THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR. The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.

BEE BUILDING, FARNAM AND SEVENTEENTH. Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter, TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.
By carrier
per month.

Sunday Bee only. Send notice of charge of address or complaints Pregularity in delivery to Omaha Bee, Circulation Department.

REMITTANCE.

Remit by draft, express or postal order. Only two-cent stamps received in payment of small accounts Personal checks, except on Omaha and eastern exchange, not accepted.

Omaha—The Bee Building
Bouth Omaha—2015 N street.
Council Bluffs—14 North Main street.
Lincoln—25 Little Building.
Chicago—901 Hearst Building.
New York—Room 105, 256 Fifth avenue.
St. Louis—503 New Bank of Commerce.
Washington—725 Fourteenth St., N. W. OFFICES.

CORRESPONDENCE, Address communications relating to news and edi-orial matter to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

SEPTEMBER CIRCULATION.

56,519

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, se.

Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bes
Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that
the average daily circulation for the month of September, 1914, was \$6.519.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager,
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
me, this 2d cay of October, 1914

BOHERT HUNTER, Netary Public.

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

It looks, however, as if Ostend were only half way.

Choese it on this talk of dragging the Swiss into the war.

illusion in Europe now.

"Seeing things" up in the air is no mere

Sense of humor may pass current if one has no commercial coin about him,

Lucky for those Britishers that the channel happens to be water, and not land.

Those Philadelphia warriors acted as if Boston had filled them with dum-dums.

The war has sent the price of canaries up another notch. The cat should worry.

Sometimes a man acquires the title of "kernel" because of his resemblance to a nut,

The tardiness of frost this fall ought to make pumpkin pie a popular mid-winter luxury.

St. Louis folks are talking of reviving their old-time fair. Well, it was a good one while it

The way to reform the coroner's office is to abolish it. Why try to reform an unadulterated

"B stands for Beltrami, Bossies, Beef, Bread and Butter," says a Minnesota paper. And it Hable. might add, also, for "Bunk."

On what strange meat does this our Stallings feed that he hath grown so great?-Philadelphia Inquirer. On the meat of "White Elephants," of

Come on, Nebraskans, get a good berth with your Christmas gifts on the good ship, "In His Name," bound for the little folks of war-smitten

It is the longest session of congress on record since the foundation of the republic. More members of congress, more constituents represented and more business transacted.

Still the hired promoters of the down-town university campus ought to be able to wage their campaign for the benefit of the boarding-house keepers without resorting to such transparent

People of Omaha never had such a large choice of good men for school board places. With two or three exceptions, they could not go wrong by choosing any of the candidates who are in the field.

Colonel Roosevelt has just filed a deed for a burial lot, which the Baltimore American construes as preparations for the obsequies of the bull moose party. That's too grave a subject to be a joking matter.

Omaha is altogether too full of professional hoboes. We have real sympathy for men who want work and cannot get it, but no sympathy for men who won't work. We ought to have a workhouse for won't-workers.



The grand republican rally took place according to schedule, and the torchlight procession was a darzier. From the accounts we learn that the Fourth ward delegation, 150 with torches with G. M. Hitchcock in the van, followed immediately in the rear of the Irish-American club, and behind it came Master Broatch's company of fifty youths. The speakers were John Rush, Governor Dawes, Congressman Weaver, Schator Manderson, John L. Webster and Major T. S. Clarkson. There were 3,000 torches in the

The bankers of the city have perfected arrangements for establishing a clearing house in the city It is probable that the First National bank will be the place and H. S. Hughes, the manager, J. M. Stafford and J. P. Dohaney have received

dons as letter carriers Mrs. E. T. Bean of Vall, Ia., formerly Miss Millie Matheson of this city, in the guest of Mrs. C. C.

The Eurlington & Missouri River ran over its first bridge at Thirteenth street today. The present structure is only temporary and will be replaced by an from bridge of 160-foot span.

Because of ill health Felix Blavin has given up his saloon business.

Charlie Goodrich and several friends left for a grand fishing and hunting tour. An inquisitive repoyter inventoried their outfit and listed the bottles

Freedom of Speech and Press.

That looks like a tough proposition put up to the overseers of Harvard university to dismiss one of their most distinguished professors or forego the prospect of a bequest which may reach into the millions. But the decision ought not to be difficult. A patriotic American once made himself famous by his declaration, "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute." Whether we agree, or disagree, with Prof. Munsterberg, ours is supposed to be a land of free speech and free press, and freedom to express honest convictions should be the cornerstone of an institution dedicated to the search for and dissemination of truth. Harvard, nor any other institution, can afford to sell its academic freedom for any amount of foreign gold, large or small, in hand or in the future.

Another Graft That Shoud Be Abolished.

The way to reform the coroner's office is not to elect one man coroner instead of another, but to abolish the position altogether. The office of coroner if a graft, and worse than a graft. We are not saying this specifically with reference to the present coroner or with reference to Omaha, but with reference to the office of coroner as similarly conducted wherever it

In New York a movement is on foot to abolish the office of coroner as a useless extravagance and relic of obsolete conditions. Here in Douglas county the coroner's office is the one fee office that lingers in the court house, the only office with no limit fixed by law to the amount of money it can absorb. As we have observed elsewhere, there is no more need for the taxpayers to maintain the office of coroner than there is to maintain a superintendent of aviation. The bodies of people who meet accidental or homicidal deaths should be taken in charge by the sheriff, and the inquiry into causes of any suspicious death should be conducted by the county attorney, with the regular resources of his office.

So we repeat what we have said at the outset-the thing to do is not to change coroners, but to re-elect Coroner Crosby once more, and then to abolish the office with the expiration of his term.

Below the Head of the Ticket.

Regardless of differences of opinion as to candidates for governor, no one seriously disputes the superiority of the republican nominees for state offices below the head of the ticket. because in experience, ability and reliability. they are head and shoulders above their oppo-

For lieutenant governor, Senator Hoagland has a record of fine service in the state senate and familiarity with the rules and procedure, which he would enforce as the senate's presiding

For secretary of state, Addison Wait has been renominated: an old soldier who is now filling the office satisfactorily.

For treasurer, Franklin C. Hamer has been in business giving information about financial conditions and investments, useful not only to him as custodian of public funds, but also as member of the boards that invest the school moneys and supervise the state banking.

For auditor, Walter L. Minor is the present efficient deputy, industrious, steady, and re-

For land commissioner, Fred Beckmann has been renominated after one term's faithful per formance of his duties.

For attorney general, Charles W. Sears, a reputable, active and aggressive young lawyer. has been called upon to give up a lucrative private practice to handle the law business of the

For state superintendent, the republican nominee is A. O. Thomas, formerly president of the Kearney Normal school; not only a wellequipped educator, but of proved independence of the school ring.

For railway commissioner, Thomas L. Hall is up for re-election, after standing at all times courageously for what he believes to be in the interest of the people.

As against the opposing candidates, each and every one of these men measure up to higher standards of public service.

The Latest Fake Exploded.

Our amiable democratic contemporary, the World-Herald, seems to be distressed over the amount which the county will this year pay The Bee for printing the delinquent tax list.

The reason this amount will be larger this year is that the delinquent tax list covers several pages more this year than last year, and the reason for this is that it includes the delinquent special assessments levied by the water board against abutting property owners to pay the cost of extending water mains. The World-Herald wants people to believe that the county would pay less if this were printed in the World-Herald or in some other newspaper than The Bee, but this is where it is egregiously, or will fully, mistaken, for the price is definitely fixed by law as so much per description of the property, and the county would pay the same no matter where printed. 'The Bee's contract for the county advertising was obtained by competitive bid, ours being a shade lower than the World-Herald's.

There is just one way therefore to reduce the cost of printing the delinquent tax list, and that is for the water board to stop assessing for water mains and for the property owners to pay up before taxes become delinquent.

Our fellow townsman, Constantine J. Smyth. appearing for the attorney general in a suit against the Southern Pacific out in Oregon, with some of the most prominent lawyers in the country arrayed against him, is said to have made "one of the most powerful and brilliant arguments before that tribunal." We congratulate Mr. Smyth, and hope he is paving the way with the democratic powers that be for something better.

The Bee is gratified to know that some of the reputable lawyers of the state are going to the legislature next winter with measures to correct some of the shameful abuses now practiced in our courts. And we are also gratified to have assurances from these lawyers of appreciation of The Bee's pioneer effort along this line, which is causing much discomfort to crooked parasites on the legal profession.

SHORT BALLOT AND REFORM OF ELECTION MACHINERY

Address Delivered by Victor Rosewater, Editor of The Bee, Before the Economic League and at the Request of the League Printed for the General Reading Public.

Exections but a Means to an End.

What I have to say about the short ballot will. I believe, be better understood by treating the subject as part of a larger discussion of our election machinery as a whole, for all these details of registration, form of ballot and method of voting are but a means to an end. the end being efficient and responsible government conforming to the duly expressed will of

Town Meeting the Simplest Form.

"The simplified form of voting is that of a town meeting, and it is from the town meeting that all the complicated machinery of the pres ent day election has been evolved. In the old town meeting everybody who was entitled to vote, or to participate in the government, assembled at the same time and at the same place, usually in the town hall. Every act was an act of local self-government; the meeting organized by choosing its own presiding officer, secretary, tellers, etc. In other words, the voters of each voting district selected their own election board from among themselves, and uestions and candidacies were put and deelded, as a rule, by viva voce vote, or if any doubt, by division. Where offices were to be filled, the man elected was often the unanimous choice, and seldom were there more than two candidates for any one place. In the latter event, those in favor of one man would go to ope side of the hall, and those in favor of his opponent to the other side, and be counted. There was no secrecy about it, no slates, ballots, no charges of fraud, no recount and no ontests. Only one office was filled at a time, and all the voters knew the candidates, or had them pointed out to them. Only in case it was desired to have a secret ballot were tellers appointed, when blank pieces of paper were passed around, and each voter recorded by his own written ballot. From this form of ballot we have developed the eight-foot ballot of today by multiplying elective offices and organizing numerous political parties, each feeling it in cumbent to have a candidate for every office on the ticket and, furthermore, by inviting those dissatisfied with the party nominations to add still more candidates by petition. Because we are no longer able to assemble all the voters of a town or city in one hall at one time, to accommodate them, we apportion them into voting districts, have polls opened at designated places and kept open between fixed hours to enable the voters to come and go according to their own convenience. The election officers are no longer chosen by the voters from among themselves, but are hired for the purpose as semiprofessionals, and after the voter deposits his ballot he has nothing more to do.

"Now, in a town meeting there was no question about ascertaining the will of the majority, and there was little opportunity for jugglery or fraud. But too many of our present election laws are built on the theory that all the voters are dishonest, and therefore put the burden of proving himself honest, and entitled o vote, on the voter, instead of the reverse. Objects to Be Kept Constantly in View.

"In substituting our more complex election machinery for the simple town meeting idea, we should keep two objects in view: First, to facilitate the free and intelligent exercise of the suffrage; second, to protect our elections against fraud, corruption and coercion-to make sure that the result is the real expression of the real voters by a majority or plurality, as the case may be. Does our present ballot serve this purpose, or has it not become an obstacle in the way of accomplishing these objects? 1 maintain that the long ballot tends to destroy the free and intelligent exercise of suffrage and that in so doing it opens the way for fraud.

Some Facts Out of Nebraska Experience, "Let me recite a few facts out of our own Nebraska experience. In the last primary in this county, to express himself on each office or measure on the ballot, the voter had to make fifty-eight crossmarks. The reason for this is to be found in the fact that we have inaugurated blenniak elections, and this year shoved two elections into one. We had to nominate not only all the candidates who would have otherwise been nominated this year, but also all the candidates who would have been nominated last year except for a change in the law which added a year to the then incumbents' terms.

What the Long Ballot is Coming To. "Now, at the next primary election in 1916, we will have to nominate candidates not only for all of the two-year offices nominated this year, but also for a lot more-for an aggregate of ninety, if the present law remains unchanged.

"This leaves out of consideration altogether the possible constitutional amendments submitted by the legislature at the primary, and all initiative and referendum measures which may come up at the election. It also leaves out of consideration all possible vacancies in office. and all possible new elective offices which may be created by the next legislature. I repeat, it is not possible for any person of average intelligence to make upwards of ninety crossmarks on a primary ballot to choose candidates for office on which depend the vital policies and administration of the government, and do it conscientiously to suit even himself.

Guesswork Nominations and Elections. "What really determines the nominations to these minor offices on which public attention cannot be focused? It is the indifference of the voters, or the possession of a catchy name, or luck in clinging to the coat-talls of some popular candidate for some office that is in issue. A few years ago we had a primary in which the office of lieutenant governor was contested between Lieutenant Governor Hopewell, up for re-election, and a man named Walter Johnson, who lived in the remote western part of the state, and, so far as anyone knew, had never figured in republican politics. On the contrary, he had been a populist up to a few months before, and had praviously been a can didate for nomination on the populist ticket. Now, under those circumstances, if anyone should be picked for a walk-away, it should have been Lieutenant Governor Hopewell, who was a pioneer of the state, widely known as a Masonic grand master, had sat on the district bench, had served before as lieutenant governor, and had made many friends, and few, if any, enemies. But when the votes were counted, it was discovered that in the whole state of Nebraska Judge Hopewell had only about 3,000 more votes than his unknown competitor. In other words, all but 1,500 voters marked their ballots automatically according to the doctrine of chance, which split them in two, and Judge Hopewell owed his nomination to the 1,500 who made their votes effective. Long Ballot Disfranchises the Voter.

"Another defect of the long ballot is seen the fact that it disfranchises a large part of the The ballot is so confusing that it is impossible to exercise the suffrage down the whole length of it, and to deny a voter part of his vote is only a smaller degree of disfranchisement than to deny him all of his vote. Long Ballot Facilitates Fraud.

"Still another thing, the long ballot does not prevent fraud or corruption where the voter wants to be corrupt, and is smart enough to carry out his bargain. These corrupt bargains, furthermore, are not all carried on in densely populated cities, but are worked just as much in country precincts. I read a statement in a Lincoln newspaper not long ago describing the situation in one of the counties of the First district, where a large part of the voters in a certain voting district had carried out an agreement to deliver their votes to certain candidates for a cash consideration, each one being given, as a key, a different name to write in on the blank line for road overseer, the appearance of that name on the ballot, and in the canvassed return, perfecting his claim to compensation.

Now, really, why should we elect road overseers unless to furnish receipts for venal voters.

Three Ways to Shorten the Ballot, Assuming that I have proved the case against the long ballot, the practical question is how to shorten it, and the answer is not so easy, or, rather, while the answer is easy, its application more or less difficult. There are two or three ways to shorten the ballot. The first is to reduce the number of elective offices; the second is to have more elections, so as to fill fewer offices at each election; and the third is to lengthen the terms of the offices we have, and make them overlapping. If I had my way, I would be inclined to use all three of these methods, and this is the way I won subject, of course, to modification of detail: Reducing Number of Elective Offices.

"I would reduce the number of state executive offices to three-governor, lieutenant governor and railway commissioner-and leave all the rest to be appointed by the governor and confirmation by the state senate. There is no more reason why we should elect a land commissioner and an attorney general by popular vote than there is for electing the chancellor of the university or the professor of botany. would continue to elect the lieutenant governor for the reason that I would want to make sure of an elective chief executive all the time. I would continue to elect the state railway commissioner because of his being charged with many duties involving public policy that should be directly responsive to popular demand,

"Next, I would reduce the number of legislative candidates by requiring separate districts for each senator and representative, so that no voter would help choose more than one senator or more than one representative. This is the only logical theory of representation. To choose twelve in a bunch produces misrepresentation. The election en bloc was justified and retained heretofore because members of the legislature used to choose the United States senators, and it was desirable to have solid delegations for that purpose, but this reason no longer exists, since we have United States senators chosen

by direct popular vote. "Then, I would abolish and consolidate a number of present offices. I would merge, for example, the office of county assessor, register of deeds and county clerk. I would make the county superintendent, county surveyor, and clerk of the court appointive. I would abolish the office of coroner altogether as a useless graft, and devolve such of his duties as should be carried out on the sheriff and county attorney. I would create one new office-that of county auditor, and merge with it the audit and control of the city, school district and Water board accounts. I would reduce the justices of the peace to two or three and make all constables appointive the same as bailiffs. Separate National and Local Elections.

'In one respect I would multiply our elections, I think I would separate the primary which is to determine our presidential politics from the primary which is to nominate state and local officers. What I mean is, that every fourth year I would have a separate and distinct presidential primary, free from complications with state and local candidacies/

Making Overlapping Terms of Office.

"Another way to shorten the ballot is to make longer and overlapping terms. We have this already in the case of our university regents: members of the State Railway commissi members of the supreme court, members of our county board, members of the Water board and members of the school board. I would be inclined to apply this principle at least to the district judges-give them longer terms, and vote for one-third of them at a time on the same plan that we vote for supreme court judges. The same might be done with county offices, and could with advantage be done with the membership of our state senate, making it a more permanent body than the house,

"It goes without saying that to bring about all these changes would require constitutional amendments, as well as statutory enactments. But with our initiative, it would not be hard to formulate and submit the whole scheme with, or without, the consent of the legislature.

Abolish Swallow-it-Straight Party Circle. "Just a few words more with reference to the machinery of the election, because the length, form and size of the ballot are, as I have said, merely a means to an end.

"With a short ballot we are free to abolish the party circle, and inaugurate what is known as the Massachusetts ballot, whereby every voter must by his own crossmark indicate a positive choice of the candidate he prefers.

Permanent Registration of Voters. "Here in Omeha, South Omeha and Lincoln-I believe in no other Nebraska cities-we already have registration of voters. In Orasha and South Omaha we have a permanent registra-tion, and, by the way, let me recall that I suggested and advocated a permanent registration long before it materialized. I appeared before the legislative committee which took testimony here in 1911, and urged a law creating a permanent registration bureau under supervision of an elections board made up of the clerk of the district court, the county clerk and city clerk of Omaha. I believe in permanent registration, and in nonpartisan administration of election machinery, although I do not believe in any method adopted that over-rides the principle of home rule by making the election missioner appointive by, and responsible to, the governor at Lincoln, instead of to our own

Require State-Wide Registration of Voters "But what I started out to say is that I would favor state-wide registration and enrollment of all the voters in a similar manner. If such a check and safeguard is good for Omaha and Lincoln, it would be likewise salutary in the smaller towns and rural districts. A small step has already been taken in that direction in the law providing for compilation of a voters mailing list, to which the secretary of state is to send copies of the official initiative and referendum pamphlet. Obviously, if we had statewide registration, that mailing list would ready at hand; not only that, but accurate and Vote-at-Home System Should Be Devised.

"I will indulge a still further thought as to the ballot of the future at the risk of being called for being too progressive. I hope to see the day when we will have not only a short ballot, but a ballot that can be prepared and marked at home, whee the election officials will send out to each voter, at the address from which he is registered, a ballot to be identified by number and signature, which he may study and mark at his leisure, and return on a designated day through the mails. The only objection to this I can conceive of is that it might break into the secrecy of the ballot, but the secrecy of the ballot is intended only to protect the voter against coercion by others. There is no secrecy now for any voter unless he wants to keep his ballot secret, and he could continue to do so under the vote-at-home plan if he wanted to. It might be suggested that this scheme would be too expensive, but investigation would show that it would be less expensive than the present method, even with paying full postage rate on sending the ballots out and bringing them back. That would be only 4 cents vote, and there is no place in the state where we can poll votes at an election booth for so economical an outlay.

Short Ballot and Simple Election Machinery Safeguard Popular Government. "Give us a short ballot without a party circle, official terms of reasonable length and overlapping, one to a district for legislative representatives, state-wide registration and enrollment, and the vote-at-home, and if the people do not then get the kind of government they want, it will be their own fault."

Futility of Forts

Indianapolis News: The question, Why is a fortification?" is becoming harder and harder to answer. And those persons who opposed the fortification of the Panama canal still feel that the money was wasted.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: It required actual war to prove that the strongest of modern forts cannot withstand the battering of the most powerful of modern The photographs of the ruined guns. Belgian works are sufficient evidence that the ingenuity of the military scien- Journal tists has done far more for the offensive than for the defensive.

Springfield Republican: That modern artillery would do enormous damage to women anything short of steel armor, was known before this war, but the full extent of such damage seems to have been underestimated. Apparently the fort of the future, if there are to be forts, must not only have its turrets thickly armored both on the sides and on top, but the immediately surrounding slopes as well must be so armored, if possible, as to cause projectiles to glance off and prevent the slopes from being blown away.

New York Post: It will be difficult, hereafter for war ministers to demand millions for structures that are certain to prove merely the tombs of their defenders. In addition to this the question must also be asked whether the money which may be lost by the shelling of so great and rich a city as Antwerp does not exert a powerful if unconscious influence against the defenders and in favor of an early surrender. In the future it should be a powerful argument against fortifying any great urban marts of trade

New York World: If forts are so valueless as a protection in time of war as might seem from the experience of Bel-

gium, the question remains to puzzle the layman why such enormous pulns have been taken to build them. Why have both France and Germany placed so great dependence upon them? Have the best military experts deliberately been deceiving themselves? In similar circumstances would the German forts of Mets and Strassburg and the French forts of Verdun, Toul, Epinal and Belfort have been so easily forced to surrender.

SAID IN FUN.

"I'd like to see a one-hose shay," re-marked the city visitor.
"Out of date," said his country host.
"The nearest we can come to it now is a one-cylinder car."—Louisville Courier-

"Men don't gossip," said the superior person.
"No," replied his wife, "they let the women gossip. The men merely come home to dinner and listen eagerly to any news their wives may have picked up."—Washington Star.

"I guess my neighbor is going to have a new car after all."
"What makes you think so?"
"I see he has succeeded in putting a second mortgage on his house."—Louis-ville Courier-Journal.

Dick-I thought you were not going to give Miss Bankem anything for her birth-day?

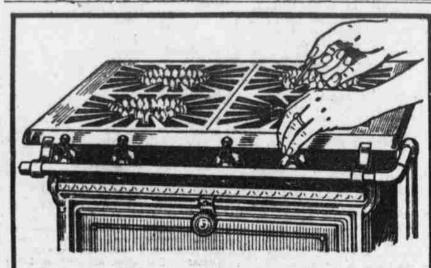
Tom-I wasn't. But how could I re-fuse? She sent me a bunch of forget-me-nots the day before.—Judge.

"That man's been in the wars. He told me of all the men he killed and all the wounds he got."
"Then I suppose those are his scars of glory he was showing."
"Nope; that's where our dog bit him."
—Baltimore American.

"You must mind your feet if you want to learn the new dances."
"Never mind the footwork, professor. Just teach me the holds."—Pittsburgh Post.

"Where did you spend the summer?"
"Where I lost my identity."
"Eh?"
"Among my wife's relatives, where I'm simply known as 'Mary's busband."—
New York World.

The superior availty of the Gordon hot is more opporent offer a season's Prove it. WEAL.



One Safe Home Match will light all four burners

with a short-stick flame "takes hold."

your fingers, the chances are about three in five that the rush of gas from the burner will blow the match

If you are exceptionally fortunate, you may light one burnerpossibly even two. To light the others, you have to go through the same rigmarole.

With one Safe Home Match you can light all four burners. The stick

Try to light a gas stove is large and strong. The

We do not exaggerate when If the stick does not we say that you can get as break, or you don't burn much real service from three Safe Home Matches as from five ordinary matches.

> They are non-poisonous, too. For that reason alone they should be in every home in America.



5c. All grocers. Ask for them by name.

The Diamond Match Company



There Is Honest Shirt Service in McDonald Shirts

CDONALD shirts are made to I fit and to wear to perfection. Pay the price you prefer (\$1 and up) and you are positively assured of service and style, for there are no poor qualities. Every garment is made strictly on honor, and styled to meet the needs of the moment. For work, for play, for travel, for hunting, for fishing for golfing, for outdoor and indoor wear there's a style that will please you.

Inferire care has been given to all the details of fit, fushion and finish. For the "day off" and the "day off" and

Designed and tailored in America's fore most union shirt shop by the R. L. McDon ald Mfg. Co., St. Joseph, Missouri