conditions of the home, if the comparison may be made partially from the standpoint of the ever increasing number of homes blasted by divorce and boys sent to various correctional institutions, boys, who, perhaps, are little different from the lads of other days. Before resorting to additional public expedients to reform the home, would it not be wise to attempt some reform within the home, itself? That, of course, suggests a difficult task, so long as parents are diverted from the supreme importance of maintaining the old-fashioned fireside as the cen-

**That Municipal Paper.**  
 The citizens of Los Angeles by a referendum vote have "recalled" their municipal newspaper, founded a year ago for the purpose of securing publication of "reliable news" "concerning all departments of civic life. It cost \$26,000 a year to maintain the paper and by a large majority the venture has been dispensed with.

It must be almost self-evident that whatever ill or faults the daily newspaper may possess are not curable by the remedy of a municipal organ. The reason is that no "organ" can ever become or take the place of a newspaper. The business of a newspaper is intimately related to public news with all possible accuracy as to the facts, and as the paper is intimately related to and dependent upon popular favor for its support, responsible to its readers for what it says and does, the privately-owned paper is more amenable to public reproach than an official organ could possibly be.

The free press contemplated by the authors of the constitution was not

a press-owned or controlled by the government. It was a press untrammelled by any restrictive influence or hampering manacles in any way calculated to lessen its accountability to the public. Official organs may be set up and maintained, but they are not, and cannot be newspapers in the real sense.

**The Psychology of Exaggeration.**  
 It is too bad that, as if adding to Omaha's calamity, the news faker must play upon our misfortune by gross exaggeration. His earliest statement of losses have been persisted in until they have evidently been accepted as true all over the land. While there may have been some excuse for distortion at the first, natural to most minds under the stress of shock, there is no excuse for letting these reports stand uncorrected. One of the most reliable and conservative New York papers discusses editorially our loss of life at 300 and property at \$13,000,000. Similarly the report has been repeated that Omaha had \$1,000,000 on hand at the very start for relief. One report even quotes Commissioner Ryder as saying so, which shows that the exaggeration was neither accidental or excusable.

Under conditions such as those visited upon this and other communities during the week, the mind instinctively tends to magnify instead of minimizing results. A cyclone or tornado is never thought of in the positive, but always the superlative degree. Our mental processes seem incapable of accurate conclusions under stress, which, however, is not surprising. To see ten lives and a hundred houses swept away suggests a hundred lives and a thousand houses. Yet men do not trust their distracted senses for the facts; they seek them out by diligent search, having found which, they revise their conceptions, if they are honest. But some will even then grudgingly accept or frankly reject the truth, preferring to cling to the first impression simply because it is more terrible.

**American Adviser for China.**  
 It is natural that China should again come to America for an official adviser to the new republic as an aid in the reform of its constitution, for America is the source of its inspiration for constitutional government. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, founder of the republic, is a product of American social and educational influence, as are many of the men associated with him in this great revolutionary reform.

The summons of Prof. Frank J. Goodnow of Columbia university to serve as adviser to the Chinese government is only another tribute to our scholarship and institutions. This is regarded in the United States as a most fortunate selection, for in the long years of his service at Columbia Prof. Goodnow has exerted far-reaching influence upon other scholars, who have gone to the ends of the earth. Indeed, he has had under his tutelage some of the young leaders of the New China. The English-speaking secretary to President Yuan Kai Kai, in fact, is a graduate of Columbia, which has received its quota of the young Chinese sent to this country under the terms of the Hay agreement, growing out of the Boxer indemnity concession, to be educated in our colleges and universities.

Prof. Goodnow's opportunity will be great, and his ability to meet the test is acknowledged. His eminence as a student and teacher of constitutional government and economic development is recognized abroad. Another scholar thus goes forth into the field of politics of the widest possible domain to prove, no doubt, the eminent fitness of scholarship for the practical administration of governmental affairs.

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**Thirty Years Ago—**  
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The Paxton hotel is making a good move in having their crossing cleaned, as the south side of Farnam street seems to be hopelessly lost in the mud.

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**Like Mother, Like Son.**  
 The little boy, his brother and widowed mother had lost their lowly cottage and all belongings in the storm. The child was sent to a friend to ask for work for the mother. The friend offered him a coin.

"Oh, no, mother wouldn't want me to take that," he said, drawing back.

"Why, you need it; you have no money and no home," urged the friend.

"No," persisted the boy, "mother says there are so many worse off than we," and he took the money reluctantly.

**Rather large altruism for a lad of 8, but it was genuine. Evidently it reflected the stout, true heart of the lonely little widow seeking nothing but the opportunity of earning bread for herself and two little boys.**

Weak, erring humanity scales some lofty heights sometimes, and it seems to rise highest from the lowest depressions of adversity. Many an object lesson of the nobility of character has come from the tense trials of the last week to teach us what it means to live. Such a mother of such a son will not want long after he grows up, and she must not want now.

**City Charter Limitations.**  
 While in the framing of a home-rule charter the charter-makers have a practically free hand over all strictly municipal activities, they are still subject to limitations which rule out many suggestions that are being offered. Good advice is always desired and welcomed, but unless those giving advice have a fair notion of charter jurisdiction their suggestions are apt to be more or less impracticable.

The work of the charter-makers, it should be understood, must be subject to the general state laws. It is the consensus of legal opinion that they cannot repeal or change laws that apply uniformly throughout the state or to all cities. If so, we cannot through our charter abolish the 8 o'clock law or the Albert law, any more than we can rescind the law making it a felony to steal or to set up a gambling device, although we might possibly add local regulations on top of state restrictions. It is a question whether we can alter the distribution of governmental powers. For example, judicial power is vested with the regularly constituted judges, and poor relief devolves upon the county. The charter-makers cannot take over the county hospital to the city any more than they can take over the county court house, so that suggestions relating to reorganization of county hospital and poor farm, however pertinent, come as goods to the wrong market, unless it is the desire to have the city duplicate work now done by the county.

Charter-makers are limited in many other ways by the peculiar traditions of our own city government, by property and institutions belonging to the city which are, and must be, maintained by the existing debt burden and by present and prospective financial resources. In the very nature of things, Omaha's new charter must be a revision and rearrangement rather than a brand new factory-product built for an ideal city.

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 Experience is a surpassing booster for protective insurance.

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"Living close to nature" is an attractive lure while nature is peacefully disposed. But when nature gets on its high horse and roars the wise one scots for the chair.

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The most important industry in this country is the live stock industry. Its products in a year exceed by 40 per cent the value of all the iron and steel produced annually in the United States.

Now a year of floods is always a year of grass. Pastures will be fat this year and meadows stand waist high. Our chief industry will receive a wonderful stimulus. Floods may drown out some wheat, but they will give us a bumper crop of hay, and the hay crop of the United States is worth more than 40 per cent more than the wheat crop.

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**City Charter Limitations.**  
 While in the framing of a home-rule charter the charter-makers have a practically free hand over all strictly municipal activities, they are still subject to limitations which rule out many suggestions that are being offered. Good advice is always desired and welcomed, but unless those giving advice have a fair notion of charter jurisdiction their suggestions are apt to be more or less impracticable.

The work of the charter-makers, it should be understood, must be subject to the general state laws. It is the consensus of legal opinion that they cannot repeal or change laws that apply uniformly throughout the state or to all cities. If so, we cannot through our charter abolish the 8 o'clock law or the Albert law, any more than we can rescind the law making it a felony to steal or to set up a gambling device, although we might possibly add local regulations on top of state restrictions. It is a question whether we can alter the distribution of governmental powers. For example, judicial power is vested with the regularly constituted judges, and poor relief devolves upon the county. The charter-makers cannot take over the county hospital to the city any more than they can take over the county court house, so that suggestions relating to reorganization of county hospital and poor farm, however pertinent, come as goods to the wrong market, unless it is the desire to have the city duplicate work now done by the county.

Charter-makers are limited in many other ways by the peculiar traditions of our own city government, by property and institutions belonging to the city which are, and must be, maintained by the existing debt burden and by present and prospective financial resources. In the very nature of things, Omaha's new charter must be a revision and rearrangement rather than a brand new factory-product built for an ideal city.

**People and Events.**  
 Experience is a surpassing booster for protective insurance.

Henceforth the Irishmen of Omaha need not hark back to 1883 for recollections of the Big Wind.

If Austria would tackle some nation near its size, Vienna ultimatum would be watching.

"Living close to nature" is an attractive lure while nature is peacefully disposed. But when nature gets on its high horse and roars the wise one scots for the chair.

Mrs. Mary Muroski, a Polish bride in Philadelphia, danced at the bridal ball with 22 partners at a head, earning a hefty fund for household necessities. The bridegroom, looking on, cheered her to the limit.

Large bunches of moss are peeling off the judicial body in Missouri these days. Down in Kansas City, last week, Judge Lucas smashed precedents galore by finding a lawyer for making frivolous motions designed to delay a case ready to go on trial.

Miss Mary Belle Shedd, one of the belles of Boston, gets a cinch on an inheritance of \$20,000 by getting married and raising a family of one or more.

The marvelous intuitive faculty of the sex biases forth in the fact that Miss Shedd had already selected an eligible partner.

New Yorkers are growing so critical in reform efforts that high and mighty officials are feared at being they consume a different brand of water than that supplied to the common herd. Things are coming to a mighty tough stage when officials cannot enjoy a superior article as a chaser at public expense without being called down.

**Muffled Knocks.**  
 It's the tireless energy of some people that makes them tireless.

There isn't much hope for a boy who wears curls unless he hates 'em.

It is much easier to cast your bread upon the waters than to drown your sorrows.

The woman who prefers comfort to style soon gets the reputation of being eccentric.

One sort of suit that is always made large enough to stand a little shrinkage is a damage suit.

Has it ever occurred to you that you can save yourself a lot of trouble by keeping it to yourself?

If you are going to have a falling out with a girl, stick to a hammock. Don't take her up in an aeroplane.

Many a man saves money by not using tobacco, but it is doubtful if the money has the same soothing effect.

The fellow who makes up his mind he is going to marry a certain girl in spite of all obstacles would rather be consistent than happy.

Covetousness is the most common failing. The poor envy the luxuries of the rich, in spite of the fact that these same luxuries don't seem to make the rich any happier.—New York Times.

**Blasts from Ram's Horn.**  
 The darker the prospect, the safer it is to count on God for help.

The man who is living a lie has the devil after him with a red-hot crowbar.

Don't bear down too hard on the grindstone, if you don't want the boy to leave the farm.

No man will be right in his conduct while his thinking is wrong.

The harder time St. Paul had the less he wished a vacation.

The man who pays the taxes on the land often gets the least out of it.

The smaller the congregation the harder it ought to be to dodge the preaching.

There are men who think the dinner horn makes better music than the pipe organ.

Some folks are like cheap restaurants—everything in the front window, and no meat on the table.

The farmer knows better than to tap a cottonwood tree when he desires maple syrup, but there are men who will put two cents in the basket and expect to get a blessing that will shake the house.

**THE SILVER LINING.**  
 Cities and districts suffering from storm and flood should take heart to remember one thing: Such a spring as the present one is usually followed by harvests of almost immeasurable abundance.

The most important industry in this country is the live stock industry. Its products in a year exceed by 40 per cent the value of all the iron and steel produced annually in the United States.

Now a year of floods is always a year of grass. Pastures will be fat this year and meadows stand waist high. Our chief industry will receive a wonderful stimulus. Floods may drown out some wheat, but they will give us a bumper crop of hay, and the hay crop of the United States is worth more than 40 per cent more than the wheat crop.

We think little about it because it is chiefly consumed on the farm and reaches the market in the form of meat, but a year of good grass is a good year for the American farmer.

Another thing: A wet spring extends the margin of profitable cultivation westward. On the prairies the blue-stem

**Looking Backward This Day in Omaha.**  
 COMPILED FROM BEE FILES  
 MARCH 30.

**Thirty Years Ago—**  
 A grand musicale and literary entertainment was given at the North Presbyterian church, the program including musical numbers by Ella Armstrong, Gertrude Baker, Professor H. D. Pell, Grace Pratt and Jettie Hulbert, Stella Hill, Emma Baker and Archie Pratt and W. H. Reid, and recitations or readings by Florence French, Hattie Haggood, Jessie Carew, Ella Fong, Rev. F. S. Blayney and Rose Eddy.

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