

# THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)-EVENING-SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

By Mail	By Carrier
One Year, \$10.00	One Year, \$10.00
Six Months, \$5.50	Six Months, \$5.50
Three Months, \$3.00	Three Months, \$3.00
One Month, \$1.00	One Month, \$1.00

REMITTANCE: Cash, express or postal order. Only 2-cent stamps taken in payment of small accounts. Personal check, except on Omaha and eastern exchange, not accepted.

OFFICES: Omaha—The Bee Building, 215 N. 10th St. Chicago—People's Gas Building, 100 N. Dearborn St. St. Paul—300 Fifth Ave. St. Louis—200 N. 10th St. Kansas City—100 N. 10th St. Denver—100 N. 10th St. Minneapolis—100 N. 10th St. Washington—100 N. 10th St. New York—100 N. 10th St.

CORRESPONDENCE: Address communications relating to news and editorial matter to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

FEBRUARY CIRCULATION: 54,592 Daily—Sunday, 50,466

Average circulation for the month subscribed and sworn to by Dwight Williams, Circulation Manager.

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

Keep cool! Emergencies call for headwork, not heat.

It pays to advertise! If you harbor any doubt about it, ask the recruiting officer.

It must be the war germs in the air that precipitated that vaccination war upon us.

Omaha's wheel tax ordinance remains, as it were, caught in the cogs of the judicial machinery.

A "bone dry" law with "wet" trimmings is in prospect for Nebraska. Nothing like novelty to command attention!

By a simple twist of the pen steel pipe gets a boost of \$10 a ton. The historic "lead pipe cinch" yields the pennant to the modern steel pipers.

With wool prices edging up to 50 cents a pound the flockmasters of the west, in munificence of profits, threaten the golden eminence of the potato barons.

The only objection against "Billy" Sunday's invasion of New York comes from base ball reporters. The latter contend that the lingo of the profession is designed for written, not spoken, words.

Benson and Florence come into the big tent with due bills amounting to \$314,500. Not much of a load as such additions go, but with what has gone before insures rather a few more open pores for perspiration.

As usual New York state leads as a munificent spender. In three years the state budget jumped from \$48,000,000 to \$72,000,000, and the lawmakers are rustling for new sources of taxation as earnestly as a warring power.

America's real spur of patriotic service awaits the bugle call of Colonel Bryan. When that trumpet sounds a million men will rally to the colors within twenty-four hours. The colonel said so. And the colonel is some prophet.

The Navy department declines to loosen the muzzle on Rear Admiral Bradley D. Fiske. Josephus evidently fears the admiral might say something worth while and divert public attention from the secretary's copious vocal efforts.

In the rush to the legislative finish belated bills suffer "anguinary losses." Many a petted darling, smothered in the trenches and promising hopefuls get the axe. All of which goes to show that Germany does not monopolize "ruthlessness."

"Either way, a republican could be elected to succeed Neville in 1918 and the legislature and state house be returned to the control of republicans."—World-Herald.

It surely looks that way—not only "either way," but "any way."

Pen pictures of the ghastly side of battlefields for the moment mock the heroics of war. That is all. Horrors are disagreeable and soon forgotten. Deeds of courage, achievement, sacrifice alone survive to lighten the dirge of death and gloss the actual side of human savagery.

One branch of the California legislature unanimously approved a new and attractive thought embodied in a bill. The bill makes it a misdemeanor to solicit from candidates for office subscriptions to any "cause" or "benefit," or "touch" them with tickets for balls, parties and like insinuations of a shake-down. Coast states are prolific in new thoughts, but none makes a more touching appeal to statesmanship than this.

### Again the Impractical Mr. Bryan.

William Jennings Bryan makes public appeal that congress take no action that may involve the nation in war without first trying out his "talk-over-for-a-year" plan and, in event that proves of no avail, submitting the entire subject to a referendum vote of the people of the United States. This is again the impractical Mr. Bryan!

As to Mr. Bryan's motives in thus thrusting himself forward to embarrass the president by insistence on his own peculiar personal views at this crucial time, we are undecided. Surely he does not fail to realize the fact that the United States has broken off diplomatic relations with Germany and sent the German ambassador home because of the persistence in submarine ruthlessness. Whatever our proper course of action may be, it is up to the members of congress to say one way or the other, and they can wait for further instructions from their respective constituents, just as renewal of submarine activity was ordered by the German war council without any referendum vote of the German people. All Mr. Bryan's plan would do, would be simply to continue over, with our apparent acquiescence, the present conditions precipitated upon us over our repeated protests.

In this connection it is worth recalling that it was William Jennings Bryan who, as secretary of state, signed the note of protest sent to the kaiser in May, 1915, with the warning that Germany would be held to "strict accountability" for unfriendly acts, which accountability he now would have congress enforce by consuming another year in interchanging war notes. The kaiser could ask for nothing more.

Nobody hereabouts wants to go to war except as a last resort, but if we are forced into war to defend our rights, we must have something to fight with besides investigating committees and referendums.

### Notes for Women in Great Britain.

The adoption by the House of Commons of a report favoring franchise reform for the United Kingdom, which means the early extension of suffrage to include women, is a significant but not an astonishing fact. The course of the war has turned the tide of public opinion throughout the United Kingdom in woman's favor, and she has asserted herself as never before and with distinction and credit in the management of the affairs of the country. Subsidence of the hysterical agitation in presence of the national calamity was accompanied by intelligent assumption of definite tasks of assistance in critical time of need. Social as well as sex discriminations and privileges have disappeared under the wave of conflict and a new empire is emerging.

The social disturbance in Great Britain is far greater than is generally realized. It has affected not only woman's conditions in all its aspects, but institutions that have endured for centuries have felt its influence and are breaking down or vanishing before the newly liberated forces. The revolution in Russia and remarks accredited to Von Bethmann-Hollweg afford proof of the steady upward sweep of democratic ideas. Votes for women is but an incident in the mighty changes that must come from the war and which are certain to embrace all the races of man in its final consequence. No earthly power can restore conditions under which people lived three years ago.

Time will be required to put the proposed franchise reform into operation in Great Britain, but its support by the popular branch of Parliament is a proof of progress made by the masses since the war began to batter down social barriers.

### Another Diabolical Plot Discovered.

The astute editor of the Omaha Double-Header, who can see as deep into a millstone as the next one, and who has little trouble in looking both ways at the same time, has unearthed another diabolical plot promoted by the republicans. It is no more nor less than a cunningly contrived plan to put the democrats into a deep, dark hole, no matter how they vote on the "bone dry" measure, now worrying the majority in the legislature. If the conclusions of the eminent editor of the esteemed Double-Header are correct—and who can doubt they are?—the democrats have been warned just in the nick of time. All they have to do now is to evade the trap set for them with such fiendish cunning, but exposed by the omniscience of their philosopher, guide and friend. This may be accomplished by passing a law that will meet his editorial approval. He does not say what kind of a law he wants, but leaves the impression that it ought to be so framed as to please both the bone dry and the sopping wet elements of his party at one and the same time and all the glory will thus redound to the clever democrats, who alone can achieve such an acme of legislative accomplishment. At any rate, the devilishness of the republican schemers has been unmasked and exposed, which shows the value of having an ever watchful sentry on guard.

### Crop Conditions in Nebraska.

A consultation of experts to consider the winter wheat situation in Nebraska should not be made the basis for alarm. This crop is in bad shape; the continued cold, dry weather has damaged it extensively, more than half the planting being hopelessly lost. But this is not fatal, nor Nebraska is not a one-crop state, and plenty of time remains for reseeding the area of the destroyed winter wheat crop, and spring wheat, oats or corn may be substituted, with an assurance of profitable yield. The meeting in Omaha ought to be serviceable, for it came in time to secure concerted action to the end that the best means be adopted to avert a possible disaster. Intelligent farmers will realize the emergency and will cooperate to the end that Nebraska soil be put to the best use and be made to produce continually. Abnormal weather conditions will not always prevail, and a busy season of planting and cultivating awaits the farmer in Nebraska, with a reasonable certainty of another bountiful harvest in the fall.

The steel trust joins the copper trust and the Bethlehem people in cutting prices for government work on a basis of the average price for ten years past. Other lines of big business are undertaking government war work on a margin of 10 per cent above cost. What the vendors of food products will do to show their patriotism is not divulged. Until the contrary is shown the public will assume they will not capitalize government stress for a squeeze.

It must certainly be tough on our old friend, Edgar Howard, when his job of lieutenant-governor keeps him so busy that he has to excuse himself from writing for his own paper. Next time "Edgar" will follow his own advice to newspaper men to keep out of political office.

### Uncle Sam in the Caribbean

## 13—Rich Island of Poverty

By Frederic J. Haskin

San Juan, Porto Rico, March 19.—Since Porto Rico came under American control its annual production of wealth has increased from \$45,000,000 to \$115,000,000; roads and schools have been built; light, water and sewage have been introduced in the cities; the island has been converted from a sleepy, picturesque bit of primitive Spanish-America into a land of wealth and modern industry.

There is only one thing that has not changed much, and that is the condition of the people. When Spain owned Porto Rico the bulk of the people were very poor; they lived as squatters on the edges of the sugar fields by sufferance of the owners and worked in the sugar fields for 40 cents a day. Now they are still poor, though the island is twice as rich, they are still squatters and they work for 60 to 70 cents a day, while the cost of living has risen. In only one way have they changed. These Porto Rican field hands have grasped the American idea of an organized struggle for their rights. They have thrown off the submissiveness instilled by Spain's long rule of fear, have organized themselves into unions and have gone on strike.

Through their chief spokesman they gained a hearing when the Jones bill was being drawn and succeeded in having the property qualifications for the electorate and for office-holders struck out of the bill, so that their legislative power as a class is greatly increased.

The condition of these laborers is made acute by the fact that Porto Rico is a very small island with a very large population, which owns little of the land. Of course, the struggle between capital and labor goes on everywhere. But in the United States, for example, it is ameliorated by many things. Every man has opportunities to better his condition. There are still public lands which he may have for the taking, and others which he may buy at low rates. All of the varied resources and industries of a great nation are before him.

In a little island like Porto Rico it is very different. A large part of the urban property is owned by Spaniards living in Spain, and to them flows annually much of the island's wealth. The street car lines of San Juan are owned in Canada. So are some of the banks. The sugar business is controlled largely from the United States. Porto Rico is making money for many different peoples, but little for Porto Ricans.

Thus the Porto Rican laborer is at the mercy of the landowners, many of whom have never visited the island. There is no land to which a poor man can acquire ownership. There is no work for the great majority of the people except the labor of the sugar fields. Formerly the laborer was very poor and toiled and was content. Now he is very poor and toils and is discontented. Hungry and lean, with a bare machete in his hand, he is demanding a share in that liberty and equal opportunity which is mentioned in the Declaration of Independence, the constitution of the United States, and referred to by political orators. These men have an organization of growing strength, and they are demanding from the planters a dollar a day for eight hours of work. This the sugar interests refuse.

But whether they win their strikes or not, it is apparent that some fundamental changes will have to be made before industrial peace can be permanently established in Porto Rico and the condition of the people permanently improved.

The leader and spokesman of the laborers in Porto Rico is Santiago Iglesias, a Spaniard and a man of education. He is not beloved of the governor, the chief of police nor the representatives of the sugar interests, but none of these have any serious charge to make against him, and it is probable that his efforts to better the condition of the people will in the long run redound to the benefit of all of them. The planters, for instance, complain that these Porto Rican laborers will not work hard and regularly. None of them seem to have reflected that a man who has to live on 60 cents a day, with the cost of living what it is and without the prospect of a raise, might lack both the energy and the incentive to hard and regular work. At the docks the laborers are paid somewhat better, and the ship captains testify that they can trim a ship more quickly and efficiently than the famous longshoremen of New York. Likewise the sugar companies are said to be making a profit of 100 and 150 per cent this year, so the work evidently gets done somehow.

The greatest need is to give the people a chance to own land. A man who has no "place in the sun" and no chance to acquire one is not on the way to become a good citizen. There are 250,000 acres of government land on the island which could be divided into homesteads of a few acres, giving the laborer a home of his own and a little land to cultivate. A law was passed by the Porto Rican legislature directing the commissioner of the interior to divide this land and offer it to the people. He did so divide one bit of land, but the people claimed that it was merely a ruse to colonize them around a certain sugar factory that needed more labor, and they would not go. They are suspicious of the Porto Rican officials and government, but they have considerable faith in the United States congress.

A high tax on uncultivated land would make absentee landlordism less profitable than it is now in some cases and would enable the people to buy some of the land now held for speculative purposes.

This has been a very prosperous year in Porto Rico. The crops have been good and the prices very high. The island is a dream of productive beauty. You may ride through miles and miles of tender, pale-green cane fields, dark orange groves speckled with gold, pineapple fields holding up their heavy fruit to the sun. Now and again you flash through a squalid little village of palm thatch and lean dogs and half-naked children and dirt and stench. It is like a stain on a beautiful fabric—this shame of poverty in a rich land.

### Health Hint for the Day.

Rubbers should be worn for only a short time during wet weather and should be removed as soon as they are not needed.

### One Year Ago Today in the War.

Italians and Austrians engaged in severe battle at Gorizia.

Allies reported discovery of four Teutonic submarine base among the Greek Islands.

Official report of the sinking of the Franco-Russian hospital ship *Portugal* in the Black Sea, with loss of nearly 100 lives.

### In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Mr. M. Elgutter, the well known Farnam street clothing merchant, who has been sick for some months, was suddenly taken worse and his son, who has been attending Harvard, has been sent for.

Although William Lehman endeavored to keep the "festive fact" of its being his birthday from his friends, a

# TODAY

large number of them "gathered him in" and an impromptu banquet was the result.

Mr. W. Tilson was appointed city engineer in place of Andrew Rosewater, lately resigned.

Colonel C. S. Higgins purchased from E. A. Rogers the property at the corner of Twelfth and Douglas now occupied by F. Delone. The colonel intends to erect a five-story hotel on the property.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Modjeska, Countess Zozenska and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Gunkel occupied a lower box at Modjeska's performance of "Twelfth Night" at Boyd's.

The Patrick farm, comprising about 650 acres, was sold to W. H. Underwood of Kansas City for \$15,000.

The interesting play, "Above the Clouds," given by the ladies and gentlemen of the Saratoga Lyceum, will be repeated by special request at Lyceum hall, when Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Baer and Jean Ruby will assist in the program.

### This Day in History.

1789—House of representatives of the first congress organized, with Frederic A. Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania as speaker.

1813—Congress awarded a gold medal to General William Henry Harrison.

1845—John Fluke, historian, born at Hartford, Conn. Died at Gloucester, Mass., July 4, 1901.

1858—Crimean war ended with the signing of the treaty of Paris between Russia and the allies.

1862—Prince George of Denmark, brother of Queen Alexandra of England, proclaimed king of Greece.

1867—Public announcement of the treaty by which the United States purchased Alaska from Russia.

1870—Fifteenth amendment to the federal constitution went into force.

1874—Victorious British troops from the Ashanti campaign received by Queen Victoria.

1894—Jane G. Austin, novelist, died in Boston. Born in Worcester, Feb. 25, 1811.

1910—King George of Greece issued a royal decree for the revision of the constitution, ending the regime of the military league.

### The Day We Celebrate.

Ernest G. Harwood of Harwood & Harwood, real estate, is 35 years old today. He was born in Fullerton, Neb., and has been in the real estate business for twelve years.

William G. Besler, president and general manager of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, born at Galesburg, Ill., fifty-three years ago today.

Dr. Alexander G. Humphreys, president of Stevens Institute of Technology, born in Edinburgh, Scotland, sixty-six years ago today.

Mary Whitton Calkins, professor of philosophy at Wellesley college, born at Hartford, Conn., fifty-four years ago today.

James A. Hamill, representative in congress of the Twelfth New Jersey district, born at Jersey City, N. J., forty years ago today.

De Wolf Hopper, one of the veteran actors of the musical comedy stage, born in New York City, fifty-nine years ago today.

### Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Former President William H. Taft is announced as the chief speaker at a big mass meeting to be held in Chicago tonight in the interest of preparedness.

The democratic members of the house hold their caucus today to decide upon their plan of organization for the sixty-fifth congress.

Problems of transportation in case of war are expected to receive attention at the hands of the Eastern Association of Car Service Managers at its annual convention to be held today in Philadelphia.

Fifty years ago today the United States senate received from President Andrew Johnson a message containing the surprising announcement that a treaty had been negotiated with the czar of Russia for the purchase of all that part of the continent known as Russian America, and now embraced in the territory of Alaska.

### Storyteller of the Day.

"What is land around here worth an acre?" asked the stranger in the auto, as he pulled up beside the man in the buggy.

"Well," replied the man in the buggy, "that depends. Are you a prospective purchaser?"

"I am," replied the man in the auto.

"Well," said the man in the buggy, "land around here to you would be worth \$70 an acre, but to me it would be worth about \$17 an acre."

"How does that come?" asked the man in the auto.

"I am the assessor," replied the man in the buggy.—*Minneapolis Tribune.*

### NEBRASKA EDITORS.

Millard Martin of Ponca will become editor and publisher of the *Allen News* April 1.

Ivan N. Adams has transferred his interest in the lease of the Ponca Advocate to his partner, William M. Wright.

Max Wilcox, junior editor of the *Bridgeport News-Blade*, was married last week to Miss Mae Pauline of Sidney, Neb.

Flint E. Holmes, editor of the *Holbrook Observer*, has added a *Granite* newspaper press to the equipment of his plant.

The *Chadron Journal* is having plans drawn for a new building, which it expects to have completed within ninety days.

Hastings Tribune: Suit for \$20,000 damage has been started against the editor of the *Tribune* because a wrong initial was used in connection with a man's name. Next!

Mrs. E. E. Compton has sold the *Greely Citizen* to Edward F. Curran of Columbus. The transfer will be made this week. Mrs. Compton has been editor of the *Citizen* for eighteen years.

H. H. Potts, whose picturesque and forcible English has given the *Times* more than a state-wide reputation, has sold the paper to D. B. Mayfield of Stanton. Mr. Potts has been appointed mail carrier on a rural route running out of Bemar.

## The Bee's Letter Box

World's Largest Horse Markets.

Ord, Neb., March 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: Please print in The Bee's Letter Box the names of the two largest horse markets of the world.

R. R. No. 2. CHESTER TRAVIS.

Note—St. Louis, first, and Chicago, next.

Mrs. Getzschman Wires Wilson.

Omaha, March 29.—To the Editor of The Bee: Please let me express my sentiment, which I have also sent to President Wilson:

"The mothers of Nebraska have looked to you as a man of peace; they have hoped and trusted in your peaceful aims; they have believed that, with the glorious vision of a high-minded statesman, you would find, in the tremendous issues now confronting our beloved country, a practical application of those exalted thoughts which you have so frequently expressed with such force and beauty. Still hoping and trusting in that masterful statesmanship that has thus far kept us out of war, I entreat you by all that is inspiring in the idea of patriotism, and I implore you by all that is sacred and holy in the name of mother, to save us from that unspeakable catastrophe to which we are now so near. From the depths of their souls, the mothers of Nebraska call to you for peace."

"MRS. BERTHA GETZSCHMAN."

### Every Citizen a Secret Service Man.

Omaha, March 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: I believe every loyal American citizen should be a secret service man and in close touch with the secret service department. Then every foreigner who might be the least bit "tainted" could be watched. There are many ways to be of material assistance to your Uncle Sam aside from carrying a musket. Every community should have a branch of the secret service department and the utmost care should be exercised in admitting members. Isn't this suggestion worth acting upon?

J. H. J. BLACK.

### In Fairness to the Railroads.

Grand Island, Neb., March 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: Through these columns about four years ago I advocated and upheld the railroads in being entitled to more compensation, not only in passenger service but in freight traffic revenue. I still am of that opinion, as I was then, and I sincerely believe they are justly deserving of a liberal increase in freight rates in the face of the advance in rolling stock and railroad supplies in general. Through the wage controversy recently settled it becomes manifestly more convincing to the states and people and employees who are loyal to a corporation whose foremost interest is the welfare of the public at large, and that corporation is the railroad which is the peer of all when it comes to progressiveness in all things. Therefore the railway commission should grant a fair increase in freight rates in proportion to the advance of railroad equipment and wage increase of their employees.

Railroads are so much unjustly criticized even by some of the employees, who are well-paid men. Why? Simply because these people do not stop and realize what their employers have to contend with in handling a great financial problem in operating a railroad system. I like to see men get a good living wage for their services. No railroad believes in starving their men, not for one minute, on the other hand, they want well-fed men. If men are not getting enough to sufficiently keep them in comfortable circumstances, it's not because the company and its officials want that condition to exist.

Railroads pay their men better wages, have better working conditions, treat the public patrons with more re-

spect through courtesy of the employers, and give the general public as a whole 75 per cent better service, more for their money, and, in any other way you may look at it, than any corporation or other manufacturing business of any importance, serving the public.

The railroads never cease in trying to build up and help the progress of any community through which they operate, and I hope to see them granted an increase in both passenger and freight rates and we will all be benefited either directly or indirectly.

V. A. B.—An Employee.

### SAID IN FUN.

Mistress—See here, this chair is covered with dust.

Maid—Yesum, I guess there ain't nobody been sittin' in it lately.—*New York Times.*

Mrs. Simmer—Your husband seems to be getting thinner every day.

Mrs. Fortleigh—Yes, poor fellow! But I was getting so awfully stout we had to diet.—*Boston Globe.*

"What do you think of this idea of burning people in effigy?"

"I'm against it," replied Senator Sorghum.

"What for? Is an effigy there's no excuse for the waste?"—*Washington Star.*

DEAR MR. WASHBURN,

MY FINANCE IS GETTING MORE DEAF EVERY DAY—SHOULDN'T HE HAVE IT ATTENDED TO?

—MARKET GERACH

NO—NOY IF HE'S GOT A LONG MARRIED LIFE AHEAD OF HIM!

—J. W. C.

"Her electrician lover could not understand her rejection of his offer."

"Why couldn't he?"

"He couldn't make her explain how a dejected negative could be so positive."—*Baltimore American.*

"Say, if you're running to fish your little boy out of the mill pond you're too late!"

"Oh, good heavens!"

"Yes, he crawled out himself."—*Harpers' Magazine.*

"James says he believes in signs for everything."

"Is he that superstitious?"

"It isn't superstition, it's business. He paints 'em."—*Baltimore American.*

Mrs. Blank—I suppose, Willie you are glad that spanking has gone out of fashion.

Willie—Nub! It always takes my folks a couple of years to catch up with the style.—*Chicago Post.*

## Illinois Central

Direct Route to

Fort Dodge  
Waterloo  
Dubuque  
Galena  
Freeport  
Madison  
Rockford  
Chicago

and intermediate points.

Direct connections in Chicago for all points east and south.

Strictly up-to-date, all steel trains.

Tickets and reservations at CITY TICKET OFFICE, 407 SOUTH 16TH STREET.

S. NORTH, District Passenger Agent, Phone Douglas 264

## Easy to Play

No Other Make "Pumps" So Easy As

This GULBRANSEN-made

(Pronounced Gul-bran-sen)

Player Piano

—easy to pedal

\$2.50 Weekly \$375 10-Year Guaranty

Genuine Mahogany, Walnut or Oak.

A mere touch with the foot, and it's off like a flash!

Fact is, you don't have to use your foot. One finger, pressing on one pedal, will make it play!

If you have an invalid in your home, a delicate wife or daughter, a feeble grandmother, a "rheumatik" grandfather, or a young child, who would enjoy the diversion and entertainment of making music, this Gulbransen-made Player Piano

AND THE PRICE IS SO SENSIBLE! REALLY YOU'D PAY FOR THIS FINE INSTRUMENT SO QUICKLY AND EASILY THAT YOU'D NEVER MISS THE MONEY!

# A. HOSPE CO.

THE VICTOR STORE

1513-15 Douglas Street