

THE OMAHA BEE

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 FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
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All good roads lead to the Auto show.

Come to think of it, we paid \$50,000 sixteen months ago for reform warranted to stick!

Pool halls, partisanship and pie, as analyzed by the grand jury, are powerful promoters of municipal backsliding.

To make the job artistic as well as impressive, duplicates of the grand jury hammers should go to the addresses given.

Besides other reasons more or less impressive the German retreat of three miles can be defended on sanitary grounds.

In the light of what happened to the Dutch fleet, it is evident that neighborly good will responds also in the scrap heap.

There being no regular business in sight at the present time, Carnegie's Peace palace might be utilized as a megaphone for Dutch indignation.

Still, it is more than probable, seeing that constables are human, the needed amount of sympathy might be extracted as compensation for the municipal court job.

Western wool at 40 cents a pound gives the backward hool to mine owners. Both combined are as high change beside the golden fleece of Wall street on a busy day.

Congressman Callaway's violent breathings far peace at any price indicates that the spirit of the Alamo is dead in spots in Texas. Mighty few Callaways were around when Texas freedom was wrung from Mexican tyrants.

If announcements accurately measure the numbers of women eager to serve in case of war, men recruits will scarcely get a look-in at recruiting offices. Do your volunteering now and escape the feminine avalanche.

Idaho politicians cheerfully admit a lack of sympathy or community of interest between two sections of the state, and insist on division into two states with incidental emoluments. There are others similarly afflicted. Unlike Idaho, they decline useless exercise.

Two-thirds of the legislative pay days gone and the members rounding into the home stretch. This circumstance, buttressed with moderate temperature, enhances the health-giving value of trips to Lincoln and encourages "the servants of the people" to do their duty as they see it. Come on in—the buttonholing is fine.

Despite the appalling fact that German bachelors by their immolation imposed no extra burden for family support on the public, the government jumps on them with new and exclusive war taxes. In vain is patriotic sacrifice, abstinence or social economy. Still a Germany bachelor should consider himself lucky in saving his hide these days.

Congress enters the last week of its life with most of the administration program sidetracked, many revenue measures and appropriation bills jammed and "pork" bills as good as scrapped. A critical international situation shadows the closing days, aggravated by lack of unity, purpose or plan. Where national cohesion is essential in a crisis, there is instead destruction and discord in the administration party ranks and a disposition to scuttle every plan and policy designed to uphold national rights and national honor.

Democratic Extravagance

St. Louis Globe Democrat

It is a scathing arraignment of the democratic national administration that is contained in the report of the minority members of the senate finance committee on the democratic caucus revenue measure. The falseness of the pretense that the additional revenue is needed for military preparedness is clearly exposed. The real difficulty has been utter recklessness in appropriations. In addition to new offices, costing \$40,000,000 a year, the democratic congress has launched many expensive experiments, including the \$35,000,000 Alaskan railway, the \$20,000,000 fertilizer plant, the \$11,000,000 armor plant and \$50,000,000 for purchase of ships under conditions that mean exorbitant prices. The objectless Mexican expedition, it is estimated, will cost \$20,000,000. The mounting cost of living should suggest rigid economy and a deferring of projects that are not imperative, but the party in control seems to hunt for new ways of spending money that it does not have. It takes pleasure in devising new varieties of taxation and it seems to think it can blind the people to the fact that they eventually must pay these taxes, indirectly, no matter who pays them first.

The minority report shows that the majority does not deal honestly with the people. The estimates from the beginning of the administration have been wrong and a new thimble-rigging style of bookkeeping in the Treasury department makes it impossible for anybody except the experts to tell the financial condition. A net balance is shown now, but the republican report declares that there is really a deficit of \$50,000,000.

The democrats not only decline to economize, but they stubbornly resist attempts to derive revenue from customs. They fail to provide any check against a flood of imports, following the war.

It was unfortunate for the country that the interest in foreign affairs precluded the people giving proper attention to democratic extravagance and incompetency during the campaign. But they will be frequently reminded of the matter by the unnecessary burdens they will have to bear during the next quadrennium.

Protection for American Rights.

That President Wilson will be granted ample power, to be exercised in his discretion, for the protection of American rights is plainly forecasted by the action of the republican senators on Saturday. The minority members fairly anticipated the address delivered by the president yesterday, and the fall resolution, proffering his full support, is an earnest of the intention of congress, and The Bee believes fairly representative of the spirit of the American people. No demand for war exists in this country, but there is a strong determination to resist the invasion of our rights at sea.

In addressing the congress on this topic President Wilson very temperately expressed views of the situation that are in accordance with the sentiment of his countrymen, as well as having support in reason. It is not alone for the rights of Americans he stands, for in this instance the injury is far greater than that to any one country or people. It is for the common right of humanity, without which, the president says, civilization cannot exist. The ruthless subsea warfare that destroys all afloat, regardless of its character, goes so far beyond the justifiable procedure of war as to become a common menace to all the world.

That Germany fairly understands the sentiments of Americans, as well as other neutrals, on this point cannot be doubted. The question was too long discussed and held in abeyance to leave room for misunderstanding. Explanations emanating from Berlin in connection with the sinking of the Dutch ships at the entrance to the English channel makes clear the purpose to stop all world commerce if possible.

Armed neutrality, as proposed by the president, does not mean war, any more than does the cessation of diplomatic relations. It is formal notice of the readiness of this country to protect its citizens and their commerce against unwarranted invasion of their rights. That peace may be preserved and the issue of war averted is the fervent hope of the president, as it is of every right-minded citizen of the United States. However, the nation is standing firm behind Mr. Wilson in his efforts to protect Americans.

Need of a New City Jail.

The grand jury only confirmed what has long been known when it recommended that a new city jail be provided for Omaha. The present structure long ago outlasted its usefulness and for several years has been a disgrace to the community. On several occasions the city authorities have considered the submission of a proposal to issue bonds to erect a suitable building for jail purposes, but always the project has been laid aside to give right-of-way to another of public or popular concern. Expansion of the city has brought new factors into the problem, and the city jail that is to be built must be designed now as the central headquarters for the police department of the larger city, with reference to at least two substations in addition to the one maintained on the South Side. While haste is not required, serious consideration must be given the subject and plans laid for a city jail that will fill the bill.

Mexico's New Constitution.

Mexico has just been given a new constitution by the Carranzista organization, and an election for president is called for March 11. No doubt seems to exist as to whom the choice for the office will fall on, although two candidates are said to be in the field against the first chief. This does not concern the world outside so much as does the fundamental law of the country, on which whatever of government it is to have must rest, for the time at least.

Principal attention will be given to the provisions relating to foreign residents in Mexico. Carranza has secured the embodiment in the constitution of his peculiar views as to foreigners and has completely reversed the Diaz policy, which invited outsiders to make their homes in the land of the Montezumas. Persons not of Mexican birth or adoption may not acquire title to real property, but the state may grant concessions to aliens, subject to revocation at pleasure of the state. Foreigners seeking concessions must forego any protection of their own government and submit themselves to the laws of Mexico and the acts of the Mexican authorities. Nor can any concession within 100 kilometers of the land borders or within fifty kilometers of the seacoast be granted to or held by foreigners.

That complications will arise from this provision is certain. European governments as well as the United States are concerned, because practically all the development done in Mexico under the Diaz regime was financed by foreigners. Hundreds of millions of European money are invested there, while it has been estimated that American holdings across the border amount to more than a billion. If Carranza plans to confiscate this property or to change the conditions under which it is held, he will very likely find himself with a much more serious situation to face than any Villa ever provided for him.

War and the Price of Food.

A report made by a New York commission, dealing with the food conditions in that city, says the emergency is not so grave as the recent demonstrations might indicate. However, the commission adds, it is a serious problem for the wage earner drawing no more than \$800 a year to provide for a family at present prices, and that with additional advances in price of foods the suffering may become actual instead of apparent. Real shortage in food supply is greatly aggravated by the abnormal exportation, incident to the war, and on this the commission rests the blame for the rise in prices. This much has been admitted from the beginning, and entirely to be expected. What the public would really like to know is how much of the advance in the cost of living is due to market manipulation that could be controlled. Inquiries that go no deeper than the hastily arranged affair just over in New York are of little service. The experience of the present winter may be continued, if indeed it is due to controllable conditions. We are falling short of our claims to be leaders of civilization when we permit hunger to prevail in a land that teems with plenty, as does ours.

On a Perpetual Joy Ride.

The Brooklyn Eagle gives editorial space to the high living activities of one H. C. Panfill, a helpless cripple, without money, who put up at a swell hotel and issued an appeal for assistance "as will enable me to continue in this life." Six years ago Panfill was a prosperous business man in Oklahoma, a brother Elk of high standing. Paralysis crippled him. Since then he has circulated around the country, refused to live at the Elks national home, put up at the best hotels in his itinerary, O. K.'s the bills and sends them to the nearest Elks lodge. This is considered the champion stunt on the road.

Rev. George P. Peters "My First Sermon"

"I had an earnest message for needy men and women, and so I just talked"

My entrance into the ministry was out of the conventional order. I did not come to the pulpit by the way of the theological seminary, or the college, or even the high school. In fact, I just broke in, or perhaps I would more properly say, broke out. It came about in this way: I had taken Horace Greeley's advice and had come west to grow up with the country. While in the employ of a wholesale dry goods firm in St. Joseph, Mo., I became a Christian under the preaching of Rev. M. M. Goode, then pastor of the First Christian church of that city. I entered at once into the activities of the church, teaching in the Sunday school, superintending a mission Sunday school, organizing an Endeavor society, but without any thought further than the present field of usefulness. After about two years of this sort of work, it happened that the pastor was holding a meeting at a mission point in the north part of the city, and, being compelled to be at his own services on Sunday, and desiring not to leave his meeting without some kind of a service on Sunday, he gravely announced on Friday night to the astonished audience that Brother Peters of the First church would preach on Sunday night, and turning to me, he said: "Brother Johnson, you go to his place of business tomorrow morning and tell him so." Imagine my consternation on being informed on Saturday morning about 9 o'clock that I was to preach the next night, when I had not the skeleton of a sermon or even a text. I suppose my pastor thought of me as the old Scotch carpenter thought of his journeyman to whom he said, "Ay, lad, ye hae the gift o' gab; if ye lo'de the Lord ye'd make a preacher." That was before the days of "gospel teams" when laymen became accustomed to holding gospel meetings. It was also in the days when clerks worked until 6 o'clock every night, when I was superintendent of a Sunday school, the first part of Sunday had to be given to that work, so that my time for study was very brief. But I was game. I determined not to disappoint my pastor and the people.

My first task was to choose a text. After some deliberation I decided upon Matthew 27:22. "Pilate saith unto them, 'What, then, shall I do unto Jesus who is called Christ?'" and I called my theme "Pilate's Question." Several years later when I was a student in college studying this gospel the professor remarked one day to the class of student preachers, "Boys, when you have been preaching for several years and have confidence that you can handle the subject, this would be a good text for a sermon." I was entirely oblivious to the difficulties that would have confronted an experienced preacher, but grasped the subject with all the ardor of youth. There was small opportunity for privacy, but I remember that during intervals of my work and on my way to and from meals I prayed and meditated, for I believed if God wanted me to preach that sermon He would make it possible for me to do it. After having selected my text I tried to do something about it. I had heard or read about it. By Saturday night I had a sort of outline in mind and I began to write out what I was going to say. I had only one book besides my Bible that dealt with my subject in any way and it was a commentary I had inherited from my grandmother. As I wrote the introduction and the first paragraph I had had time to read and then outlined the rest, and depended upon the momentum to carry me to a finish. Although it was not finished that day, it became the foundation for a sermon that was afterwards preached many times with good effect.

I had expected to have for an audience a small group of people who were accustomed to gather for Sunday school on Sunday afternoons in a hall next door to a saloon. I was quite surprised, therefore, on coming to the place to find a goodly number of the members of the First church, the pastor having very graciously announced at the morning service that I would preach at the mission that night. Chief among them, occupying the front seat, were the leaders of the Endeavor society, with whom I had been working for two years. You can trust Endeavorers to be loyal to one another, but I confess that I felt a bit nervous as I sat in the front row. I had no Endeavor talk—it was to be a sermon. I have no recollection of the opening or closing exercises. I do not know who made the prayer. I think it was the leading elder of the First church, a most lovable man, who had come out to encourage me by his presence. I recall with what thankfulness I looked upon that book of notes. At least I could read what I had written and then quit if I could not think of anything more to say. I made no attempt at oratory. I was not skilled in declamation. I knew nothing about its rules. I had an earnest message for needy men and women and I felt that I must deliver it in an earnest way. And so I just talked. How long I do not know. When I got through I quit, a rule that I find quite as serviceable today as it was then. My pastor was in the habit of closing every sermon with an invitation to people to accept Christ as their Saviour, and so I closed in the same way. I am sorry that I cannot say that the whole congregation accepted the invitation because they did not, nor did a single individual. We closed in the usual way with a benediction.

My first sermon was more valuable to me than to anyone else. The people were very kind in their expressions of appreciation. They always are—very few are coldly critical. But I was not deceived. I had begun with misgivings and I had closed in the same way. But it did one thing for me. It settled a conviction that had been growing in my mind for some time. It fixed the determination that in spite of every obstacle I would be a preacher of the Gospel. In less than a month I had found a church that was willing to listen to me and pay my railroad fare for coming, and in six months I resigned my business position and devoted my whole time to preaching. So my first sermon proved to be one of the largest factors in determining my future career.

Geo. L. Peters
Pastor North Side Christian Church.
(Next—"My First Sermon," by Rev. Fred J. Clark.)

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

James W. Gerard, late American ambassador to Germany, is expected to sail for New York today on a steamer leaving Spain.

The annual banquet of the Ohio society of New York at the Waldorf-Astoria tonight is to have as speakers Governor James H. Cox, Charles M. Schwab, Major George W. Goethals and former Senator Theodore E. Burton.

Many clergymen and educators of national prominence are to address the fourteenth annual conference of the Religious Education association, which meets in Boston today for a three-day session.

General primaries are to be held in Chicago today for the selection of candidates for city clerk, city treasurer and members of the board of aldermen to be voted for at the April election.

Representatives of the retail hardware trade throughout South Dakota are expected at Sioux Falls today for the opening of the annual convention and exhibition of their state association.

Storyette of the Day.

Casey had been married only a week when he discovered that his wife, who had assumed control of the household and larder, was inclined to be stingy.

He had been working in his small garden one afternoon when his wife came to the back door and called out in strident tones: "Terrence, come in to taze, toast, and foive eggs!"

Terrence dropped his spade in astonishment and ran into the kitchen.

"Sure ye're only kiddin' me," he said. "No, Terrence," said the wife, "it's not ye; it's the neighbors I'm kiddin'—Everybody's Magazine."

TODAY

Health Hint for the Day.

It has been stated by authorities that if people would breathe habitually through their nose and keep their teeth clean they would rarely get sore throats.

One Year Ago in the War.

Durazzo taken by Austrian army. Russian war office announces that 15,000 Turks and several hundred guns were captured at Erzerum.

President Wilson told Gridiron club United States should keep out of war except as sacred duty of her sense of humanity and justice.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Miss Bertha Steinhauser, daughter of Prof. Steinhauser, and a prominent young vocalist of this city, had the pleasure of being presented to Mme. Patti before whom she sang with great success. Miss Steinhauser expects before long to study vocal music under a foreign master.

In a debate which took place between some of the members of the Creighton College Philharmonic society the following students took part: T. Burke, H. Town, J. O'Gorman and J. McCarthy.

M. Toft, Olivia Toft and Chris Toft have incorporated under the name of the Omaha Piano for the purpose of buying and selling toys, notions, and other goods.

Albert Kuhn, the youngest but almost the biggest member of the Musical Union orchestra, is celebrating his sixteenth birthday. He is studying law in connection with his musical career.

The old engine house of No. 1, which formerly stood on Twentieth and Izard streets, is now located on the corner of Cumming and Sixteenth. It has been beautified and repaired, and will soon be supplied with a hose, cart and company.

A meeting of citizens has been called at the city hall for the purpose of discussing the matter of admitting Walnut Hill to the school district of the city.

The commissioners passed a resolution rescinding the right-of-way privileges granted to C. E. Mayne, Erasmus Benson and W. L. McCague for a street railway along the military road.

The applications of Dr. Keogh and Dr. Dyar for the position of county physician were received and placed on file.

This Day in History.

1792—Baldomero Espartero, the greatest general and one of the strongest men that Spain produced in the nineteenth century, born. Died January 9, 1873.

1807—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the poet, born at Portland, Me. Died at Cambridge, Mass., March 24, 1882.

1815—Congress awarded a medal to General Andrew Jackson for his victory at New Orleans.

1820—Dedication of the first Protestant church building in the city of Detroit.

1829—Agreement made between the British government and the United States to prevent immediate hostilities between the troops of Maine and New Brunswick.

1840—New Jersey Historical society was founded at Trenton.

1847—Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, was elected chancellor of Cambridge university.

1877—Peace concluded between Serbia and Turkey.

1879—British parliament voted \$7,500,000 for the Zulu war.

1881—Marriage of Prince Frederick William of Prussia to Princess Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein.

1900—General Cronje surrendered to Lord Roberts at Paardeberg.

1904—Fire destroyed the Wisconsin state capitol at Madison.

1906—Prince Eitel Frederick, second son of the German emperor, married Duchess Sophia of Oldenburg.

The Day We Celebrate.

Herbert G. Hoel, sales manager for McCord-Brady, was born in Omaha, February 27, 1871. He has been with McCord-Brady since 1899.

Sir Cecil A. Spring-Rice, British ambassador to the United States, born fifty-eight years ago today.

Cornelius Ford, public printer of the United States, born at Hoboken, N. J., fifty years ago today.

Sir Francis Douglas Blake, recently elected to the British Parliament, born sixty-one years ago today.

Prof. Igving Fisher of Yale, conspicuous as a political economist and advocate of changes in methods of education, born at Saugerties, N. Y., fifty years ago today.

John R. Connolly, representative in congress of the Sixth Kansas district, born in Brown county, Illinois, forty-seven years ago today.

Charles S. ("Gaby") Street, well known base ball player, last year with the Nashville, Southern league team, born at Huntsville, Ala., thirty-four years ago today.

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES.

The University of Illinois is to follow the lead of Wellesley college, Smith college and the University of Wisconsin, in an attempt to secure better housing conditions for its women students by the establishment of student co-operative rooming and boarding houses.

Miss Anita Baldwin, who inherited the millions of the late "Lucky" Baldwin, has chartered a special car with three attendants to carry some of the blue-ribbon canines from her celebrated kennels at Santa Anita, Cal., to the forthcoming dog show in New York City.

Offensive Tobacco Smoke.

Wayne, Neb., Feb. 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: I would like to shake hands with the Mr. Ben Smith who protests against the military road tobacco smoke breathed in his face. Thank goodness we have one man who is clean all through. I have looked so often in the papers to see if I could find anything on that subject, because it is so offensive to many of us, but I very seldom do. Now, I am not a reformer, but why in the world can't men be gentlemanly enough to refrain from smoking, at least in the presence of women, when they know positively that it is offensive. I love to entertain people in the evening at a social game, but must confine my invitations to the women only or give my home over as a smoking house.

There isn't a cafe in Omaha where a woman can eat a lunch but that she has to breathe the stale smoke from dozens of cigars and cigarettes. Why doesn't Dorothy Dix write something on that subject instead of harping on dress, and try to do some real good? Or doesn't she believe in better babies, etc.? I have been in homes where the poor little tots didn't know what fresh air was on account of its densely smoky atmosphere. If men must injure themselves in that way, then let them do it where it won't injure their wives and children. I don't see why all women don't smoke. They get it second handed any way. Perhaps that would stop it at least in private homes or places where women go.

There is only one place a woman can go now where she is safe from smoking and that is the church, but I expect in a year or two men won't go there unless they can smoke during the sermon. I am considered a crank and very selfish because I am a mere woman who wishes a little fresh air now and then. MRS. B. L. M.

Far back that potent life began.

And slowly through the ages grew. Amid the doubts and fears of man From deep desire its nature drew.

Persistent guard the enduring term. By nature warm and well sustained. Until it passed the lengthy term. The Power Divine had pre-ordained.

And when the time was ripe, behold! On fair Columbia's happy breast A creature of no common mold. The tiny nursing of the west—

The coming plant whose deep voice. In clearest accents sweet and strong. Should make aspiring souls rejoice In liberty's world-circling song.

And when this ringing voice proclaimed Self-government in freedom's light, From heights of every land were flung The signals of eternal right.

A precious truth long trodden down The new world lifted mightily. And offered every man the crown Of manhood's rightful sovereignty.

Great monarchs turned a look of scorn Upon the high-browed, stately being With lofty aspirations born. And gifts beyond their power of seeing.

The startled nations here saw one Advanced beyond all precedent. For where the light of freedom shone Grew virtue and intelligence. —BRIAN P. COCHRAN.

A GREAT NATION.

No thoughtless impulse gave it birth. No rash and hasty action formed The form and nature of the earth. No blind desire by passion warmed

Far back that potent life began. And slowly through the ages grew. Amid the doubts and fears of man From deep desire its nature drew.

Persistent guard the enduring term. By nature warm and well sustained. Until it passed the lengthy term. The Power Divine had pre-ordained.

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The Bee's Letter Box

Boy Scouts Have a Champion.

North Platte, Neb., Feb. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: I notice in The Bee an article headed "Make Boy Scouts Hit Target" by Frank A. Agnew. Agnew seems to burst into print pretty often, and from his statements he rather prides himself on the criticisms and insults which he finds it necessary to throw at different organizations.

As to his insult to the Boy Scout organization, if he would take the trouble and the time and the common sense to investigate these things he would be saved the trouble of making a spectacle of himself.

As to the statement that uniform manufacturers are behind the movement of Boy Scouts, that is absolutely false. And his statement that we are invading the credits of our Boy Scout organizations and thereby secure fodder for cannons is as absurd as some of his other statements. He says that Boy Scouts should be trained in digging potatoes, etc., instead of military drill. The military drill which they get is such a small matter that it will bother them not at all. If he would take the trouble to visit a Boy Scout organization or camp at some time and follow them through their course of work for a month or so, he would find the work aiding greatly in producing good citizens from boys who probably would go bad if left alone.

It gives the boys a place to be off the streets, and they know through their ship, and places their play under supervision which is of the best.

It seems to me and I think to all enlightened citizens that a few more outbursts from Agnew should result in shutting him out of your column. BYRON B. OBERST.

DEAR MR. KADINOLE.

A MOTORCAR ON A STREET CAR HAS PROPOSED TO ME. HE SAYS HE MAKES A WONDERFUL LIVING. IS IT TRUE.

MISS SOCORRO.

YES, HE DIVIDES WITH THE CONDUCTOR.

"Have you millions enabled your child to marry well?"

"Rather. My daughter married a cabaret dancer and my son is engaged to a prominent chemist. We're headed for the best society now."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Mrs. Flubdub says she is going to Palm Beach for a rest."

"No rest and busy action formed. How innocent people are. Just as much gossip going on there as here."—Pittsburgh Post.

"Mamma," said a small miss of 3 years, "our Sunday school teacher said God would punish us if we were bad."

"He certainly punished her mother."

"Des God wear slippers, mamma!" the little one asked anxiously.—New York Times.

Patent—"One thousand dollars! Would you mind itemizing the bill?"

"Doctor—Cost me \$25 for the operation itself. \$500 for my reputation and the remainder because you have the money.—Life.