

**THE OMAHA DAILY BEE**  
 FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.  
 VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.  
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 Address communications relating to news and editorial matter to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

**JANUARY CIRCULATION.**  
**53,102**  
 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 January, 1916, was 53,102.  
 DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager.  
 Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 2d day of February, 1916.  
 ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

Neither time, nor season, nor temperature checks the activities of political snakes.

Action by congress on preparedness measures promises another endurance test for the policy of "watchful waiting."

Advance censorship of banquet oratory might appear ungracious, but the operation would prevent considerable subsequent pain.

Buying fire department motor equipment with notice in advance that a particular make is to be purchased, is hardly conducive to bed-rock prices.

The wave of crime throughout the country suggests that compulsory disarmament of gunmen would be as popular a peace movement as any yet undertaken.

By act of congress, the naval academy at Annapolis is to take in 300 more cadets. That makes just about one for each congressman. Pile your applications early.

The St. Louis appeal of President Wilson for "incomparably the greatest navy in the world" shows the danger Colonel Roosevelt runs in leaving the "big stick" on the porch.

Nearly 40,000 automobile licenses were issued in Nebraska last year on a population of 1,200,000. This is one auto to twenty inhabitants, or one auto to every four families.

Having sat at the table with a guest who had been mayor of his city four consecutive terms, Mayor "Jim" will start out as exploring expedition to find one who has had five terms.

The State Health Officers' association of New Jersey, the chief backers of the eugenic marriage movement a year ago, this year unanimously expunged the endorsement from its record. When time and common sense do team work, fads die young.

President Clifford Thorne of the Iowa Railroad commission, who is something of a reformer himself, wants to fight the confirmation of Louis D. Brandeis for the supreme bench. Plainly, there is no more agreement among reformers than among reactionaries.

The Union Pacific's explanation of its passenger rate boost on travel between Nebraska points crossing the Colorado corner, "The interstate commission won't let us charge less," is too flimsy to go down. Transcontinental tourists travel over that road every year on excursion tickets sold at lower rates.

Signs are multiplying of revival of the shake-down industry, promoted by the little bunch of crooked lawyers that disgrace the legal fraternity in Omaha, and who were made to hunt their holes the last time we had a grand jury. If this hold-up business gets too strong, radical measures may again have to be invoked.

Douglas county will receive nearly \$40,000 as its slice of the latest state school apportionment, the bulk of which belongs to the city. It might be interesting for the Commercial club watchmen to check up the actual receipts from the state against the item carried in the School board's estimates when the tax levy was made.

**Altogether Too Much Smoke.**  
 Altogether too much smoke has emanated from this auto-fire-equipment deal to allay the suspicions of the tax-paying public that there is a Senegambian in the wood-pile somewhere.

The impression is abroad that the prices made in Omaha by the different bidders are "loaded" for a "split" with some one whose influence is to put the sale across by a pull or a divvy, while the tax-payers foot the bill. This suspicion has not been lessened by the secret star-chamber session with the representative of one specially favored line of apparatus, nor by the further disclosure that each bidder has been permitted to make his own specifications without stipulating minimum requirements of any kind.

The city council will not get away from the smoke unless the decks are cleared and the business done in the open, so as to convince Omaha taxpayers that we are to pay no more than other cities would have to pay, and that we get what we pay for.

**When Patriotism Obliterates Party.**  
 The scene in the house of representatives when Speaker Clark came down from the chair to join with Republican Floor Leader Mann in pushing the case for preparedness, was one that is inspiring for citizens of the United States, and ought to be instructive to the foreigner. It is most impressive proof that Americans are united for the proper protection of the institutions and their homes. Partisan strife may rage over internal matters, but when the question of defense of the nation is up, the only strife is for first place in the country's service.

The debate in the house is clearing the way for the adoption of a definite program. When this is completed it will be urged with all becoming haste. Quibbles of various kinds, and some real differences of opinion as to the better way to proceed must be disposed of before action can become certainty. These are being reconciled, or are disappearing altogether, as patriotism obliterates party lines and brings all men together for the good of the country.

It is worthy of note in passing that the only important organized opposition to the work of preparing better means for defending our country comes from a faction of the democratic party holding close allegiance to the late secretary of state.

**Turn About Only Fair Play.**  
 Senator Hitchcock's personal organ, the World-Herald, embellishes its front page with a striking portrait, captioned:  
 German-American Says He is Ashamed of the United States—George Sylvester Viereck, editor of The Fatherland, in New York, whose letter was one of those found on Captain von Papen and published by London papers.

Turn about is only fair play. Last September George Sylvester Viereck embellished the front page of his personal organ, The Fatherland, with a beautiful portrait of the senator, labeled:  
 "United States Senator G. M. Hitchcock—the Fearless Defender of Humanity Against the Traffic in Murder."

To a perfectly neutral spectator it would seem that honors are easy.

**"Lowbrows" and "Highbrows" Defined.**  
 Chancellor David Starr Jordan of Leland Stanford University, talking to the undergraduates, gives a definition of "lowbrow" and "highbrow" for the uses of that school. He says the one is too practical, and the other is not practical enough. This leaves something to be desired, for it would perhaps be useful if the learned doctor had even approximately set the limit of "practicality" on which he would differentiate between the several grades of intellect. By inference, we conclude the desirable individual of medium-brow elevation comes somewhere between the two classes designated, but we are left groping as to where to draw the line. Very likely Dr. Jordan himself realizes the difficulty, and doesn't care to particularize too closely. As the whole matter is finally one for personal determination, the old rule for selection will continue to rule. A "lowbrow" is the fellow who laughs at our pretensions to learning, and the "highbrow" is the fellow who laughs at.

**Settling Blockade Question.**  
 The suggestion by the Manchester Guardian that Viscount Bryce or Arthur J. Balfour be sent to the United States with full power to negotiate for Great Britain in the settlement of the issues that have arisen from the blockade controversy deserves attention. The Guardian warns the British that the blockade question is being pursued by the United States with quite as much vigor as is the Lusitania matter, and that nothing sort of complete recognition of neutral rights will avail for settlement. This is exactly the point of view that Sir Edward Grey has failed to take; his notes in response to protests from our government having been inconclusive when not positively evasive, and full of discussion of all but the issues involved. What he hopes to gain by prolonging the interchange of correspondence is not apparent. Prompt settlement of the matter can easily be put out of the way by England's taking advantage of the Bryan arbitration treaty, which will carry the controversy to an international court, a tribunal at present all but impossible. A special envoy, with power to treat, could easily bring about an understanding in a short time, and place the relations of the two governments on a much more cordial footing than now.

**Should the Hopi Indians go on the warpath or put up a good bluff, readers may be sure of thrillers fresh from the southwest mints. The remoteness of the Hopi hunting ground in mountain fastnesses lends itself to flights of imagination impossible in the haunts of the paleface.**

**Pointing Toward Hughes**  
 Christian Science Monitor.  
 THROUGHOUT acknowledged leaders of the progressive party it has been announced (1) that no "reactionary" ticket nominated by the republican convention, at Chicago in June, would be acceptable to those who rebelled against the republican ticket of 1912, and who are still acting independently of their old political affiliations, and (2) that the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt or Charles Evans Hughes, by the republican party, would bring them back to the fold. Nobody is qualified, or authorized, to speak authoritatively for the republican party in this connection, and nobody of prominence has undertaken to do so, but many whose opinions have weight in the councils of that organization have commented on what may be regarded as a progressive peace proposal.

At the close of the campaign of four years ago, a proposition involving reconciliation with the Roosevelt element would have been spurned by republicans. It is no exaggeration to say that as late as two years ago an attempt, on the part of the progressives, to lay down terms of agreement to the regular organization would have met with a chilling reception. Democratic triumph, however, due to republican division, and the certainty that these triumphs will be continued unless the breach is closed, have brought the leaders in both factions to modify their views. The remarkable thing about the progressive proposal of Roosevelt leadership, in 1916, was not its failure to arouse enthusiasm in the regular ranks, but the calmness and the seriousness with which it has been considered by the standard element. This consideration seems to have resulted in two conclusions on the republican side. First, that even Theodore Roosevelt would be preferable to Woodrow Wilson, second, that if party unity can be re-established through acceptance of the progressive alternative, the thing to do is to nominate Charles Evans Hughes, whose candidacy, while acceptable to the great body of progressives, would offend no considerable number of republicans.

The chairman of the republican national committee, Charles D. Hilles, can only give expression to his personal views on the matter under discussion, but his personal views have extraordinary weight by reason of his official position, and the careful student of the situation is, we think, justified in attaching significance to some of his recent utterances in Chicago. Doubtless, he reflects the conservative opinion of the national committee when, instead of haughtily declaring that Theodore Roosevelt would not do, he skillfully shifts responsibility for the elimination of that distinguished citizen. "All the information I have on the subject," he is represented to have told the reporters, "is to the effect that Colonel Roosevelt is not a candidate for the republican nomination for president. He has declined to permit his name to go on the primary ballot in the only three states from which invitations have come, Minnesota, Nebraska and Michigan." Then Mr. Hilles, having crossed this ditch gracefully, proceeds to shift some moral responsibility. "In the statement issued by Chairman Perkins of the progressive executive committee," he adds, "it was made plain that any reasonable, satisfactory man would be acceptable as the republican nominee. They insisted that they meant just what they said, and we will take the statement at its face value. I think we shall be able to nominate a man who will be satisfactory to all elements of the party, and that our candidate will be elected."

The interesting question, of course, is who is this man? In attempting to find a satisfactory answer, the most we can do is to weigh indications, measure tendencies and draw inferences. In this respect Chairman Hilles will be helpful to us again. He turns promptly, and it would seem, naturally and willingly, from Colonel Roosevelt to the second choice of the progressives. "In regard to Justice Hughes," he says, "there is no man big enough to refuse the presidency, in my opinion." Evidently, Mr. Hilles and his associates are undisturbed as to what Justice Hughes would do if the Chicago nomination were offered him in the right way. And it is fully as evident, judging from the general tone of remark and comment, that we can do so. Thousands who are hoping to see the standard bearer of the republican party, the conviction is firm that Charles Evans Hughes is too big a man to refuse to lay aside his personal wishes or to sacrifice his personal comfort in the interest of what an important element among his fellow citizens conceive to be the country's good.

**Aimed at Omaha.**  
 Hastings Tribune: Omaha is desirous of securing one of those proposed ammunition plants. Looks like Nebraska's metropolis wants to blow herself a bit.

Newman Grove Reporter: Omaha is cutting down the number of professional beggars and loafers who want to live at public expense by making use of a workhouse. Every town ought to have a place where the professional bums and beggars could be put to work and made to earn their keep. As long as the public is easy enough to stand for such people there will be such people to provide for.

Beaver City Times-Tribune: Victor Rosewater is the advertised editor of The Omaha Bee, but when he writes anything for the paper he signs his name to it so that people will know it.

Columbus Telegram: In a recent issue of The Omaha Bee appeared an interesting picture, drawn by Powell in his best facetious vein. It showed Senator Allen, Charles Bryan and Edgar Howard in company with a strange animal, half mule and half camel, and from the mouths of the men in the picture some words escaped. Senator Allen seemed to say that the strange animal was all mule. Charles Bryan seemed to think it was mostly camel. Howard, observing the two humps on the back of the thing, insisted that it was all camel. I am still at a loss to understand in just what attitude Powell intended to place me. For his information I would say that I would choose a mule for a mount rather than a camel, but with the understanding that I would not be compelled to accept the companionship of the horde of corporation and organized boom grocers recently in the stall with the democratic mule in Nebraska. If Powell insists upon me taking that bunch of grocers with the mule, then he must understand that I would prefer the camel.

Lincoln Star: It costs the Omaha movie shows and theaters a dollar a day each to fumigate as a precaution against scarlet fever, but it is doubtful if this bit of genuine realism increases the audiences at all.

**People and Events.**  
 Robert S. Chambers, credit man for a rubber company at Akron, O., retired from his \$5,000 a year job and accepted a call to serve as rector of Trinity Episcopal church of Tiffin, O., salary \$1,200.

J. P. Morgan's gift to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, includes the wonderful Colonna Madonna, the whole valued at \$1,000,000. Mr. Morgan says the gift is "in pursuance of my father's idea."

The champion old time fiddler of Wisconsin is John Ben of Amherst, with a record of 4,600 performances at dances and 600 performances at weddings, since 1862. Besides, he fiddled himself into the job of town postmaster.

The city manager proposal did not get very far in Pittsburgh. The Post dismisses it with these staid remarks: "The breakfast food, commission selected city manager plan of government is not for such hearty, grown-up citizens as Pittsburghers."

The presence of Mrs. Wilson at the various public meetings addressed by President Wilson divided honors with the message delivered. At St. Louis it was particularly noticeable. At the outset of the address the president remarked "I am a firm believer in domestic preparedness," and the audience sent up a shout that shook the roof, and centered all eyes on Mrs. Wilson.

**At Whom is He Aiming?**  
 SOUTH SIDE, Feb. 8.—To the Editor of The Bee: Since the annexation, or reconstruction of South Side, there is a peculiar condition confronting the taxpayers and citizens generally. There seems to be no end to persons assuming certain prerogatives that just as sure as fate will lead later to complications that will cause our commissioners any amount of trouble and embarrassment. For instance, here is an official who for years has trained in democratic ranks and the last election performed an unusual stunt by attempting to be elected under a republican nomination. The result was a defeat, not satisfied by the turn of things in his own imagination, he would create a vacancy and appoint himself as hold-over, with consent of commissioners and under this impression he holds down a position which never existed, only in his imagination, and still at this late date is handling legal documents where hundreds of dollars are involved without a scintilla of law to protect his position. Any one conversant with law at all knows that no one has authority to act in legal matters of this character without being bonded. This party's bond expired December 31, 1914, and any document issued since that period and in his present capacity is illegal. For instance, the writer was shown a transcript given by this same party a few days ago to file in district court and by competent lawyer was pronounced illegal, true here was but a small amount involved, but the principal is the same. And what of the hundreds that have been involved since the expiration of his time a year ago, nearly? I wish to enter my protest against business conducted in this manner and say plainly there are breakers ahead and if his slipshod manner of doing business is permitted to continue, there will later be no end to litigation.

JAMES HALE.

**Sanitation Versus Examination.**  
 OMAHA, Feb. 8.—To the Editor of The Bee: As a citizen I should like to express my opinion in regard to the epidemics in our city, medical examination in our schools, sanitation, etc. Several items have appeared in the papers which, upon careful consideration make it plain that the tail is trying to wag the dog. In other words, some of the city officials have forgotten where their salaries come from; that they are servants of the people and not their masters. Why is so much being said and done at this time in regard to examining the children of the public schools and so little said and done about general sanitation. (The lack of sanitation being the real cause of the trouble.) Under existing circumstances it is to be doubted if school examination does any good; in fact, it is the belief of many that it tends to spread disease rather than lessen it.

I know what I am talking about when I say Omaha has what many of the congested cities of the east has not, an open city with plenty of God's sunshine, broad streets, through which sweeps the fresh, clean air of the prairie and if the sanitation inside was properly looked after it should be a long time, if ever, that medical examination in our city would be necessary. There is no law in Nebraska authorizing medical examination in schools, much less any law that can force parents to keep their children out of not submitting to this unlawful examination, and the school board and Superintendent Graff are exceeding their authority in making any such innovation in the schools. Since there is no authorization in Nebraska for medical examination in the schools, then there are no funds available that can be legitimately used for this purpose.

As to sanitation, the health commissioner surely has authority to look after the sanitation in Omaha. There are always downy drags that have actually been known to send people home sick after a few whiffs from them. Collectors of empty cans are so long getting around that

**The Bee's Letter Box**  
 That Catercorner Holding.  
 JULIENBURG, Colo., Feb. 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: Your timely editorial in today's paper hits the nail on the head. "Ticket buyers are told the Interstate Commerce commission won't let us charge any less," and when the commission's rulings favor the road, it never questions it. This is, in substance, the appeal of the Union Pacific Railroad company, and Mr. Basinger is making a big fun over it. But he fails to tell the patrons of his road why it is that this same railroad hauls passengers from Sidney to Denver, a distance of forty-five miles further, via Cheyenne, through three states, namely, Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado, and charges the same price that the Burlington does from Sidney to Denver, namely, \$48. We all know why and when the magnanimous Mr. Basinger to tell his reason, providing he can afford to miss that \$1,000 fine he elaborates upon. His Nebraska-Juliensburg-Colorado rate has caused a great deal of inconvenience to the traveling public, at the same time depleting the receipts of the Sidney ticket office, as passengers buy their tickets on the train, from Sidney to Chappell, thence to Bruce or Big Springs and then on east, thus saving from \$5 cents to \$1. It's a two-edge sword and the Union Pacific is getting in bad with the people.

JAMES P. JOHNSON.

**Remonstrance from an Actress.**  
 OMAHA, Feb. 8.—To the Editor of The Bee: As regards women smoking publicly at Omaha's leading hotel, "mostly done by actresses and outsiders," was the headline in one (not yours) of the Omaha papers. Officers of the hotel, it may be, have made the charge that actresses exhibit themselves as cigarette smokers.

Now, in the name of a profession disfigured by such ennobling women as the high-minded Modjeska and the gracious Mary Anderson, may I not be permitted a word of emphatic remonstrance? For I, too, belong to that profession. I belong to it and hold it in honor, and because I do honor it I cannot help resenting that any person of the female sex who happens to misbehave should always be termed "an actress." Newspapers seem to have a fondness for this sort of thing. Commonly they call such a person "a pretty actress," even though her connection with a theater may be less than that of chorus girl or cabaret singer. People who attend dramatic performances must realize that any actress worthy of the name has reverence for her vocation; that it is her business, as it is her gratification, to appear in plays which further the ideals of modesty and womanhood, and the social amenities. It is this, indeed, that makes it worth while to be an actress, and being one she will not forfeit the public's good opinion by indulging in doubtful decorum, in manners ill bred or in tricks of smartness.

GENEVIEVE RUSSELL.

**DEAR MR. KABIHRE,**  
 WHEN WALKING IN THE RAIN WITH MY FIANCEE, WHO SHOULD HOLD THE UMBRELLA—SHE OR ME?  
 WINTON

**SHE SHOULD HOLD THE UMBRELLA WHILE YOU HOLD UP YOUR HAND SIGNALLING A TAXICAB**

Grubbs—Are you planning to make any good resolutions?  
 Stubb—No, I am already pretty well stocked up in that way. You see, I never used those I made last year.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Wife—Dear me, you can never find a thing without asking me where it is. How did you get along before you were married?  
 Hub—Things stayed where they were put, then.—Boston Transcript.

"Why did everybody cry in that last death scene?"  
 "Because they knew the actor wasn't really dead."—Topeka Journal.

**BACK TO THE TRENCHES.**  
 To Willie, my Dear—  
 Your letter is here; it came as a few of them do. The mail before last just an envelope passed; its contents got censored—not through.

I'm sorry to note that you've been the goat. For pickles, tobacco and jam. When I mixed make a dish I scarcely should wish to set before Willie, my lamb.

Your socks you must darn, I'm sending some yarn. You'd better start at it today. Don't say that you shan't. You won't or you can't. You've got to come to it, I say.

And please don't forget I've turned suffragette. So when you reach Home-Sweet-Home's pier, I'll strap on your sword. And show folks who's lord—I'll lead the parade, Willie dear!

I've got to close now. The town's in a row. We're after them hot. But work they will not. I'm ever your honey-bunch, Mar. Council Bluffs. C. H.

**SAID IN FUN.**  
 "Is she modest?"  
 "Modest? Why, she can't watch a billiard game."  
 "What's the reason?"  
 "She blanches every time the balls kiss."  
 —The Jester.

Nurse—It's twine, sir.  
 Father—Holy Moses and Jumpin' Jehosophat!  
 Nurse—Oh, no, sir; we haven't named them yet.—Boston Transcript.

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**Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha**  
 Compiled from Bee Files.

The cold wave flag has again been hoisted from the peak of the federal building on orders from Washington.

A surprise party was tendered to Miss Lou Krueger, 129 North Twentieth street, arranged by a committee consisting of W. Krueger and J. McKenna.

Mayor Boyd has appointed Thomas Craig, W. J. Brantch and W. A. L. Gibbon to assess damages to property caused by the erection of the Sixteenth street viaduct.

Joseph Bell, the well-known ticket agent of the Union Pacific, is lying seriously ill at his home.

Judge McCulloch of the county court has made a new rule compelling applicants for marriage licenses to appear before him in person and verify conditions prerequisite to matrimony according to law.

Patterson Park is a new addition to the city three and a half miles west of the court house, which R. C. Patterson is putting on the market. The ardent devotion of Mr. Patterson to the democratic administration is proved by the names of the streets labeled on the plat, among them Cleveland avenue, Hendricks avenue, Hazard street, Manning street, Endicott street, Whitney street, Lamar street, Vilas street, Garland street and Waye avenue.