THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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The republic's hour of trial urges calmness.

Is the backbone of winter really broken or only sprained?

The stars in the courses steadily trace the finish of "divine righters."

So long as the north foots the bill the south cheerily votes the money.

"Age does not wither nor custom stale" the vigor of Old Winter's punch.

The admonition to tourists holds good just now more than ever: "See America first."

Below-zero weather makes for accidents as well as for fires. Observe all "safety first" precautions!

Uncle Sam to Ambassador von Bernstorff: "Stand not upon the order of your going, but go at once!"

Current records of indoor sports cannot be considered complete so long as the score of political head-hunters is ignored.

The sisal trust no doubt remembers what the government did to John D. Rockefeller's combine and invites similar treatment.

And limiting the time for introduction of bills to the first twenty days of the legislative session was expected to curtail the number of measures presented!

It is safe to assume that both ambassadors had their trunks packed and that the polite invitation to go home was not unexpected, even though they might be hoping it would not come.

Mustering out National Guardsmen still at the border may be considered indefinitely postponed. With a real reason for remaining in the service, however, the guardsmen will have no objection.

It is impossible to say at this time who started the "leak" on the state senator's citizenship. A statement from the "associated buccaneers" might help some in turning down the finger of suspicion.

The destruction of a ship wholly engaged in carrying relief from America to the Belgians is an inexcusable case of wantonness. Wrecking a vehicle of human charity reveals "frightfulness" gone mad.

Incidentally, remember that the Austrian ambassador to Washington also received his passport something over a year ago because of a little difference of opinion as to his continued usefulness here.

The statements made by former Police Judge Foster averring positive and detailed knowledge of bought-and-sold police protection in Omaha should make him a valuable witness before the grand jury now in session. If he has such information the judge should not wait even to be subpoenaed. Now is the time to bring all lawbreakers to the bar of justice.

Freight Car Efficiency.

Out of the engorged condition of the freight car service, which gave everybody concerned so much worry during the early months of the winter, the railroad managers are emerging, triumphantly waving some new records. One of these is the greatest average daily car mileage ever recorded, another is the greatest average load and the third is the correspondingly increased efficiency of the freight car service. The Railway Age Gazette carefully analyzes compilations made from the reports of forty-six leading roads, furnished in compliance with a request from the Interstate Commerce commission. These reports show the average mileage of freight cars for the forty-six roads to have been 29.03 miles in October, 1916. The best previous figures were in June, 1913, when 26.69 miles was obtained. To get at what this means, understand that it is not the actual miles traveled by cars in trains, but is reached by dividing the actual number of train miles by the total number of cars, whether moving or standing, loaded or empty.

Similarly, the average load per car was increased from thirty-eight tons in 1913 to forty-one tons in 1916, while the trainload went up from 445.4 tons in 1913 to 567 tons in 1916. The value of all this is summed up by the Railway Age Gazette thus:

> The statement that there was an increase of 8 per cent in car efficiency in the fiscal year 1916 over the year 1913 and an increase of 17 per cent in car efficiency in September, 1916, over September, 1913, may not mean much to persons unfamiliar with railway affairs. When, however, it is stated that there are now 2,400,000 freight cars on the railways of the United States and that, therefore, an increase of 8 per cent in their average efficiency is equivalent to an increase of 192,000 in the number of cars and that an increase of 17 per cent in efficiency is equivalent to an increase of 384,000 in the number of cars, the true significance of the increase in efficiency becomes apparent.

That such a record is possible must be gratifying to the railway traffic managers, who have been most criticised because of conditions. But the paper quoted concludes its comment by saying "the present mileage per day is too small and ought to be increased."

THE BREAK WITH GERMANY.

The threatened break between the United States and Germany has come to reality by withdrawal of the interchange of ambassadors between the two countries. The indications are that the same situation will be forced with respect to the relations with Austria-Hungary.

The lucid narration by the president to congress of the successive steps that have led up to the crisis and made this action inescapable need not be repeated here, for no one is more familiar with the facts or can state the case more clearly than Mr. Wilson.

When the German note proclaiming the policy of ruthless sea warfare and warning neutrals out of an arbitrarily defined navigation zone was made public The Bee gave careful attention to the question, "What is our next move?" We said that what the kaiser has now down practically puts us back to the stage when the ultimatum over the Sussex went forth, leaving this country no alternative but to follow the procedure then outlined for such a contingency. The only open question in our opinion was whether to wait for another overt act in disregard of our neutral rights. In any event, the first step would be to discontinue diplomatic relations. This we foresaw, while it might not be war nor necessarily lead to war, would be a very serious strain between the two countries.

The president, nor anyone else patriotically devoted to the republic, has been able to see a different way out. At the outbreak of the war the kaiser himself gave as his excuse for attacking the Allies: "They have forced the sword into my hand." In our case the kaiser has forced the United States, despite our most peaceful intentions, to sever diplomatic relations with a government that insists upon doing things we have distinctly declared would be regarded as unfriendly acts. The kaiser has yet opportunity to retrace his steps and reaffirm his former naval policy. But, will he do so? If not, he will find the American people undivided behind their country, their flag and their president.

What Sort of Education is Needed?

The announcement from the General Education board, founded and endowed by John D. Rockefeller, of purpose to experiment with some proposed reforms in education, is arousing much discussion. One of the most illuminating criticisms of the plan comes from Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university. It is interesting, because the proposed experimental school is to be established in connection with the Teachers' college of Columbia. Dr. Butler looks on the undertaking with something of questioning doubt, for he is not sure that it is possible to thus establish a race of intellectual giants. Education, he says, must take account of the lower as well as the higher forms of usefulness. To overlook the lower entirely will produce, as Bismarck warned, an "educated proletariat, a well informed body of parasites unable to produce anything of value or to maintain themselves." On the other hand, Dr. Butler says that to omit the higher form and devote our efforts singly to the practical will produce a "community of highly trained ants or very industrious bees, but not human beings." The educational system that will bring best results is the one that most completely combines the two forms of usefulness. This is quite possible in the elementary instruction; when the higher grades are reached the student may select for himself such branches as he is convinced will serve his needs. A school may be made a workshop, but it must also be a repository of the records of mankind from his very beginnings.

High Cost of Living and a Remedy.

As food commissioner of the state of New York, John J. Dillon proposes three reasons as the cause of the high price of food. First, the indifference of the well-to-do to the situation. Men, he says, who can initiate economic reforms are too greatly concerned in other ways to devote attention to the incidental of food cost. Second, improper care and packing of farm produce for marketing, and third, inefficient and extravagant methods of marketing. Food goes through too many hands between the producer and consumer, each taking a bit of profit and all together enormously increasing the cost to the consumer without giving the producer a share. To remedy this, Mr. Dillon proposes that the state establish central stations at shipping points, to which the farmers may bring their produce, there to be properly graded and packed by experts and shipped to the city, where it will be delivered at a central market and disposed of to retailers without the intervention of a chain of commission men, each bent on his own interest. This system will do away with waste incident to improper handling, will avoid delay in delivery and will greatly lessen the cost by eliminating unnecessary middlemen. But Mr. Dillon doesn't expect his plan to be adopted without much opposition on part of those interested in maintaining the status quo. His summing up is the result of years of experience, and his pessimism as to the result is from the same source. The high cost of living will be with us until a better way of getting foodstuffs from the fields to the homes of the city dwellers is adopted.

The Psychology of Shopping.

In announcing discontinuance of comparative prices as a new departure, one of Omaha's big stores raises an interesting question of purchase psychology: Is it true that the shopper is attracted by assurance that an article has been "marked down" from $10 to $6.95? Is it necessary, to move the goods, to say that "$2 value" is being offered for $1? Is the instinct for "bargains" to be satiated only by representing something to be cheaper than it was before or cheaper than it can be had at any other place? Or have shoppers been educated up to the point of looking at the price mark and satisfying themselves that the goods are worth the money?

No, we are not going to try to answer these questions, but they suggest the further question: Do merchants study the psychology of purchase and grasp its variations and shades and endeavor to adapt themselves to psychological conditions? Everybody sells something or buys something, and most everybody is both buyer and seller, but how many can size up and interpret a transaction from both sides of the counter?

Views, Reviews and Interviews

By Victor Rosewater

CONDITIONS in getting out newspaper extras right now are very much as they were at the outbreak of the present European war, or when we were in the midst of our trouble with Mexico, only with this difference—that because of the print paper shortage there is smaller disposition to overdo the "extra" business. The Bee has issued extras with the up-to-the-minute news, and for the most part has beaten its competitors, but because we are running close to paper supply we are strictly limiting the number printed and not making any attempt to force the sales, though it would be a legitimate inflation of circulation. Let our readers rest assured, however, that for any news that comes from dependable sources and really warrants an extra they will look to The Bee as always.

Additions to the account I gave last week of the receipt in Omaha of the news of the shooting of President McKinley come from E. E. Huntley, who was taking the Associated Press report over the wire that day and whose claim of being the first Omaha man to have the information is doubtless correct. My account stated that we got the "flash" over the telephone, which is accurate so far as it goes, but he says this was followed up with transmission of the duplicate printed telegraphic copy which is delivered by messenger service to both the Omaha Associated Press papers and that there being but one messenger in the office at the moment (the Associated Press office was then located in the Board of Trade building) he instructed The Bee's messenger to give one copy to the World-Herald messenger when he met him at the foot of the stairs and rush to The Bee with the other. Not meeting the second boy, however, The Bee's messenger delivered the World-Herald copy first and then ran from the World-Herald office to The Bee office with the other. Under the circumstances the World-Herald should have "scored," and doubtless would have except for the accident of the "cold metal" which I have already described.

Listening to discussion of the school board bill reminded me again that unification of control of Omaha schools under a single board of education was brought about through a law whose enactment was procured by my father as a member of the legislature of 1871, in which is also to be found the origin of the establishment of The Bee. There was much opposition to this measure, and in order to get it through he was compelled to consent to having a referendum clause tacked on it, making its operation await a popular vote of endorsement. It was to push this law, or rather to focus public opinion for its ratification, that The Bee was started. As a result, a metropolitan school district was organized to take over the management of the several district schools and also that of the high school, previously under the direction of a separate board of regents. This law also discloses how the membership of our school board came to be twelve instead of some other number, the city of that time consisting of six wards, which were empowered to choose each, two school board members whose terms were to overlap so that one would retire alternately each year. The six wards have grown into twelve and the school board membership is again the same as it was in the beginning.

Another interesting bit of information furnished by the 1871 volume of session laws is that the bonds issued to erect our old high school building were endorsed and guaranteed by the city. The legislature passed a special act covering the subject (special acts were then not barred by constitutional inhibition) which expressly stipulated that the bonds should be issued by the school authorities and also signed by the mayor and carry with them the assurance that, if not paid according to the terms out of the school resources, they should be an obligation of the city and payable as other city bonds. I presume the purpose of this was to give the bonds the benefit of the city's credit when marketed and possibly help secure a buyer at a lower interest rate than would be otherwise commanded. I wonder whether our school bonds ever suffered since that time a serious disadvantage as compared with our municipal bonds.

Perils of Prosperity

St. Louis Republic

It would be necessary to go back to the Arabian Nights and follow the underground adventures of Aladdin in the three halls and the Garden of Jewels in order to find anything appealing to the imagination like the statistics of our foreign trade for the year just closed, in which we sent abroad goods to the amount of $5,454,000,000! This staggering total is more than twice as large as that of the fiscal year of 1913, which held the high record before the war began. It is more than three times as large as the total for 1906. Our imports, which reached a new high figure also, were $2,392,000,000. The export balance was thus more than $3,000,000,000.

If the country's most acute statisticians are right, we crossed during the last year the divide which separates the debtor from the creditor nation. Up till 1916 the streams of wealth poured from this country to Europe, for Europe had heavy loans and large property investments in this country. But we have paid this back—and more. Henceforth the streams of wealth will not pour from us upon Europe, but from Europe upon us.

The gold movement for the last year is disquieting, when we remember that gold is the underpinning of all paper money and that Europe's ability to pay its bills is necessary to the financial stability of America. We are normally a gold-exporting nation, for we mine more of the precious metal than our necessary share for monetary use. Yet during the last year we received, net, from foreign countries $530,000,000 in gold.

We are just now menaced by the perils of prosperity. It was Sam Weller who wished some rich enemy "vould try to vork his destruction" by leaving him money. We are taking our peril in a like spirit. But the peril is there nonetheless—the peril of abnormal and one-sided industrial development induced by abnormal demand, of "overextension" due to overconfidence, of the weakening of the financial strength of our debtors by the draining of their gold.

People and Events

The allied bazar just closed in Chicago, after a run of two weeks, cleared up $447,232, and all accounts are not in.

Scientific dieting squads are wonders, no less. The New York squad, like the Chicago, took on weight and otherwise enjoyed the feeds at 7 cents per feed. Funny that these wonders never occur outside of dieting squads.

At a recent style show in Philadelphia men's wearables were shown with pleats and gores in the coats, belts and buckles, and kimono effects in the sleeves. Still some people harbor the notion that Philadelphians are slow and mossbacky.

A new line of activity is opened up to women in New York hotels. The post is that of hostess and is a distinct innovation. The task of the hostess is to create such a "homy" atmosphere that guests will linger on, and forget about the bill till the vacation ends.

A bill has been favorably reported out of committee in the house of representatives, making nepotism a punishable offense in Missouri. Nearly half the lawmakers have relatives on the public payroll and various state departments shelter sons, daughters, wives, brothers and sisters. How a measure jolting families from the pie counter can get by the beneficiaries is a problem no one attempts to solve.

TODAY

Health Hint for the Day.

Specialists advise everyone to blow out their ear drums occasionally, and it is not difficult to do this if the following directions are carefully carried out:

1. Take a mouthful of water and keep it in the mouth.
2. Hold the nose firmly with the first finger and thumb of the right hand.
3. Blow out the cheeks and keep them blown out while the water is swallowed.

One Year Ago in the War.

French and British awaited new drive toward Calais.

Russians repelled new German attempts to cross the Dvina river.

Passengers and crews of ships sunk by German raider released from Appam.

Austrians met with flame-spouting implements the Russian assults in the south.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Mrs. V. H. Coffman's reception was one of the most noteworthy of the season. The hostess was assisted by the following ladies: Mesdames Richardson, Bierbower, Bradford, Samuel Burns, Nye, W. Wood; Misses McParkin, Ijams, McConnell, McCormick and Butterfield.

Miss Boyd gave a "coffee," to which the ladies were invited to bring their fancy work and to which the gentlemen were invited to "drop in" later.

Mrs. Curtis gave a Dickens party, at which "Our Mutual Friend" was taken up. The participants, besides Mr. and Mrs. Curtis, were Mr. and Mrs. Countant, Mrs. Ramsey, Mr. and Mrs. Wal-

lace, Mr. and Mrs. Keysor, Dr. and Mrs. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Richie, Mr. and Mrs. Wessells, Mr. Wilber, Mr. and Mrs. Carrier, Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Morse and Prof. Lewis.

Mrs. F. W. Lee of Des Moines, who has been visiting Mrs. R. Shreve, has returned home.

Miss Luna Dundy entertained a number of her friends at a luncheon party in honor of Miss Graves. The guests were Misses Richardson, Chanute, Bishop, Wakeley, Lake, Sharpe, Woolworth, Hoagland, Congdon, Lehmer, Boyd.

It is said to be the intention of the Jewish congregation to sell their present lot on Harney street, buy another lot and build a synagogue of magnificent proportions.

O. K. Scofield, manager of S. P. Morse & Co.'s cloak department, has left for New York, where he will make extensive purchases for his department.

This Day in History.

1802—Dr. Mark Hopkins, who held the presidency of Williams college for thirty-six years, born at Stockbridge, Mass. Died at Williamstown, Mass., June 17, 1887.

1810—The Cumberland Presbyterian church first organized in Dickson county, Tennessee.

1845—Lewis Cass was elected United States senator from Michigan.

1861—Provisional congress of delegates from the six seceded states met at Montgomery, Ala.

1865—The Sutro Tunnel company was chartered in Nevada to build a four-mile tunnel to intersect and drain the famous Comstock lode at a depth of 1,600 feet.

1875—The United States senate rejected the new reciprocity treaty with Canada.

1881—Thomas Carlyle, famous author and philosopher, died in London. Born December 4, 1795.

1887—Service at Lambeth palace, London, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the consecration of the first American bishops.

1896—Greater portion of Chinese fleet sunk by Japanese fleet off Weihai-wei.

1901—Carrie Nation began her liquor crusade in Kansas.

1915—German proclamation declaring "the waters around Great Britain and Ireland, including the whole English Channel, a war zone from and after February 18."

The Day We Celebrate.

R. D. Phillips, president of the Phillips Medical company, was born just fifty-one years ago today in Pennsylvania.

John Harvey, jr., has a birthday today, his forty-fifth. His first appearance was in Littsville, Ia., and he is operating in the commission business in this city.

George Brandes, Denmark's foremost man of letters, born in Copenhagen seventy-five years ago today.

John Mitchell, former president of the United Mine Workers of America, born at Braidwood, Ill., forty-seven years ago today.

Dr. Ernest O. Holland, president of Washington State college, born at Bennington, Ind., forty-three years ago today.

Bishop William F. McDowell of the Methodist Episcopal church, born at Millersburg, O., fifty-nine years ago today.

William L. Rodgers, one of the new rear admirals of the United States navy, born in the District of Columbia, fifty-seven years ago today.

Storyette of the day.

A teacher from New York state was a visitor in Boston. A native guide was proudly showing the stranger historical points of interest. Upon seeing the tomb of Samuel Adams, the instructor was moved to unseemly mirth, much to the amazement and indignation of her pilot. Quickly controlling herself, however, she apologized for her laughter and offered the following explanation:

"Last term I was teaching a grade of sixth year pupils about the continent of South America. When the day came for examination on the subject, I found, in writing the questions on the blackboard that space was limited. So I abbreviated the name of the continent. One question read, 'In what zones does S. A. lie?'

"That night, in marking the papers, this startling answer confronted me: 'Samuel Adams lies in the Torrid Zone.'"—New York Times.

HERE AND THERE.

Extending under the whole of London and far beyond it is a vast underground lake, the water of which is sinking at the rate of of a foot or more a year, for it is tapped by means of artesian wells to the extent of 10,000,000 gallons daily.

Of recent years a curious fad has taken root in Japan. This is nothing more or less than the alteration, by the surgeon's knife, of the shape of the eye, so that in future the Japanese will not be distinguished as one of the "almond-eyed" races. The operation is said to be simple and quite painless.

AROUND THE CITIES.

Chicago has a firm doing business under the firm name of Pace & Boos.

Kansas City, Mo., charter-makers are booming the city manager plan of government and express confidence in putting it over.

Boston's Associated Charities in 1916 cared for 4,071 families, only 15 per cent less than in 1915. The increased cost of the necessaries of life overcame in large part the benefits of increased employment.

New York officials lament their inability to secure accurate statistics of rescuers and rescued because, as one explains, "our young men are so modest they won't report the lives they've saved." Do you get that?

St. Louis ranks ahead of New York in per capita cost of its police department St. Louis averages $3.04 for each man, woman and child and New York $2.82. Besides, the Mound City hasn't much to show for the excess.

W. C. A. Smoot of Salt Lake City is the sole surviving registered member of the first company of Mormon pioneers which entered the Salt lake valley under the leadership of Brigham Young, July 24, 1847. Mr. Smoot celebrated his eighty-ninth birthday last Monday.

The state public health laboratory at Salt Lake City announces that there are hundreds of cases of rabies in Utah, chiefly among coyotes and dogs, though one calf was infected. The epidemic is spreading eastward from the Utah-Nevada line and is appearing in all counties in its path.

Agents of 50,000 apartments in Chicago are getting together and training to go to the mat with local coal barons. The latter have violated fuel contracts and flouted demands for fuel at agreed prices. Besides the bout with the barons, apartment managers plan to touch tenants for a 10 per cent raise in the spring.

THE WORLD OF INDUSTRY.

Pennsylvania produced twice as much lime last year as any other state.

Minnesota's creamery and dairy industry now brings an annual income of more than $100,000,000.

Trains between Cincinnati and Chattanooga, a distance of 300 miles, are soon to be operated by electricity.

A great congress representing the petroleum and allied industries in America is to be held in St. Louis next month.

The bureau of plant industry at Washington is experimenting to ascertain the practicability of camphor growing in Florida.

The first Bessemer steel ever produced in Indiana was turned out recently at the Gary plant of the Indiana Steel company.

More than 1,000,000 wage earners of the United States received substantial increases in pay during the closing months of last year.

England has established a great chemical laboratory at Huddersfield for research work in connection with the development of the British dye industry.

Revised estimates place the amount of standing merchantable timber in the United States at approximately 2,767 billion board feet. Of this total, a little more than one-half is in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana and California.

The government of the commonwealth of Australia has instituted an advisory council of science and industry, having for its object the promotion of inquiry and research for the advancement of science and its application to manufactures.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

"I caught Harold kissing one of your gloves."

"Well, as I was away the dear boy couldn't kiss me."

"True. But if he could have gotten hold of your powder puff he wouldn't have known the difference, would he, dear?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Marcella—Did I understand you to say Gerty Giddigad won't take you seriously?

Waverly—Not exactly. I said seriously, she won't take me at all.—Youngstown Telegram.

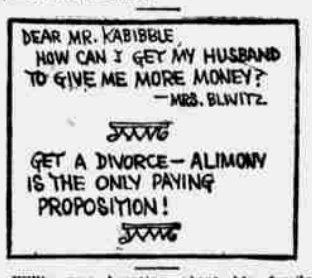
Nell—Did you see where somewhere they are going to make women muzzle their hatpins?

Belle—Then the next thing will be to make women take out licenses for their dog collars.—Baltimore American.

Two youngsters, having cultivated the acquaintance of their neighbors across the aisle in the Pullman, because he was in uniform, asked him if he was a lieutenant in the navy like their papa.

"Chaplain," the stranger answered.

"Oh, hello, Charley," they cried delightedly.—New York Times.



Willie was boasting about his family. "Our folks came over in the Mayflower," he declared, proudly.

"Huh! That's nothing," said Bobbie. "I guess they stayed with our folks the first night after they landed."—Boston Transcript.

Hewitt—Grue has made a terrible failure of his life.

Jewitt—How so?

Hewitt—He married his cook in order to keep her, and he not only lost her, but he has to pay alimony.—Philadelphia Ledger.

"My, you look nice in that new suit, father."

"You're too late, Ethel. Your mother said it first and took all the change I had."—Browning's Magazine.

A BOY AND HIS CHUM.

J. W. Foley in Philadelphia Ledger.

If we should be shipwrecked together
And only had water for one,
And it was the hottest of weather
Right out in the boiling hot sun,
He'd tell me—no matter how bad he
Might want it—to take a drink first;
And then he would smile—oh, so glad he
Had saved me!—and perish from thirst!

Or, if we were lost on the prairie
And only had food for a day,
He'd come and would give the share he
Had wrapped up and hidden away;
And after I ate it with sadness
He'd smile with his very last breath,
And lay himself down full of gladness
To save me—and starve right to death.

And if I was wounded in battle
And out where great danger might be,
He'd come through the roar and the rattle
Of guns and of bullets to me.
He'd carry me out, full of glory,
No matter what trouble he had;
And then he would fall down, all gory
With wounds, and would die—but be glad!

We're chums—that's the reason he'd do it;
And that's what a chum ought to be.
And if it was fire he'd go through it,
If I should call him to me.
You see other fellows may know you,
And friends that you have go and come;
But a boy has one boy he can go to,
For help all the time—that's his chum.

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100 with toilet $1.00

OMAHA

SAFETY, SERVICE AND ECONOMY

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