THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

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The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.

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State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss:
Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the average circulation for the month of October, 1915, was 54,744.
DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager.
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 2d day of November, 1915.
ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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November 6

Thought for the Day

Selected by A. K. Barnes

"Let us never fear robbers nor murderers. These are dangers from without, petty dangers. Let us fear ourselves. Prejudices are the real robbers; vices are the real murderers. The great danger lies within ourselves. What matters it what threatens our head or our purse! Let us think only of that which threatens our souls."—Victor Hugo.

Come again, teachers! Omaha likes your company.

However, the automobile affords increasing relief from a railroad holdup.

If you "buy-it-in-Omaha," you can return it if it is not exactly as represented.

Chinese voters are apt pupils. Early returns on the monarchy issue indicate a majority for the administration and the pie counter.

Yes, but what about that Dodge Street viaduct now which the United States supreme court ordered the Missouri Pacific to build months ago?

Daring skill abides in the medical profession. Where other masterful men failed, the doctors succeeded in performing an operation on Banker Morgan.

The old reliable motto, "Never send a boy to the mill," in its latest interpretation means, "Send a crippled railroad to the courts and get a rate increase."

The Serbs are retreating before overwhelming numbers and superior arms, but the names of Serb towns defy the gunners and prostrate the proofreaders.

Deferring that big democratic dinner for two months was a shrewd move. Sixty days is none too long for complete recovery from Tuesday's alarming knockdown.

After that stirring between-the-floors episode, William Dean Howells' "The Elevator" should be at once placed on the current teachers' reading course list for Nebraska.

While the spectacle lacks the magnetism of a movie show, the fact that packers in Washington have something to kick about sends thrills of comfort to innocent consumers.

Nebraska "drys" will try to keep out of embarrassing entanglements with political parties in their coming campaign. The "drys" are learning by experience as well as the rest.

Fewer bull moose votes are recorded in Massachusetts this year than in Nebraska last year. Under the circumstances the bull moosers here must have little incentive to play a lone hand.

Heave a sigh of relief! It is authoritatively stated that the war will not shrink the supply of diamonds and other precious stones available for the American market. Any woman who wants a diamond tiara may still have it if only the price is forthcoming.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

COMPILED FROM BEE FILES

The swell event of the season was the reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Colpetzer on Twenty-fifth and Douglas streets, to which over 400 invitations were issued.

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Cowin entertained at the Paxton in honor of Senator and Mrs. Manderson, the other guests being: Mrs. Brown, Judge and Mrs. Savage, Mrs. Dundy, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kountze, Mr. and Mrs. Pritchett, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Bennett, Robert Patrick, Mrs. J. N. H. Patrick, General and Mrs. Dandy and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Yates.

Marshall Field, Chicago's great merchant, stopped off in Omaha in the Rock Island director's special car. With him was his brother, J. N. Field of England, who formerly resided in Sioux City. They were driven over the city, and entertained by their old time friend, Ezra Millard.

Jim Stephenson reports that his Omaha Cab company is a successful venture. They are charging 25 cents per passenger for twelve blocks or $1 per hour, and are running ten cabs with three changes of horses each day.

Rev. J. B. Maxwell, president of the Nebraska Central college at Central City, is visiting in Omaha.

George P. Bemis is home from a protracted western and southern trip.

The Misses Margaret Boyd and B. S. Joslyn have gone to Galesburg, Ill., to visit old friends at Knox college.

Knocking Out the Two-Cent Fare.

It seems to be as hard for the railroad managers to acquire common sense as for the proverbial camel to crawl through the eye of the needle. The railroads have had their troubles from time to time, but most of them they have brought on themselves by their short-sighted and grasping dealings with the public, and their reckless disregard and defiance of all attempts to regulate their operations. The railroads of Nebraska refused to pay their taxes, shutting up schools and clogging the wheels of government until compelled to pay up by order of the United States supreme court. It was given out that they had turned over a new leaf and had adopted a policy of cultivating public favor, but the present onslaught on the 2-cent-fare law after that law has been unchallenged on the statute books for eight years, looks like a new invitation to raise the railroad issue again.

True, the hole now punched in the law is ostensibly for the sole benefit of the Missouri Pacific as the weakest line of them all. But the suspicion lurks that the breach is sought as a means of eventually undermining the law as a whole and bringing passenger fares in Nebraska back to the 3-cent scale, for it goes without saying that no road can charge more than another between competitive points and hold its share of the business. So far as concerns the reimbursement bond against overcharge should the 2-cent law be later upheld, that, of course, amounts to nothing, because not half the passengers compelled to pay a 50 per cent increase will be here to put in their claims after the final adjudication. The officials who represent the common people who foot all the bills will do well to be on the alert.

Wilson on National Preparedness.

President Wilson has taken the occasion of the Manhattan club's semi-centennial to develop his ideas on national preparedness. The president and democrats in general are urging the new policy with all the proverbial zeal of fresh converts and are advocating plans more ambitious and extensive than have ever been seriously urged upon congress in the past. It does not require a long memory, however, to recall the charges which democrats made, particularly following the Spanish-American war, denouncing the republican administration and congress as imperialists and asserting that the only use this country had for an army or navy was one of aggression or oppression either against our own people or others. The votes of democratic congressmen have always held down the appropriations for both the army and navy and has been the accepted democratic policy to within a few months, the last exhibition being in the session of congress which adjourned last spring when the naval building program was cut to the minimum.

Nothing has really transpired since congress adjourned to render an extensive naval building program more urgent or politic now than it was then. The threatening complications with foreign nations are no more acute and the probability of this nation being involved in the great war is negligible. With these facts so plain, the president's sudden zeal for placing the United States in a state of preparedness is a confession that all these years the democratic party has been wrong and that the republicans have been right in standing for an adequate navy and an army at least sufficient for a nucleus of the needs of war times. It is not to be presumed, however, that thinking and observing democrats in congress have not known and realized this all the time—any other conclusion would be an insult to their intelligence—yet they have postponed again and again the act of preparation until conditions have brought the situation home to the people so forcibly that sophistry and buncombe will no longer deceive. The chief trouble the president will meet will be to undo within his own party the damage the democrats have already committed by their chronic opposition to every preparedness measure.

Rural Education.

It is an encouraging sign that the leading educators of the country are beginning to devote attention to the problems of the rural school. The general educational board of the National Teachers' association has taken up the problem and at its outset has discovered that as a rule all the schools for the education of teachers in their calling have devoted their energies to fitting teachers to meet the conditions that will confront them in city and village schools and there has been little training for the rural school teacher and the problems involved have been treated as a negligible quantity in the field of educational effort.

Only a few weeks ago a meeting was held in Chicago, called by the state superintendent of Illinois, to take up this question, and plans formulated for a better means of preparation for the rural teacher. The complaint is that the urban normal schools instils urban ideas into the prospective teacher and if, perchance, a qualified teacher is employed in the country, it is but a makeshift until a position can be obtained in the city or village. The general board is urging consolidated rural schools to provide better facilities and pay which will attract capable teachers, and that the normal schools devote more time and energy to fitting teachers for instructors in such schools. Even where this has been attempted, it is pointed out, the instruction in household economics, agriculture and subjects pertinent to the farm, have too often been along lines adaptable only to the city home or the so-called agriculturist as distinguished from the farmer.

When the rural school problem is solved one of the biggest propositions involved in the drift of population from the farm to the city will also be solved, it is confidently believed, and it is encouraging that the best minds in the educational field have turned attention to its solution.

War and Copper.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the war is creating an abnormal demand for copper, but few realize its extent. A trade paper, recently started an investigation, which developed that those best able to judge are of the opinion that from 750,000,000 to 1,000,000,000 pounds per year of American copper are being devoted to European war purposes and that practically half of the world's production of the metal is being used in war material of one kind or another. It is such figures as these that give one a clearer conception of the magnitude of this great struggle and the extent to which the world's material resources are being diverted to the uses of destruction and what a tremendous readjustment in industrial affairs must come with the end of the war.

The Story of Fire

TO APPRECIATE the true value of fire to the world, is is necessary to imagine an existence without fire, and light and heat, its accompanying features, as well as the industries, arts, and sciences dependent thereon. We would at once drop back to the stone age in our daily occupations and social life; our houses would be unlit at night, our food uncooked, our communication with the rest of the world would be broken, and only by foot or on the back of domesticated animals could we journey abroad. Not only this, but we would be unable to renew our existing stock of tools, apparatus, supplies, and everything made or fashioned by the assistance of heat, and thus we would be carried back to the early days of the world by the loss of fire alone.

No one really knows just how primitive man came to discover fire, and utilize it; but at some far distant period, he certainly found that fire existed in nature, derived from the volcano, lightning, or friction, though he seems to have made no use of it for a long time. He may have come to know that it could be transported or transferred through having seen red hot volcanic rock ignite dry grass, leaves, or wood, or possibly by having seen the lightning strike and set fire to a tree. He may even have secured a light, as it were, from one of these sources, and carefully preserved it for years, by keeping something constantly burning. It became invaluable to him, since it cooked his food, and kept him warm, as well as gave him light at night. But it was at least a long time before he realized that he could himself create or make fire by rubbing two dry sticks together. Once discovered, this process alone was used for centuries, before it was found that by knocking flint and pyrites together, sparks capable of igniting tinder might be struck. Somewhat later, in the iron age, flint and steel were substituted, a common method employed in fire making until late in the seventeenth century. A little later there came chemical inventions which eventually gave way to matches.

The use of fire also marks the beginning of artificial illumination, developed successively through the bonfire, torch, lamps and candles, to the gas and electric lights of today. To fire as well, the beginnings of metallurgy, ceramics, and other arts which have attained a high degree of perfection in this century, owe their origin.

The specimens exhibited at the Panama expostition by the United States National Museum show the implements used in making fire by the friction of wood, percussion of minerals, compression of air, focusing the sun's rays, and through chemistry, and terminate with the electric lighter. The series itself is preceded by three drawings; the first illustrating volcanic action, the hot lava setting fire to a forest; the second shows a forest fire ignited by the lightning; while the third illustrates the primitive camp-fire and the method of conveying fire from one camp to another, the first two being presumptive natural sources from which man may have obtained fire before he knew a manner for kindling it himself.

The progressive steps of man's acquaintance with fire are three: The knowledge of fire, the means of utilizing it, and the means of preserving it. The last step, which is one of the most important in the history of man's development, is fully illustrated by the series of different apparatus and materials. Many improvements have followed the first steps in man's progress, and each method has been subject to various modifications by different peoples. What was probably the first method, that of rubbing two sticks together with the hands, was improved by reciprocating motion effects; the twirling of one stick held vertically between the palms and resting on a second lying horizontally on the ground, then by the addition of a bow and socket, followed by the weighted stick as in the pump drill, and finally the machine with cog wheels and crank as employed in Soudan. The Indians of the two Americas, Ainos, Somalis, Kaffirs Veddahs and Australians, were generally exponents of the simple two stick method. The four-piece apparatus was used by the Eskimo, Hindoos, Dyaks, and some Athapascan tribes, and the weighted drill was employed by the Iroquois and the Chukchis.

The second method is that of sawing, and the apparatus comprised a thin strip of bamboo which was drawn edgewise across a section of the same wood in which a corresponding groove had been cut across the grain, the sparks created falling through the groove upon some inflammable substance lying beneath the large section. This was also accomplished by drawing a thong of rattan across a stick in which a longitudinal slot had been cut partway through, the sparks igniting some tinder placed in the slot. These methods were used by the Malays and Burmese, as well as some other races.

Fire was also made by plowing, that is, a thin piece of wood was forced along a narrow slot cut lengthwise in a larger piece until the friction ignited the tinder. This system was evolved by the Polynesians, the Australians, and the Papuans.

Another, and more advanced system, of striking fire was by percussion, first employed through the use of flint and iron pyrites, or stone containing iron, by the Eskimo and northern Indians, and later superseded by flint and steel, a custom which became quite general, and remained popular for many years.

Twice Told Tales

A Mere Detail.

The man had been haled before the magistrate on some trivial charge.

"Let me see," said the judge. "I know you. Are not you the man who was married in a cage of man-eating lions?"

"Yes, your honor," replied the culprit. "I'm the man."

"Exciting, wasn't it?" continued the justice.

"Well," said the man judicially, "it was then; it wouldn't be now."—Ladies' Home Journal.

The Only Thing Left.

A British army examiner had before him a stupid candidate. The man proving, apparently, unable to answer the most simple questions, the examiner finally grew impatient, and in a burst of sarcasm demanded:

"Now, let us suppose, sir, that you were a captain in command of infantry; that in your rear was an impassable abyss; that on both sides of you there rose perpendicular rocks of tremendous height; that in front of you lay the enemy, outnumbering you ten to one. What, sir, in such an emergency would you do?"

"Well, sir, replied the applicant for military distinction, "I should resign, sir."—New York Times.

People and Events

A third cup of coffee is a mere starter for Mrs. A. N. Page of Seattle. During a recent coffee drinking contest Mrs. Page drank twenty-one cups, equal to a gallon and a quarter of the beverage, and was able to walk away with the prize, a three-pound can of coffee beans.

A wooden leg showed its inefficiency as a war club at Hellwood, Ind. The owner swung it on a deputy sheriff, and won the first round easily. In the second round the legless one, unsteady on a single pin, failed in getting the range and lost consciousness and the battle.

Mrs. James Reeves of Meriden, Miss., contributes a speed record to the novelties of the times. She presented her husband with triplets last month, making an even dozen children, nine of whom were born singly. Mrs. Reeves was married at 16. She is now 28, and has five grandchildren.

In spite of the activities of Mars along the line, romance sticks to the job in El Paso. A Corn-Cobb wedding stretches a broad grin around the social circle and the participants are smiling some. Miss Margaret Corn became Mrs. Stanley Duncan Cobb, although the license clerk, fearing a practical joke, held up the permit until Cobb shelled out for a round of corn juice.

The Bee's Letter Box

The Cat is the Arch Culprit.

OMAHA, Nov. 5.—To the Editor of The Bee: Now that people are condemning the friendly little squirrel, let's call attention to the actions of that arch-conspirator against song birds, the common house cat.

Before going any further, I wish to say that I hold no brief for the squirrel, if he is guilty, as some say, of wholesale slaughter of harmless song birds.

However, every bird authority in the country (many of them cat lovers) admit that the common house cat is the birds' worst enemy. The cat is a meat eater by nature, and is equipped with the necessary skill and cunning to catch great numbers of song birds. It is impossible to teach a cat not to kill birds, and I have never seen a cat, or even a little kitten, which would not stalk birds whenever it had a chance.

On numerous occasions I have seen cats eating young robbins, thrushes and other highly prized song birds, in the day time, and no one has any idea how many of these song birds are slaughtered, defenseless, at night, which is the cat's chief hunting time. One authority claims, that, according to his observations, a number of cats on which he kept as close track as possible, averaged about five old and young birds per month during the spring and summer season of the year. He had no way of knowing how many birds were caught at night, nor how many eggs were destroyed, or were left unhatched on account of the death of the parent, nor how many little birds starved to death for the same reason. His figures were based on what he actually saw the cats do.

There is no excuse for the ownership of cats. With rare exceptions the cat is a highly selfish creature, a comfort lover at someone's else cost, a rowdy, a surreptitious and cowardly thief, a carrier of contagion, a blood-thirsty carnivorous creature, with more of the primordial wild instincts than any other animal I know of.

I don't know what the other fellow's remedy is against cats, but mine is a .30-30 bullet between the eyes, or just back of the ears. One need fell no hesitation about destroying cats, because a cat, as far as birds are concerned is an evil creature, and dead cats catch no song birds.

Yours for a city-wide anti-cat campaign, using fair means or foul to get rid of this pest. DRAKE COLE.

Cripples' Welfare Society.

NEW YORK CITY, Nov. 3.—To the Editor of The Bee: We are sure you will appreciate the magnitude of this work. The society, chartered in 1912, thus far has had but little desirable publicity. I think you will admit that of all the eleemosynary and philanthropic movements of this country, there is none more deserving and more neglected. Thus far, we have been able to obtain but little financial response, by our constant appeals. It is hoped in time through the efforts of this society, to obtain appropriate national and state legislation for cripples unable, in a measure, to care for themselves, of which there are 500,000 in America.

As matters now stand, they are perhaps the most neglected unfortunates in the world, and, curious as it may seem, up to the foundation of this society, there has been none other in existence to make known their wants. There are societies for crippled children, for the infirm, aged and helpless, but the cripple who can sometimes work and who can be pulled out of the mire is perhaps the most neglected individual in the world.

It is hoped through this mother society that branches will spring in your and other cities, all over the world and country, just as has been the case with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. This is the initiative work, so you will appreciate the importance of publicity, and it is through such broad-minded papers of such fine policy as yours that we can obtain the desired publicity. GEORGE W. RYDER, Secretary.

Editorial Siftings

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Ours is still the land of golden promise. Anna Held is here and Gaby Des Lys is coming.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: The president is said to be weary of all this talk about the wedding. But wasn't he always strong for pitiless publicity?

Washington Post: All doubts of Porter Charlton's present sanity are removed by his expressed intention of starting promptly for the United States.

St. Louis Republic: A St. Louis lawyer arranged things so nicely that he got a decree of divorce for himself in fifteen minutes. Couldn't the lawyers manage to extend this celerity outside of the profession?

Brooklyn Eagle: "The Blind Boss" of Rhode Island, General Brayton, got $10,000 of New Haven's money, but that was pure philanthropy. Being sightless, he cannot have been wanted to "see" the members of the legislature.

New York World: It would be an easier job to warm up the west to the Anglo-French loan if that section had not already disposed of most of its old and sprained horses to the allies at $300 apiece and got spot cash for them.

Chicago Herald: The decision to use the former frontier forts for training camps for volunteers merely illustrates the fact that there is a use for everything if you keep it long enough—even for a frontier fort which has survived the frontier.

Indianapolis News: Returning prosperity has evidently found another opening. The net income of the steel trust for the third quarter of 1915 was $30,045,791 as compared with $20,211,584 for the preceding quarter. It seems as if the profit taking business will have to spread sooner or later.

Republican Ledger: It is said of the Tungus, a people in the Arctic regions of Siberia recently visited by inquiring anthropologists, that they have little knowledge of the outside world and no desire to gain any. Considering the condition in which a more advanced civilization now finds itself, this attitude is perfectly intelligible.

Baltimore American: Just as hyphenated citizens have declared war upon President Wilson for his neutrality policy, citizens of foreign parentage and birth are organizing a campaign against the hyphen in its object of treasonable dual nationality. Evidently the attempt to force this country into being practically a colony of any European power has disgusted all with a real appreciation of American citizenship, and is going to start a reaction in favor of the latter.

Here and There

Topeka women have inaugurated a campaign to shoo away the door bell pest. As a preliminary warning, doors are decorated with cards reading: "I want absolutely nothing—every wish supplied by a loving husband." If the card doesn't do the business, it is up to the husbands to make good.

A $10,000 banquet at $20 a plate was stowed away under the vests of members of the American Meat Packers' association assembled at St. Louis last week. While some irritation was manifested over British greed in the matter of cargoes, the trifling tieup of $15,000,000 did not disturb the appetites of the feasters.

Metuchen, N. J., must be a center not only of educational activity, but of perspicacious citizenship. Some of the latter constitute the Board of Education. Being somewhat pressed for a music teacher the board turned away from tiresome examination papers, picked up the photo of a young woman applicant and ere the witchery of the picture faded she was elected at an increased salary. "Is she competent to teach music?" inquired a hesitant member. "Sure," responded the board's interpreter of faces; "observe the ripples of song on the lips and the witchery of melody in the eyes." That settled it. The vote was unanimous.

A St. Louis maid of immature years and more churchly zeal than discretion listened to the advice of a distinguished theologian on the choosing of a pastor for a vacant pulpit. She was charmed by his dignity, learning and pleasing manner of speech, and concluded he was the right man for the place. At the close of the address the enthusiastic maid jumped to her feet, exclaiming: "Just name your price, doctor, name your price. Whatever it is we will pay it for you to come to our church to stay." Deacons of that church are seriously thinking of framing the anti-suff words of St. Paul and hanging it on the wall.

AUTUMN.

Not long ago a poet wrote,
"The melancholy days have come;"
His message strikes a mournful note
And puts the glad hearts on the bum.

To me his message is a farce,
Not giving nature a square deal;
I turn my eyes toward field and gorse,
And I'm reminded, "Life is real."

You did not hear the reaper's song,
As homeward bound his path he wended?
Upon the ground by arms strong
The hay lies stacked—the labor ended.

October with her chilly nights
Gives us a taste of Winter's zeal—
The cricket lies with shattered lights,
And, dying, murmurs, "Ausgespielt!"

O, gracious month of hazy skies
And amber sunsets, fair and sear;
You give us gold and crimson dyes—
This is the best time of the year.

The fruits of honest toil are stored,
And with your hand you gently beckon
The worker to his just reward,
But you'll pass up we poets, I reckon!
Omaha. —C. H.

LINES TO A LAUGH.

"What did de white folks put Bruddes Smugs in jail for, sah?"

"Trigonometry, sah. He done had three wives."—Judge.

"Why did Nero fiddle while Rome was burning?"

"I guess he thought it was a good time to do it, while the critics' minds were on something else."—Baltimore American.

"I told my girl the other night that if she didn't marry me I'd hang myself in front of the house."

"What did she say?"

"She said: 'Oh, don't do it. You know that father doesn't want you hanging around here.'"—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Look here!" said an excited man to a druggist. "You gave me morphine for quinine this morning!"

"Is that so?" replied the druggist. "Then you owe me 25 cents."—Christian Register.

"It appears to be your record, Mary Moselle, said the magistrate, "that you have been thirty-five times convicted of stealing."

"I guess, your honor," replied Mary, "that is right. No woman is perfect."—Ladies' Home Journal.

"Are you sure you thoroughly understand that question you attempted to decide?"

"No," replied Senator Sorghum; "but I fancy I expressed myself in terms sufficiently obscure to prevent anybody else from taking enough interest to call me down."—Washington Star.

They had just come in from Ni Wot to see the old-fashioned show.

"Gracious, Hiram!" said the old lady. "Them awful society women dress like they was goin' swimmin'!"

"O' course, Jerusha. Hain't you heard that in the social swim the women try to outstrip each other?"—Field and Farm.

Little Edna—Why wouldn't it do to pray for our bread once a week or once a month? Why must we ask every day for our daily bread?

Older Sister—So as to have it fresh, goosey.—Boston Transcript.

"I suppose you have made up your mind what to do about woman suffrage," suggested one of Congressman Hammfatt's retainers.

"Yes, indeed," replied the eminent statesman suavely; "I have made up my mind to leave that issue severely alone."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Persistence is the cardinal virtue in advertising; no matter how good advertising may be in other respects, it must be run frequently and constantly to be really succcessful.