

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE
FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.
The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.
322 BUILDING, FARNAM AND SEVENTEENTH.

Thought for the Day
Selected by Mr. H. D. Neely
When you awake in the morning let your first thought be: This is a resurrection morn and shall be a day of joy.—Agnes Gale.

Be prepared for the president's preparedness message.
Another new comet is discovered, and with it the old question: "Is a comet the sign of war?"

Incidentally, several belching chimneys need to be reminded again of the smoke nuisance ordinance.
Both Omaha boys are aboard the peace ship. Trust an Omaha boy to get there if it is within the possibilities.

Just to have a look at all those \$100,000 checks should make attendance on the democratic committee seem worth while.
With the certain rise in building materials, it behooves the university regents to get busy with that new medical department hospital if they want to keep the cost within the appropriation.

For once our senator landed on the winning side in lining up between competing candidates for president of the senate. We shall soon see whether that means a better committee assignment.
As a specimen of democratic speed, the sprinting of Dallas patriots to the national committee, waving a certified check for the coin, commends itself to the enervated brethren of Omaha.

If the worst comes from the county commissioners' survey of the two-mile limit, a slumberium annex readily solves the difficulty. Moreover, a slumberium lends architectural dignity to a political boom.
Prophecies of the early destruction of Turkish power in Europe and Asia hold no promise of fulfillment at Gallipoli or Bagdad. But the Turks are going—after the allies, especially on the sands of Mesopotamia.

The presidential bridal party is in great demand at numerous health and heart balm resorts. We take it, too, that there is not a railroad in the country which would not be glad to advertise itself as "The Honeymoon Route."
A golden harvest for investors will lend uncommon eclat to the opening of the new year. Those who have paid the price of admission Wall Street calculator will share in the distribution of \$650,000,000, dividends and interest.

Colonel Bryan wants congress to assure the president it will back him in any peace effort he may make. Was there ever any question of the backing of congress? By his experience it would seem that President Wilson has found the backing of Mr. Bryan less dependable.
The annual meeting of the Omaha Union Stock Yards company chose these officers: President, John A. McIlhenny; vice president, William A. Paxton; secretary, J. C. Sharp; treasurer, John F. Boyd. Other Omaha men on the directory are J. M. Woolworth and P. E. Der.

A large and enthusiastic meeting at the Paxton resulted in the organization of a Canadian society in Omaha, starting with a membership of about 25. G. H. Leslie, John McDonald and A. T. Patterson were appointed a committee to secure quarters.
Prominent Episcopals have joined to establish a new church of All Saints to be known as "All Saints' Church," with these wardens and vestrymen: J. M. Woolworth, Alfred P. Hopkins, C. R. Montgomery, W. M. Babcock, George E. Ames, R. H. Hinshaw, E. P. Morse, W. A. Redick, A. H. Bishop. Bishop Worthington presided at the meeting.
S. B. Falconer has returned from the east.
The Novelty Carriage works, corner Sixteenth and Chicago, was offering stylish Portland and westbody cutters at low prices.
City Engineer Rosewater has completed his plans estimate and proposed routes of the boulevard which has been under contemplation for several months. It comprises a line of about fourteen miles long and no grade more than five feet in a hundred.
Max P. Fisher and Emily C. Moore were married by Judge Wales.
Mrs. M. B. Newton was elected principal of the Lincoln school and Miss Schaller of the Icard school.

Congress in a Merry Mood.
It was a rather jovial assemblage of statesmen that congregated under the dome at Washington yesterday and waited the click of the gavel to call them to organized work as members of congress. Some who answered the roll call on adjournment day in July were missing, and others still bore signs of contusions and echymosises, reminders of past turmoil in the legislative halls, but all who joined in the first session were feeling good, so far as outward appearances afford proof. The caucus had planned the program, which contained nothing controversial, beyond the registration of the majority and minority preferences for officers, and this was perfunctorily formal. The way is now open for the president to make his address, and when this is over the real business of the session may be started.

The spirit of the gathering was made the more congenial by the presence of some notable "come-backs," among them "Uncle Joe" Cannon and "Nick" Longworth, whose emergence from temporary obscurity adds to the general interest that will surround the present session. "Vic" Murdock's oriflamme illuminates the trenches abroad, thus preventing the rivalry that might be expected between the peppery Kanaan and the virile member from the Danville district. But the session will not be without spice on this account, and some lively tilts may be expected before spring.

Plainly Short of Prospectus.
Because of the number of conversions of national banks into state banks in Nebraska and of the further fact that this movement, most noticeable at the time the federal reserve law became effective, is continuing even now, is taken by our democratic senator's personal organ to mean that the lack of a similar guaranty fund is the weak spot in the new national bank law. Our Nebraska deposit guaranty has done tolerably well, whether because it has had no severe strain since its inauguration or because of intrinsic merit, is yet to be proved.

There is no question that the character of banking in Nebraska has materially improved since the days of the numerous bank failures, and that the risk covered by the insurance fund is probably less hazardous than in most lines of business. Regardless of this, however, we venture the opinion, based on observation and report, that the gain of the state banking system at the expense of the national banking system is not specially because of the guaranty feature, but in spite of it, and that if this feature were present in both, or absent from both, the number of conversions would be still larger.

Our democratic friends may as well admit that the new reserve banks, tested by actual operation, do not measure anywhere near up to prospectus, and that the benefits so far accrued are slight as compared with the huge cost of this newly created machinery, to say nothing of the inexcusable partisanship and favoritism in the arrangement of the districts and the location of the reserve bank cities in reckless disregard of the natural currents of commerce. The very fact that national banks are giving up their charters, and those that hold their charters make such little use of the reserve banks, is the strongest evidence possible that the law does not do what was promised.

Upheaval in the Boy Scouts.
The withdrawal of Ernest Thompson-Seton from the American Boy Scouts thrusts that movement into unwonted prominence. His assigned reason for giving over his activity with the organization does not exactly square with the statement made by others in high authority with the scouts. The charge of militarism is not new in this connection, and it has not been very long since Thompson-Seton and Baden-Powell both publicly defended the Scouts against the accusation. Events have proven that in Great Britain the Boy Scouts are essentially military, and the same is very likely true in this country. Just why it should be so vehemently denied is not exactly clear. It is impossible to have this or any similar organization without some element of military control and discipline, and the training, if it is to be at all efficacious, must be on the basis of military routine.

The present split is reminiscent in some way of the schism in the Salvation Army, which resulted in the formation of the American Volunteers. We may very soon have two Boy Scout organizations, each covering the same ground, and differing in no essential regard, but lacking in the harmony of headship that is a requisite to success.
"Syndicalism" on Shipboard.
One of the really serious problems of the war, overshadowed to some degree by the more spectacular operations of the forces in the field, has been the industrial unrest that has accompanied the work of providing for the armies. Each of the European countries has had and is having its experience with the recalcitrant workmen, and this country has witnessed a number of manifestations of the disturbed state of mind that prevails among the workers. The present plight of the great ocean freighter, the Minnesota, is another proof that one discontented or determined man may easily disable a vessel. The "direct actionist" has here ample opportunity for the exemplification of his peculiar theories. Bomb plots, chemicals in coal bunkers, concealed combustibles in closed holds, and other forms of destruction, are all parts of the activity of these men. Not all the mischief that is being done to shipping is in pursuit of patriotic devotion, although this is being used as a cloak for the action of men with more sinister inspiration than love of country. The war has loosed the darkest of man's passions and opened the way for the expression of his worst impulses. Much of the present difficulty in getting ships safely from port to port is due to the desire to "spread the terror," on which rests the vain hope of the anarchist.

Referring to the petition filed to put President Wilson's name on the Nebraska primary ballot, the local democratic organ says: "Those men whose names appear on the list are leaders of the loyal fighting democracy of Nebraska." Just take that, will you, you pretended democrats who refused to put your autographs on when asked!

The supreme court of Nebraska holds that the legislature has made continuing appropriations for the fire inspection officials, although the lawmakers were unconscious that they were doing so at the time. What's the constitution between friends, anyway?

War and the Metric System

Editorial Article

IS CONSERVATIVE England to be shocked by the war into giving up its antiquated systems of coinage, weights, and measures? This suggestion comes from a leading editorial in The London Electrical Review. The war, says this paper, is "shaking the foundation of civilization." It can not pass away and leave things as they were, whatever its result. There is to be a new regime of some kind, and Englishmen must adapt themselves to it. Efficiency is to be its watchword, and to attain this every obstacle to industrial and commercial progress must be removed. Among such obstacles, The Review declares, are certainly what it calls the "obsolete" British systems of measurement. It must be noted that we Americans are here in the same boat with the English in all respects except that of coinage. We "point with pride" to our decimal system of dollars and cents as being far more logical and convenient than the English pounds, shillings, and pence; but we stand shoulder to shoulder with them in our determination to reject the decimal substitutes for the equally inconvenient yards, ounces, and pints, despite the fact that all these were long ago thrown upon the scrap-heap by other civilized nations.

"In every part of our social, domestic and political life," says the British editor, "the welfare of the nation must be the predominant consideration, before which all private interests must give way. We are a conservative people; but we must learn to be progressive, bearing in mind that any hindrance to our progress must be ruthlessly flung aside. And surely there is no greater obstacle to our commercial welfare than the obsolete systems—if such they can be called—of coinage, weights, and measures that handicap our intercourse with foreign nations and impede the development of our trade, to an extent that is fully realized by few. We have for many years advocated reform in this connection, and we believe that the return of peace will afford an ideal and unique opportunity to bring it about—an opportunity such as may never recur.

"In normal times, a great objection to the adoption of new weights and measures has been the 'dislocation of trade' that many feared would ensue; now that our export trade has undergone a compound fracture, surely no one will hint at dislocation. The mind of the country is aroused; men and women in all ranks of society are alert, they are in a mood to receive new ideas and to consider them without that tendency to prejudices with which we are afflicted in times of peace. Now, then, is the time; and we earnestly call upon all advocates of efficiency and reform to aid us in our efforts to convince the opponents of change that it is their duty to accept new systems of weights, measures, and coinage, for the sake of their country's welfare.

"We may observe that, while we have here coupled the metric system and decimal coinage under one heading, we do not suggest that they are necessarily combined or interdependent; either could be adopted without the other, and, it is interesting to note that although the numbers respectively for and against these two items are approximately equal, many of our correspondents favor one while objecting to the other. In view of the necessity of economizing clerical labor after the war, we are disposed to regard the adoption of decimal coinage as of importance second only to that of the metric system. No one who has lived abroad for any length of time will dispute the assertion that facility in dealing with decimal coinage is acquired in a very few days, and that the simplicity of the system endows it with immense advantages."

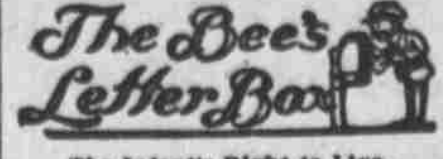
Twice Told Tales

Too Soon.
A well known Scottish architect was traveling in Palestine recently when news reached him of an addition to his family circle. The happy father immediately provided himself with some water from the Jordan to carry home for the christening of the infant and returned to Scotland.
On the Sunday appointed for the ceremony he duly presented himself at the church, and sought out the beads in order to hand over the precious water to his wife. He pulled the flask from his pocket, but the beads held up a warning hand and came nearer to whisper:
"'No the noo, sir; no the noo! Maybe after the kirk's oot!'"—London Tit-Bits.

Sample Was All Right.
Jacky had been asked out to a "grown-up" dinner. Swelling with pride, he took his seat at the bottom of the table and looked round—slightly awestruck—at the imposing collection of aunts and uncles.
Then his attention became fixed on the ancient relative who was carving an enormous turkey, and his mouth watered as he saw the big helpings being handed round.
But the carver, who did not know much about little boys, cut off a tiny portion for Jacky.
"'Is that the part of the bird you like, my little man?'" he asked, as the servant handed Jacky the plate.
Jacky looked at it for a moment and then handed it back.
"'Yes,'" he said, "'I'll have some of that, please.'"—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

People and Events

A St. Paul traffic policeman, hauled over by a motor truck, exerted all the strength of his 250 pounds and stalled the truck in a distance of eight feet. What happened to the driver was a plenty.
The champion no-salary preacher of the twentieth century, Rev. A. H. Deas, aged 84, is dead at his home in Hartsville, Ind. He occupied the pulpit of the United Brethren church for sixty years without accepting remuneration.
Oregon is a prolific author of reforms, but there is a limit. One of the local courts opines that safety first does not require red lights on the tails of cows parading behind farm wagons. The vindication of heavy coat an axiomatic even here.
In bygone days peddlers of outlawed booze often escaped detection in Kansas and Iowa by enclosing the bottles in imitation Bibles. Tennessee bootleggers go to the opposite extreme by irrigating the dry belt with goods shipped out in coffins. The combination is no joke.
Chief Justice Woodson of the Missouri supreme court led a procession of tributers at a Jefferson City review last Sunday. Evangelist Kessell, who conducts the revival, puts out a line of talk and gymnastics that would make "Billy" Sunday wonder if his copyright has been infringed upon.
Dancing masters from all around the country are assembled in Chicago showing their winter stock of goods. The principal novelty in terpsichorean art is "The Equal Rights of Suffrage Fox Trot" which is pronounced "a humdinger," inasmuch as it makes the step backward an even fifty-fifty split.



The Infant's Right to Live.
PERCIVAL, Ia., Dec. 6.—To the Editor of The Bee: Please allow me space in your columns to ask why three infants have been allowed to die in this country within the last ten days without any attempt being made to save their little lives, simply because they were not physically perfect?

I refer to the cases in Chicago, New York and Baltimore. The excuse advanced in the case of the Chicago infant was that even with the proposed operation it would always be a cripple and might at some future time turn insane and murder some innocent person as one person who they referred to had done. Also that in its crippled condition it would be a burden on society as long as it lived. It is true that the infant might have turned out that way, but as cases of cripples suddenly turning murderously insane are not as frequent as are cases of people with sound bodies, why should that be considered a reasonable excuse? And as for its crippled condition causing it to always be a burden on society I will refer to the case of Helen Keller, who, though born deaf, dumb, and blind, has obtained an excellent education and is accomplished in more lines than one. Ask her if she thinks she should have been allowed to die when born.

I will also cite the case of Gordon the magazine man of Omaha, who, though confined to his bed continuously for over ten years has built up a business, which not only yields him a good income, but furnishes a pension for many other invalids. Ask him if he thinks he should have been allowed to die at the time his accident occurred.

I cannot understand how any parent or surgeon can sit idly by and watch an innocent, helpless and defenseless babe make a struggle for its life without any attempt to aid it in its fight, simply because it does not measure up to their ideal of physical perfection.
Also if such a practice is allowed to grow, as it seems to be doing, it will furnish a good excuse for those who do not care to care for their babies, to find some doctor, willing to pronounce it physically or mentally un sound and thus allow it to die and get it out of the parents' way.

I think that those infants had as much right to life as any other infant and that those concerned did wrong in not trying to save their lives as I can see little or no difference in taking a life through action and in taking life through inaction.
P. J.—A. FATHER.

Democratic Economy.

YORK, Neb., Dec. 5.—To the Editor of The Bee: I see by the press reports that we are to have economy in the affairs of the government at Washington. That is, we have the promise of it, but when we read the Baltimore platform we find in that bundle of promises that were "made to be kept," as our fine sounding taffy kale as the donkey organ holds, and were played by the same bunch for the same purpose, just to catch votes.
The party then in power was black-listed for its prodigality with "the people's money, wrung from them by excessive taxation."

It comes to me now like an echo, that something was said once on a time about a billion dollar congress, run by a billion dollar party, until the great need of this country was to return to democratic simplicity. Well, the great common people gave them the chance to show their hand at making good. They began by peeling off the most expensive, the most costly show at the occasion of Woodrow that has ever been pulled off in this country. Then when their congress got busy at keeping its pledges to the people, they cut the income of the government in two and spent over a hundred million more than any congress ever had done before, not seeming to realize that a small income and a large outgo would find the bottom of the strong box sooner or later. But when the fact finally soaked through they put on a couple more direct taxes, and yet they are running behind seven to ten million per month after they have been drawing on those bonds that were voted for building the Panama canal which may all be needed there if those slides keep up; still we run behind; then they talk of an extra half billion expense for preparedness, after making two campaigns against the imperial tendencies of the G. O. P. that they said was spoiling the royalty of Europe.
Now, as convention time comes on apace, the word goes out we are going to economize. So they cut down the help in the postal service and create a few hundred more commissions to give a few "deserving democrats" a soft seat at the pie counter, and call it economy. Now, the regular order of congressional business is ordered "cut to the bone"; even then it cannot be touched until my plan for preparedness is taken off first. What I want to be shown is where do they see the new danger, as every big nation in Europe is now in all the way they will want for awhile, or can pay for either. So why not jog along about as the G. O. P. was doing without swinging from one extreme to the other like the pendulum of a clock—it is that or death with them. I guess that is why they have only held three national conventions in sixty years before the republicans held theirs, so they can say no—that is wrong—come this way—we are right. Now read their history and you will find a mirror in which you can see their future acts.

Editorial Snapshots

Washington Post: From present indications the bull moose convention in Chicago on January 11 will present an imitation of Dunderberg's bird in flocking by itself.
Baltimore American: The fashionably groomed women will now, according to the dictators of style, have to carry around a small menagerie of dogs, cats, parrots or monkeys. In other words, the exotic as to styles must be no-otto as well.
Brooklyn Eagle: Secretary McAdoo's exemption from interest charges of the millions taken from national banks that had been paying for its use and transferred to national reserve banks, costs taxpayers about \$30 a day. In a government of low no stock "discretion" should be used in any official.
St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Speaking of "preparedness," it is still pretty plain, as always in the past, that the men of the line in the United States army can shoot quicker and straighter than those of any other. In the border brush at Nogales, this old fact was again attested and a little more convincingly than ever before.

MIRTHFUL REMARKS.

"I hear Nebraska mentioned very frequently," commented the distinguished stranger.
"'Yes,'" replied Senator Borghum, "Nebraska is a great and enterprising state."
"Wait a minute," said the stranger. "What is it famous for?"
"Wait, I haven't posted myself very accurately on its commercial and social side. Politics is my study. And so far as politics is concerned Nebraska is largely famous for unfinished business."—Washington Star.

"My cross-examination didn't seem to worry you much," said the famous lawyer to the witness after the trial. "Have you had any previous experience?"
"Just a little," replied the witness sarcastically. "I have six children."—Ladies Home Journal.

KABIBBLE KABARET

NEAR MR. KABIBBLE, SHOULD A WOMAN PRODUCE? YES, AND DURING A QUARREL SHE WILL BLAME YOU FOR ACCEPTING HER!
"Mr. Jaggs never opened his mouth while his wife was entertaining her guests the other night."
"Och, yes, he did several times."
"I didn't hear him. What did he say?"
"Nothing. He yawned."—Baltimore American.

Democracy's Economy.

YORK, Neb., Dec. 5.—To the Editor of The Bee: I see by the press reports that we are to have economy in the affairs of the government at Washington. That is, we have the promise of it, but when we read the Baltimore platform we find in that bundle of promises that were "made to be kept," as our fine sounding taffy kale as the donkey organ holds, and were played by the same bunch for the same purpose, just to catch votes.



Woman's Most Charming Gift

Lots and lots of times, when jinx and pixies make it "awfully hard" to arrange your hair just the way you want it—remember that it is then that she will most appreciate the bright, mysterious and handsome Electric Curling Iron.

In scarcely no time it heats itself to the right temperature and curls the hair beautifully and lastingly.

Can you imagine a more pleasing gift for a woman or girl?

Omaha Electric Light & Power Co.

Geo. H. Harries, Pres.

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 successful.