THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR HOSEWATER, EDITOR.

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State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, as:
Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee
Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the
average circulation for the month of January, 1916,
was \$1,165.
DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager.
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
me, this 3d 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.

The promise of clothes going up \$2 a suit will not interfere seriously with knockdown

By the time the courts give the general public the benefit of the doubt the millenium will have reached its destination.

Baltimore is now the wickedest city in the country, or, rather, it will be until "Billy" Sunday finishes the job of "brightening its corner."

Preparedness is speeding up in unlooked for directions. Senator J. Ham Lewis of Chicago has added a pocket testament to his defensive equipment.

Behold, democrats, Omaha's hold-over postmaster, who, we have no doubt, is willing to serve until your little internal party differences are settled.

The coming automobile show will combine utility with style and speed-three traits which distinguish and animate life in the Missouri valley corn belt.

The chief difference between a holdup man and a holdout man is that the law condemns one and argues for the other. Morally they are in the same class.

At any rate, credit the School board for not even considering importing as outside architect to put up our new school buildings, as did the university regents.

If the senator is so eager to welcome a debate, he might himself enter the lists against "Met" on the salient issue upon which they are known to be in sharp disagreement.

The discovery of American brands on Carranza hides occasions needle's suspicion. The American brand went with the Carranza recognition. Venustiano knows a good thing and how to work it.

Corporations suffering from an excess of water and expert manipulation are more fortunate than an afflicted individual. Surgical treatment on themselves is averted by an operation on the public.

If a private business establishment bought \$10,000 worth of fire hose on the same plan that it is bought for the Omaha fire department, somebody would be starting an inquiry into the management.

When the Rock Island puts in its /3-cent rate, it will be careful not to include the business between competitive points, for if it should, it would not sell any tickets between those stations. The road will only bump the towns that can't escape its exactions.

The Rock Island made a showing that its loss on passenger business in Nebraska was eighty-seven-one-hundredths of 1 per cent. It was therefore given permission to increase its passenger tariff by at least 20 per cent. Which favor ought to satisfy even a railroad magnate.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

Compiled from Bee Files. Mr. and Mrs. William A. Paxton held a brilliant reception to their many friends at the pariors of the Paston botel, which were filled with all the society people and presented an appearance of brilliancy never before seen in all their festal history. At 11 o'clock entire assemblage retired to the dining hall and filled all the chairs before the 130 covers.

The regular meeting of the Douglas Medical soclety was held in St. George's hall, Seventeenth and Parnam streets. The feature of the evening was the paper read by Dr. Sommurs on the case of Mr. Park hurst, who lost his leg in a counting accident on Dodge street some time ago. The history of the case and the difficulty of amputation were fully explained and the amputated leg itself was exhibited.

A pleasant party was given in the Cosmopolitan on Thirteenth street by Minnie and Fred Hoye, the twenty couples present enjoying themselves hugely.

Branch & Co., have three white ferrets and two brown ones, which are quite a curiosity in their way. Their ability to catch rate in wonderful.

W. A. Paxton is negotiating with Peter Goos to ure the sixty-six-foot lot immediately east of Mr. Paston's property at Sixteenth and Farnam street, ed that Mr. Payton intends to put up a fine hotel if he can accure the necessary frontage.

The program of the Ladies' Musical society was given by Mr. Hytes, Mr. Wilkins and the Misses Millie Chamberlain, Minnie Brown and Katie Lowe. Mrs. McMenamy has started on an extensive south-

Rock Island and the Two-Cent Rate.

The temporary restraining order, just issued against the Nebraska Railroad commission, and suspending the 2-cent passenger rate as applied to the Rock Island, is another step in the fight of the railroads to set aside state authority in the matter of rate control. The usual plea is made that the rate is not compensatory, is confiscatory and ought not to be enforced. To this the Nebraska commission replied the Rock Island had purposely increased its passenger train service in Nebraska for the purpose of creating the condition that would warrant the court in taking action.

Whatever of truth may exist in the allegation of the comm'ssion, some facts, taken from reports of the railroad's business, may be of interest in assisting in making up a conclusion. The Rock Island has been in the hands of receivers for about a year. For the last year of its prosperity, ending June 30, 1913, it reported net earnings of \$15,722,818, out of which it paid a dividend of 5 per cent on its capital stock of \$74,482,522. For the year ending June 30, 1915, it reports net earnings of \$14,-039,722, and no dividends paid. This was for a year of unusual depression. Its net earnings had already fallen in 1914 to a point where dividends had ceased, but were slightly increased the following year. Its earnings per mile in 1914 were given at \$8,313, and in 1915 at \$8,517. Since June 30, 1915, a decided change has come over conditions in the railroad business, and the Rock Island has shared in the general prosperity. Stripped of the nonproductive lines that forced it into insolvency, the Rock Island ought very soon to be back on a paying basis and in the hands of its owners.

But this will not stop the onslaught on the 2-cent rate, which has apparently come on in earnest now, to be determined in court by a showing of facts as to whether it is a fair price for hauling passengers.

Writing New Law for the Seas.

It is unfortunate in a sense that the exigencies of actual war were needed to bring to action the long mooted revision of international law as applied to maritime affairs, especially the status of neutrals and noncombatants, but such work is now fairly under way, attended by difficulties that will make any progress a real achievement. The conditions growing out of the use of submarine warships have come to a point that actually force the modification of certain accepted international laws. These have to deal with the rights of noncombatants, and so far the United States has been able to secure some concessions from the beiligerents on the point of providing for the safety of the company of whatever ship may be overhauled by one of the modern terrors of the deep.

The determination of the Entente Allies to arm their merchant vessels interjects a new issue that complicates the whole situation, increasing the danger as well as the tension between the several countries. Pledges of the Tentonic powers to provide for the safety of all on board any merchantman that may fall prey to a submersible have been secured by the United States, and these are relied upon. Incidental difficulties growing out of the changed character of a merchantman carrying arms are not entirely done away with by the promises made, however, and the possibility of a serious breach is made the more immediate by the

The natural disposition of a belligerent to seek advantage, even at the cost of neutral rights, is more apparent now than ever, and plenty of work remains for the diplomats before the law of the sea is so established as entirely to conform to humane requirements.

Root's Review of Wilson's Administration.

That distinguished American citizen, Elihu Root, never more adequately exhibited his eminent qualifications for critical analysis than in his summing up of the shortcomings of the present administration of national government. Mr. Root's review is as calm and dispassionate as a state paper, but is pregnant with such conviction as must make clear the deficiency of the democratic party, and its unfitness for the responsibility of government. A more complete indictment of a national political party was never drawn.

The Mexican muddle, with its dark picture of indifferent incompetency and partisan meddling, is lucidly set forth, and the miserable failure of the president to measure up to his full duty in dealing with the European war situation is presented with such clarity as to leave nothing for the defenders of the shillyshallying policy to hide behind. Mr. Wilson's shifting character and his instability on vital issues is presented with supporting proof of such convincing quality as to establish that the single-track mind of the president has many curves, and has several times doubled back on itself in a loop not altogether graceful,

Even now, the republicans in congress are looked upon to save the administration from the consequences of its own blunders. The people of America expect and demand something the democrats can not deliver. The call is clear to the republican party, which is pledged to protect American citizens at home and abroad, to moderation in government, and to the advancement of our cherished ideals of freedom.

Tribulations of a Troubadour.

The sweet singer of our senstor's personal staff is having a trying time these days, having to pitch his tune to suit the tastes and tickle the ears of a large variety of hearers. He must pipe a warlike lay, as piercing as the pibroch, to suit the president's passing policy, and at the same time he must warble as "gently as a sucking dove" that he give no offense to the pacifists. He lifts a litting melody for Metcalfe one day, and hymns a paean of praise for Bryan the next, and does it with a deftness that marks him master of the gentle are of straddling. He has twanged his lute under the window of each of all the many different kinds of democratic leaders in Nebraska, and continues in his devoted effort to please all and hurt the feelings of none. His performance just goes to show what extremity of effort may fall to the lot of the head fugleman of a chieffain who must corral the votes in order to hold his job. The wonder is that he does it so well.

Under the circumstances, the clean-up campaign cannot start too early.

Our Fear of Snakes

TS THE FACT that most of us are instinctively afraid I of snakes—even of the harmless kinds—an evidence that the human race originated on the continent of Asia, where serpents of all sorts have always been abundant and generally venomous? This would appear to be the view of T. G. Dabney, set forth in a communication to Science. He notes that Col. William C. Gorgas, in his book on "Sanitation in Panama," concludes that the human race, in the early days before we had begun to wear clothes or use fire, must have been confined to the tropics. Does our primitive snake-fear narrow down this region

This abhorrence of serpents is really a deep-seated animal instinct, which has survived long after the

conditions that gave it origin. "Rational persons who are informed on the subect know that the great majority of the snakes to be encountered in this country are entirely harmless, being without venom or fangs; and indeed the writer has determined, to his own satisfaction at least, that in this particular region the only one of the snake family that is a menace to human life is the now rarely encountered Crotalus horridus,

using the term in a generic sense. 'And yet, any intelligent person when unexpectedy brought into close proximity to any kind of a snake, large or small, venomous or non-venomous, even a semblance of a snake, is suddenly seized by a panic of horror and fear, with an impulse to spring away out of the serpent's reach as quickly as possible in a sort of blind terror.

"The probable origin of this instinctive horrer of serpents that still dominates the mind of civilized man was during the countless generations when early man was slowly climbing up from his animal ancestry to his present eminence as Homo sapiens. Being without fire and without clothing or shelter, he was particularly defenseless in an environment beset by deadly serpents, against this, probably the greatest danger and greatest menace to racial survival that he had to encounter. Hence his instinctive horror of the serpent form

'The idea that India was the 'cradle' of the white race at least, with its serpent environment threatening racial existence for a very long period of its primitive development, appears to receive some degree of confirmation from the fact that among the inhabitants of India at the present time the annual mortality from attacks of serpents exceeds twenty thousand, notwithstanding the efforts of the British authorities to suppress the evil.

"The serpent-instinct in man has a close analogy in a similar instinct that characterizes the domestic horse of the present time, to which allusion has been made by writers on the subject. It is a familiar fact to every one who has to do with horses, the proneness of the horse to exhibit an insane and incontrollable fear of any unfamiliar wayside object. Indeed the phenomenon is such a commonplace that probably very few persons have given a thought in explanation of what appears to be a wholly unaccountable mystery.

"The auggestion that has been offered with compelling force to account for this curious horse-instinct is on parallel lines with that offered above to account for man's serpent-instinct, both of which in the nature of animal instincts are intense and deepseated, and have long survived the conditions that

"In the case of the horse, for a very long period of his racial development he was subject to one danger exceeding all others in magnitude by which racial survival wa constantly threatened. This danger was embodied in the predactous beasts that infested the horse's early environment, mainly of the feline family, that lay in wait concealed by bushes or other cover for the opportunity to spring upon him and devour him. The horse had no means of defense against this danger except alertness in eluding the spring of his enemy and fleetness of foot to escape pursuit. The individual horses that developed these qualities most highly survived, while those that falled to reach an efficient standard fell victims to their enemies.

"And we now see, thousands of years after the estication of the horse, that he suddenly falls into a senseless panic and flees at breakneck speed from an imaginary danger behind him, heediess of real dangers ahead which not infrequently cause him

"The instinctive fear of imaginary dangers in the horse, and the same kind of fear of serpents in man, appear to have had a similar genesis in the early experiences of both races."

Twice Told Tales

Brief Rope Banished.

A sad and seedy individual gained admission to the offices of one of the city's best-known legal firms, and at last somehow penetrated to the sanctum of the senior partner.

Well," asked the lawyer, "what do you want?" The visitor was nothing if not frank. "Half a dollar," he said boldly, The man's unusual demeanor caught the lawyer's

"There you are." he said, handing out the money. "And now I should like to have you tell me how you

came to fall so low in the world." The visitor laughed. "All my youth," he explained. "I had counted on inheriting something from my

uncle, but when he died he left all he had to an orphan asylum." "A philanthropist," commented the lawyer. "What

did his estate consist of?" "Ten children," said the visitor-and vanished. Philadelphia Ledger.

At the Octagon Table. After the war editor had subsided at the octagon table of the Pittsburgh Press cluo, the Paragrapher

spoke up: When I wen thome yesterday afternoon! found my two hopefuls engaged in a battle royal with all the small boys of the neighborhood. It was a roughand-ready scrimmage and all seemed to take it goodnaturedly, but one boy had a bloody nose and another was tethered with a rope around his neck.

'What's doing?' I asked. "'Playing war,' one boy answered. 'See me? I'm the allies. Bill, with the rope around his neck, is the Germans. Tom's the Austrians and Jim's the Turks. These fellers are jes' Japs and Serbs and Russians." "The boy with the decorated nose was silent, but laughing. 'What are you?' I asked.

"T'm bleeding Belgium," he answered."-Pittaburgh Chronicle Telegraph.

People and Events

An official revision of Boston's moral code permits bare toes on the stage, but bare ankles-never

The veil of mystery which long enveloped the Arabic compound or confection knows as "Zem-Zem" gave rise to many conjectures as to its food or medicinal value. Some regarded Zem-Zem as the active principal of Ak-Sar-Hen pep. Others likened it to Commercial club tobacco, and rude scoffers recommended it as a hair renovator for baldheads. These unfeeling aspersions sprang from ignorance. Zem-Zem more than pep, tobacco or hair renovator. It is an article of great medicinal value, esteemed a cureall of surpassing merit by the brewers at Mecca. The German explorer Neufeld, who experienced its full effects, youches for its efficacy "in restoring health, brightening the vision, physically and spiritually, and facilitating the pronunciation of Arabic." Only the faithful receive the full benefit of the sacred elixir. Some samples of Zem-Zem have been exploited privately in this country, but since Neufeld lifted the veil of mystery imitations may readily be detected by the pronunciation test. Butter be sure than sorry, submit to that sort of thing.

The Bees S

Discussion of Religion. OMAHA, Feb. 15.-To the Editor of The Bee: The position of R. L. Metcalfe on the religious question is indefensible, and will be determined in the wisdom of a final analysis to be subversive of the political, religious and social order of the

It is revolting to common sense; repugnant to American ideals, and ultimately meafie an intellectually, morally and spiritually entramelled people. It is, therefore difficult, indeed, to discern the animating motive of the declaration of a religious principie, by a professed lover of democracy, which is so contrary to the trend of modern times, but interprets with historical precision the cause of the ignorance, superstition and clericalism of the past. The continuance of our democracy, and perpetuity of the republic would be impossible under the most pernicious influences inevitable to Mr. Metcelfe's admonition not to discuss

Religion, the one cause that differentiates the nations of the world-redigion, the one interpretative formula of the possibilities of a nation's civilizations. Religion, the highest conception and the noblest inspiration of the human mind. Not to discuss it is sacreligious. Not to discuss it is a crime against this nation because it is an incontrovertible truism, supported by history and contemporaneous experience, that a nation does not rise above the religious teachings of its dominant altar, unless the people by discussion and determined action eliminate those teachings and pretentions of clericalism so dangerous to the welfare, happiness and sovereign rights of a nation. When this nation ceases to discuss religion it is doomed. The man who makes that condition possible will be the destroyer of this republic.

J. BRAXTON GARLAND.

Disfiguring Animals. BOUTH SIDE, OMAHA, Feb. 16.-To the Editor of The Bee: There is a penalty for dooking horses' tails in Nebraska. There should be a law against the cutting of talls and ears of other animals. Not long ago I read a letter that was pretended to be written by a dog and it started out as follows:

"When I was born I was a beauty and perfect. Just look at me now, No ears, no tail. When I was a few weeks old they out off my ears and all of my

That is about what a dog would say if it could talk. Anybody who cuts off the tails and ears of dogs ought to have their ears or a finger or some other part of their anatomy out off to see how it goes. Animals have feelings the same as people and they should be treated

Leading dog fanciers have told me they do not believe in cutting off the tails of dogs and that it is simply a fad with some dog fanciers and other dog owners. In my estimation it makes any dog ugly in appearance to cut off any part of their tail, and it seems to me that the humane society has a large field to work in, for we see numberless dogs every day with their tails cut close to their bodies. It is a shame and disgrace to humanity and is simply a relic of the times of savagery when it was thought to make slit and the face and parts of the body alashed with sharp instruments. Dogs are like people in many ways. There are worthless dogs and there are worthless men and women. There are also valuable and useful dogs. Nature gave dogs their tails so that they could express themselves, as the power of speech was not given them, and to take away their only way of expression is not only gruel, but should be made oriminal. I like to see a dog wag his tall and thump the floor with it when he is lying down and to deprive him of that pleasure is cruelty

No one can tell me it makes a dog beautiful to out off his tall for it makes any dog ugly in the extreme. It seems to me that the humane society

should start a movement to have the next legislature pass an act prohibiting the docking of the tails of all domestic animale, including dogs. F. A. AGNEW.

Was War Ever More Barbarous! ST. MARY'S Neb., Feb. 16 -- To the Editor of The Bee: Considering the present methods of conducting warfare in Europe, by aeroplanes dropping bombs ad libitum upon innocent and inoffensive women and children, as well as dumb brutes, maiming and killing them. for no cause whatever, does that come within the scope of Christianity and civ-Will someone kindly elte to any era in history when war was conducted on a more barbarian method? If this cannot be done we must frankly acknowledge that the world is growing worse, and it would be a sad reflection upon the loyalty of humanity to the teaching of Him who shed His blood on Calvary for our salvation. General William T. Sherman once said, "War ia hell," but present indications are that man has even been improving on that. H. SCHUMANN.

Tips on Home Topics

Baltimore American: A noted psychologist says that fathers ought to sing to their babies. But he overlooks the psychology of the fact that modern families live in apartment houses and that there are others.

Washington Post: When one compares what Jess Willard gets for fighting with what preachers receive for inveighing against the rude practice it is easy to understand why so many youngsters want to be champions. Boston Transcript: The stupidity of

the British censor makes it difficult to determine whether King George is eating his meals from the mantlepiece from having been thrown from his horse, or was wounded at the front. Louisville Courier-Journal: "Alexander

Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, is at Palm Beach." Which will serve to remind you that there was a time when you dispatched a note to make a business or social engagement instead of trying to telephone and being told, with malignant pleasure: Linzebusy.

Louisville Courier-Journal: It is a poor time for the American armor plate manufacturers to be threatening the government with extortion. That crowd has been given to holding up Uncle Sam in the past, but at present his naval construction is not in the hands of the political party which cheerfully throws up its hands every time an armor maker's Neither congress gun is pointed at it. nor the people are now in any mood to

Nebraska Editors

A. H. Backhaus completed his tweifth year as editor and proprietor of the Pierce County Loader last week.

has recently completed a term as postmaster, has filed for the republican nomination for representative from Adams county.

Charles D. Blauvelt, who recently purhased the Journal-Tribunal, has shed his hyphen. His paper appeared last week as the Johnson County Journal. Frank O. Edgecomb of the Geneva Signai published a daily edition during the Hamilton evangelistic meetings, which closed last Sunday evening.

GRINS AND GROAMS.

"Isn't it dreadful! This is the third me I have worn the same evening gown."
"Never mind, my dear; remember that it is just that sort of self-denial that develops one's character."—Life.

Irate Father—Don't think, young man, you can walk into this house and hang up your hat.

Timid Suitor—I knew I can't, sir. You're sitting on it.—Baltimore American.

DEAR MR. KABIBBLE, SHOULD I MARRY A MAN WITH BLACK EYES? -LEONORA

YES- BUT IT WOULD BE MORE OF AN HONOR TO MARRY THE WINNER! "

"Se you're going in for public speak-ing?"
"Yes."
"Well, make up your mind that you can say more in half an hour than you can in two hours."—Detroit Free Press.

"What do I get for this stunt?" asked "You get nothing from me for it as a manager," replied that individual, "but if I were a magistrate as well, you'd get sixty days."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

A WORD OF CHEER.

(Many a bachelor has made a woman happy—by not marrying her.)—Extract from The Bee.

Oh good kind-hearted bachelors
Who grieve for lives you may have blighted.
Read the above from the able pen
Of one who must be-is-long sighted.
And it may cheer you some to know
That they who loved you against their will—
How could they help it?—rtill artes.

How could they help it?—still exist; And, strange to say, are happy still. You were well groomed, you had great

one glance from you set her heart dan-Che giance from you set her heart dan-cing—
She almost lost control of it—
Your ways, you see, were so entrancing;
But unlike Elaine of olden times
She had no time to drift on barges;
She had to work like all get out
To pay her board and credit charges.

And so kind bachelors, cheer up.
The girls you loved, but feared to wed.
Sirs.
Because you were too frail, please note,
Have neither time, nor tears to shed.

Sirs.
They've found the courage which you lacked, lacked.

And used it in a wise endeavor—
They're happy, bless your selfish hearts—
You may 'bide conscience-free forever.
Omaha BAYOLL NE TRELE.

Your Sick Child Is Constipated! Look at Tongue

I. H. Rickel of the Juniata Herald, who Hurry, Mother! Remove poisons from little stomach, liver, bowels.

> Give "California Syrup of Figs" if cross, bilious or feverish.



No matter what alls your child, a gentle, thorough laxative should always be the first treatment given.

If your little one is out-of-sorts, halfsick, isn't resting, cating and acting naturally-look, Mother! see if tongue is coated. This is a sure sign that the little stomach, liver and bowels are clogged with waste. When cross, irritable, feverish, stomach sour, breath bad or has stomach-ache, diarrhosa, sore throat, full of cold, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the constipated poison, undigested food and sour bile gently moves out of the little bowels without griping, and you have a well, playful child again.

Mothers can rest easy after giving this harmless "fruit laxative," because it never fails to cleanse the little one's liver and bowels and sweeten the stomach and they dearly love its pleasant taste. Full directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups printed on each bot-

Beware of counterfelt fig syrups. Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs;" then see that t is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company,"-Advertisement.

When Itching Stops

There is one safe, dependable treatstantly and that cleanses and soothes the

Ask any druggist for a 25c bottle of semo and apply it as directed. Soon you will find that pimples, black heads, eczema, ringworm and similar skip troubles will disappear.

A little semo, the penetrating, satisfying liquid, is all that is needed, for it banishes all skin eruptions and makes the skin soft, smooth and healthy. Zemo, Cleveland,

Chicago

FAST SPLENDIDLY EQUIPPED TRAINS

Chicago and the East

Chicago Passenger Terminal, Chicago & North Western Ry.

Over a double track system with automatic electric safety signals all the way from Omaha to Chicago.

7-DAILY TRAINS-7 all arriving at Chicago in the new Passenger Terminal CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN RY.

convenient to hotel and shopping district. DAILY BERVICE:

Leave Omaha. 7:30 a. m. Arrive Chicago. 8:45 p. m.

" " 12:30 p. m. " " 6:45 a. m.

" " 6:50 p. m. " " 7:34 a. m.

" " 8:33 p. m. " " 11:00 a. m.

" " 10:10 p. m. " " 11:30 a. m.

" " 11:20 a. m. " " 2:00 p. m. Parlor Car on 7:30 a. m train. Observation and Sleeping Cara Overland Limited 9:00 p. m. extra-fare train for first-clase aleep Los Angeles Limited 10:10 p. m. train for sleeping car pas-The Best of Everything Tichets, reservations and information at City Ticket Offices, 1401-3 Farnam St., Tel. Douglas 2740. JOHN MEZIEN, G. A. Chicago & North West

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.