

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY
 FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
 VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR
 THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR
 Headed of Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.
 Daily and Evening... per month, \$5.00 per year, \$50.00
 Sunday... per month, \$1.00 per year, \$10.00
 Single copies... 5c

REMITTANCE.
 Remit by draft, express or postal order. Only 3-cent stamps taken in payment of small accounts. Personal checks, except on Omaha and western exchange, not accepted.

OFFICES.
 Omaha—The Bee Building, Chicago—Postoffice Gas Building.
 South Omaha—211 N. St. New York—285 Fifth Ave.
 Council Bluffs—11 N. Main St. St. Louis—New Bldg. of Commerce.
 Lincoln—Latta Building. Washington—125 14th St. N. W.

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 owned by Dwight Williams, Circulation Manager.

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

Fly your flag!
 Clean up! Mighty good advice! And also keep cleaned up!

As the European war lines up at present the battle is between democracy and autocracy.

Rumbles of trouble penetrate to the throne room of Spain. After you, Alfonso, what?

Another kind of preparedness to which no one will object: Preparedness against the pranks of the April Fool joker.

Official Berlin professes unshaken esteem for the United States, despite that Zimmermann probe for Uncle Sam's short ribs.

Artemus Ward has a lot of present-day successors who are also willing to sacrifice all their wife's relations on their country's altar.

Colonel Bryan renews his faith in a year of conversation as an infallible peace promoter. Could love of one's occupation go farther?

Nearly 101,000 auto licenses have been issued in Nebraska so far this year. The figures measure the mighty push behind the good roads movement in the state.

The military system of dealing with bootleggers in bone-dry districts of Mexico spells efficiency with a big E. Firing squads obviate return engagements.

As between the Allies and the Central Powers, place your sympathy where you wish, but as between the United States and any foreign enemy—America first and exclusive!

Bulletins from the river bed of the Missouri indicate rising temperature and spreading perspiration. So long as the patient remains in bed all is well. If the covers are kicked off, watch out.

If these exhibitions of bare feet by fair feminine plaintiffs could be pulled off regularly jury summons would not be shunned nor would the judge be so pestered with requests to be excused from serving.

At the worst (or best), the present Slocumb law has proved to be a pretty good "dry" law for all Nebraska communities that have voted against issuing liquor licenses in times past and will continue to serve the purpose if need be.

Brand Whitlock and his associates on the Belgian relief commission must undergo a news quarantine of four weeks before leaving Germany. Enforced retirement relieves their observations of news value, but may enhance their worth as war history.

Every acre of cultivatable ground in Nebraska, or any other state for that matter, should be made to produce a full crop this year above all other years. There is no excuse for failure to plant maximum acreage or for neglect of the work after planting.

Do not get the idea that all the false economy of the postoffice is centered in the railway mail service. The enforced shortage of clerks and carriers in the face of multiplied and constantly increasing business is also helping to demoralize the postal service.

Omaha music lovers may well rejoice over an operatic and concert season of unusual merit just ended. In variety of repertoire and artistic talent, the season's record reaches gratifying heights. Moreover, public patronage rose to generous proportions, flattering alike to the artists and the widening circles of our musical culture.

The Neglected Public Library

It is the letter writing habit in people in general or the failure of the public library to function that causes a certain peevishness in the Saturday Evening Post over a matter where most public journals will offer sympathy. "Many times every year," it says, "we are asked to recommend a book containing information on this or that subject of general interest." The Philadelphia editors, like ourselves, are "glad to comply to the best of our limited ability," yet "we never answer one of these letters without wondering why public libraries do not impress themselves more definitely and extensively upon the public." More than this:

"The writer of the letter is obviously intelligent or he would not be seeking information. By the same token he is interested in subjects of general concern. Yet, as obviously he does not know that about three times out of five there is a public institution not far from him, supported at large expense, which not only contains standard books on the subject he wants to know about, but makes a special business of supplying him with those books promptly and without expense.

"From its card index he can learn in five minutes what books there are on the subject and attendants will fetch them to him on request. Invariably, in our experience, the library staff is informed and attentive. It will go to any pains, most willingly, to put the resources of the library at the disposal of an inquirer. Within its own walls the institution functions admirably, but a great many people do not know of it in such a way that, being thirst for information, they turn to it as naturally as a dry man turns to a water faucet.

"The library habit is one of the best that any person can form. There should be a more strenuous effort to inculcate it. Meantime take the initiative yourself. Get acquainted with your public library."

Hollweg "Passes the Buck."

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's address to the Reichstag must disappoint those who had anticipated the extension of the olive branch to the United States, for the spokesman for the German imperial government grimly asserts that all has been done that will be done to avoid war with the United States and if hostilities follow the present break responsibility must rest on America and not on Germany. In justification, the chancellor points out that from the first Germany has insisted that the U-boat was introduced only as a means of defense, resorted to when all other agencies have failed. If this form of defense cannot be understood by the United States that is unfortunate, but the use of the "sharp weapon" will not be given up on that account.

The chancellor is not very happy in his effort at "passing the buck" and his language does not carry the same impress of sincerity as his former addresses. Correspondence between Berlin and Washington is sufficient to confute the idea that the United States has been the aggressor in the controversy. Very early in the war, when the Von Tirpitz announcement of intention to employ the submarine in blockading England was followed by the British order in council establishing a paper blockade, protest was entered by this country at both Berlin and London and on substantially the same grounds. The United States insisted that a blockade to be recognized must be effective and not constructive. The right of the submarine to operate within the restrictions of visit and search was admitted. Yet, before the new question had been fairly stated, the sinking of the Lusitania raised an issue with Germany that overshadowed the difference with Great Britain, although that has by no means been forgotten.

All along the United States has strenuously protested against the submarine ruthlessness and at the very outset advised Germany that every destruction of American life or property through the Von Tirpitz policy would be considered an unfriendly act. To come in now, after we have impatiently borne a series of attacks for nearly two years, and charge us with aggression upon Germany exceeds what might be expected even from a chancellor hard pressed for a plausible defense of an indefensible policy.

Two "Real Estate Deals."

Payment of \$25,000,000 for the Danish West Indies almost on the day which marks the fiftieth anniversary of the acquisition of Alaska by purchase affords opportunity for a contrast of conditions in 1867 and 1917. The act of Secretary Seward in completing the treaty with Russia was severely criticized at the time and for many years Alaska was commonly referred to as "Seward's folly." Next to the Louisiana purchase it has brought returns exceeding any other international real estate deal ever made. Secretary Lane is authority for the statement that \$750,000,000 has been added to the country's wealth by Alaska. Its development is only well begun and its possibilities are still conjectural, but of known value far beyond what has been realized. The Danish West Indies were acquired for reasons far different from those that led to the Alaska purchase. Possession of the islands is important because of their strategic position, as commanding the entrance to the Caribbean, and so a factor in the defense of the gulf coast and the Panama canal. It is not expected that in a material way the country will ever get returns on the big price laid down for these islands. If they are useful, as expected, in solving one of the greatest of our military problems, the protection of the great central valley from invasion, they will be worth many times what they cost. Seward's wisdom has been vindicated by time; Lansing's must yet wait for its justification.

Pushing the Spring Cleanup.

The Omaha Civic league comes out of the long winter with signs of vigorous life. At any rate, it announces a determination to work for a cleaner Omaha and has several reasonable suggestions whereby the result may be attained. Omaha has suffered considerably because of the disappointing behavior of the climate. For the first time in many years the rain has failed and in absence of the occasional deluge, relied on by the street cleaning department, rubbish and refuse has been permitted to accumulate. Unless we get a right smart shower soon it begins to look as if the commissioner will have to put some men to work on the job. Private premises, too, have suffered because of neglect, but now is the time to get busy, and the next few days should see the citizens occupied in the springtime business of tidying up around the homes. Then, with everything spick and span, comes the application of the real platform of the Civic league. "Keep the city clean" is the slogan for this year, and it can be done if the citizens will only give a little orderly attention to the work.

"Tranquility" in Spain.

Madrid sends out word that leaders who threatened to call a general strike, with purposes of revolution, have been arrested, and that "all is tranquil throughout the kingdom." Such a message might have come from Petrograd the night before the revolution commenced its active work. Only a few years ago the king of Portugal was certain he had tranquilized his people by the execution of some revolutionary leaders. In China the emperor sat on a throne hallowed and supported by centuries of submissive veneration from the meekest of people. Dom Pedro of Brazil, last of hereditary rulers on American soil, felt the assurance of prosperity in the quiet of his people. Yet in the very hour of their most solemn quiet the people asserted themselves and the thrones disappeared. Spain may be tranquil, but a close observer would be justified in suggesting that Alfonso look about for some employment to occupy his time after he has joined Manuel and Nicholas and other kings and emperors who are out of jobs.

A School District Accountant is the Latest Job to be Manufactured by our Lawmakers for the People of Omaha to Pay for.

This is merely another "fifth wheel to the wagon." What we should have is a comptroller with full authority and jurisdiction over all local government agencies for which the county treasurer acts as treasurer. Such an office merging now duplicated existing auditing machinery could stop leaks and save money instead of merely padding the payroll as the present proposal promises.

Chancellor Hollweg solemnly assures the world that Germany is not interfering "in the internal affairs of any nation."

The plotters and spies recently convicted in this country must therefore face the further charge of interfering with the settled policy of the Kaiser.

Uncle Sam in the Caribbean The Trail of Horse Marines

By Frederic J. Hazkin

Editor's Note: The United States marine corps is in many ways the most interesting body of fighting men in the world. They are stationed in Nicaragua; they cleaned up Haiti and Santo Domingo; they are policing Cuba—they are always on the job. Don't you owe it to them and to your country to know a little more about them? By sending your name and address with a 2-cent stamp for return postage, you can secure a beautiful free booklet telling all about the life they lead and the wonderful things they do. This artistic little book is so fine that you will want to keep it in your library. Ask for the Marine's Book, and address The Omaha Bee, Information Bureau, Washington, D. C.

Santo Domingo City, Santo Domingo, March 20.—Here in the Republic of Santo Domingo there has been fought, and still is being fought to some extent, one of the funniest little wars in the history of American arms. The trouble started last April when the president of this nation tried to fire the secretary of war, whereupon the secretary of war chased the president out of the capital and the president with an army of 387 laid siege to the same. Admiral Caperton of the American navy, who was down in this part of the world to keep order, then took a hand in the game by giving the usurper, General Arias, twenty-four hours to get out of the city, General Arias got.

In order to make this job of keeping order complete, it was now necessary to follow and disperse the army of the revolutionary general, which had retired to the interior. Accordingly 1,200 marines under the command of Brigadier General Joseph H. Pendleton was landed at Monte Cristi, a port on the other side of the island. The main force of marines under Colonel Dunlop was to advance upon Santiago from this point, while a flanking movement was executed by Major Baers.

The marines had their usual arms and equipment and nothing more. They organized a supply and hospital train by impressing all of the automobiles in the town, but in a very few miles these had to be abandoned, and a few carts, laboriously dragged through the mud by four mules each, transported everything that was not left behind. The Santo Domingo mules soon began to get tired and stick in the mud, so that they required much assistance from the soldiers, while a keen competition in stealing mules from each other developed between the various divisions.

The most spectacular and remarkable part of this army was the cavalry, which was the precursor of the several very competent troops of "horse marines" which now exist in the country. This first troop was not very competent. It contained eighteen men who were mounted on ponies, mules and burros. These mounts being somewhat poorly fed, developed a tendency to stop and graze under fire or during a charge. The decisive battle took place at Guayacanes, where the rebel forces took up a strongly entrenched position, which the Americans carried only after a stubborn fight. The leader of the rebels, Maximato Cabral, was killed fighting alone in the trenches after all of his followers were dead or driven away.

This defeat dispersed and disheartened the rebel army. The rest of the march to Santiago was made with little difficulty, and the force joined that of Major Baers, which had encountered nothing but a few snipers. "The march of the marines" was merely the beginning of the marines' work. The interior of Santo Domingo, half a wilderness and without roads, is in somewhat the condition of Europe in the middle ages. There are a number of native leaders, most of whom own lands, that have gathered about them a large following. Theoretically citizens of a republic, they are in fact feudal barons, acknowledging no law and no government.

One of the most formidable of these native leaders was disarmed without the firing of a shot and by a single man. Olivario is the name of the chief, but he is always called "the Hombre de Dios" (man of God). He lived in the San Juan valley and was a genuine independent sovereign in his own little way; for he never joined any of the political factions of the republic, and defeated all of the forces sent against him by its various governments. This remarkable man met his match in Lieutenant Fuerlein, a Swiss soldier of fortune, retained by the American because of his knowledge of the country and the people. To Fuerlein was assigned the job of taking away from the Hombres de Dios the 800 rifles with which the native baron had equipped his followers. Fuerlein went alone, with two revolvers, one of which was concealed, and a compass.

It will be remembered that the American gunboat Memphis was washed ashore at Santo Domingo by a tidal wave not long ago, and still lies upon the beach there. Now the Hombres de Dios, in accordance with his pretension, had informed his followers that he had caused the ocean to rise up and smite the battleship of the Americans. Fuerlein sent a messenger and asked Olivario to meet him in an open field for a friendly parley. Olivario came with all his followers drawn up behind him. He threw down his revolver and came forward, as did Fuerlein, each having other arms concealed about him.

Fuerlein had secretly located the old chief with the help of several scouts, but he now produced his compass, and explained that it was a magical instrument which had pointed out the stronghold of the Hombres de Dios with his little iron hand. He then told the old man he was an agent of the United States army, which had so many soldiers that if brought to the island they would fill it standing shoulder to shoulder. He had come, he said, because he had heard that the Hombres de Dios had by his power caused the sea to cast up the gunboat Memphis. He requested the Hombres de Dios immediately to use his great power to have the Memphis set afloat again; otherwise, he said, it might be necessary to bring the United States army against him.

Old Olivario was beaten at his own game of bluff. He was completely awed by the magic of Fuerlein's compass and also by the tremendous power which stood behind the little Swiss. He admitted that he could not take the Memphis off the beach, and also the corollary fact that he had not put it there. Fuerlein congratulated him on this fortunate state of affairs. He then explained that the United States requested the co-operation of the great Hombres de Dios in disarming the people of Santo Domingo, so that order might be restored there and the country realize its great and brilliant future. The United States government knew that there were some 800 rifles among the people of the San Juan valley. The Hombres de Dios was requested to use his great power to place these arms in the hands of the government. Which the Hombres de Dios did; Fuerlein brought back the rifles in a wagon.

The annals of the "horse marines" are filled with such incidents and their task is not nearly done.

People and Events

"See Our Smoker!" is the mute warning of an exhibit of smoked human lungs exhibited in the city hall of Chicago. The question was how to abate the smoke. Health department officials reported 732 deaths from pneumonia in thirty days, largely due to unclear air. Aldermen were duly impressed by the exhibits, nothing, more.

One of the orators at a lumbermen's "feisty board" at St. Louis suggested a plausible explanation of the H. C. L. War as an excuse no longer serves. In his opinion the trouble is due to supports, the prevalence of which aggravates the reach of men. The theory struck the listeners in the right spot and was given the warmest hand of the evening.

HEALTHY

Health Hint for the Day.

Your clothing should permit the abdominal organs and the lungs and heart to be as free to act as possible.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

German assaults at Neville and St. Etienne stopped by British.

German stormed Malancourt, Verdun, capturing the village.

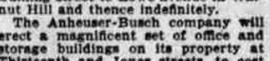
Zeppelin L-15 destroyed by gunfire while raiding over England with four other airships.

Ambassador Gerard at Berlin renewed American request for information as to submarine attacks.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

John O'Brien, who used to be a member of the fire department, has changed his vocation and is now "engineer" of the patrol wagon.

The latest move of the street railway company is in the direction of building an extension of its line out



Cuming street to Lowe avenue in Walnut Hill and thence indefinitely.

The Anheuser-Busch company will erect a magnificent set of office and storage buildings on the property at A. Jackson, Frank Holstetter, John C. Cowin, Lou Hill and John A. Mo-Shane.

A meeting of the directors of the Omaha & Council Bluffs Bridge company was held at the Merchants National bank. John T. Stewart was elected president and George Wright secretary.

Passenger trains on the Belt line will run through the city place before sixty days and the street railway on Farnam street will be in operation through Brigg's place in a couple of weeks.

John Steamer, the boss carpenter of the fire department, has resigned to take a foremanship in the Thirtieth street plant mill.

This Day in History.

1508—James P. Henderson, first state governor of Texas, born in Lincoln county, North Carolina. Died in Washington, D. C., June 4, 1888.

1821—First postoffice established in Chicago.

1822—Henry Clay of Kentucky resigned his seat in the United States senate.

1854—First treaty between the United States and Japan, of peace, amity and commerce, which was signed at Washington, D. C., June 8, 1854.

1858—The property of the clergy in Mexico was sequestered.

1861—Mr. Spurgeon's great Baptist tabernacle in London opened.

1862—First day of the battle of Five Forks, which ended in a victory for the federals under General Sheridan.

1867—Capture of Patrick Maclure, a leader of the Fenian rising in Ireland.

1882—Attempt made to blow up the monument to Major Andre on the site of his grave at Tappan, N. Y.

1894—A man charged with assassinating the czar of Russia, by lot, committed suicide, leaving a letter incriminating his associates.

1900—General Louis Botha succeeded General Joubert as commander-in-chief of the Boer forces.

1904—The French courts removed all legal obstacles to the transfer of the Panama canal property to the United States.

The Day We Celebrate.

Prince Henry of Wales, third son of King George V of England, born seventeen years ago today.

James M. Cox, present governor of Ohio, born at Jacksonburg, O., forty-seven years ago today.

Dr. John R. Dobyns, president of Southwestern Presbyterian university, born at Columbus, Mo., sixty-seven years ago today.

Dr. J. Campbell White, president of Wooster university, born at Wooster, O., forty-seven years ago today.

Claude A. Swanson, United States senator from Virginia, born in Pittsylvania county, Virginia, sixty-five years ago today.

John Hays Hammond, famous mining engineer and capitalist, born in San Francisco, sixty-two years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Republican representatives in the Sixty-fifth congress hold a caucus tonight to discuss organization and legislative program.

The Navy department is to open bids today for the construction of 300 high-powered motor boats to be employed in coast patrol duty.

All contracts placed by the British government with munition makers for shrapnel shells are to lapse today, England having brought its production of munitions to a point where it is no longer necessary to import them.

After paying off all current indebtedness, including interest on all war expenditures and all pensions, the Dominion of Canada will close its fiscal year today with a balance of \$15,000,000 in the treasury to assist in paying off a portion of the capital expenditures incurred during the war.

The board of trustees of the University of Vermont has been summoned to meet at Montpelier today to consider the charges of un-American conduct preferred by the alumni against Dr. Anton H. Appelmann, professor of German language and literature at the university.

Stoyette of the Day.

A number of literary men and also a number of others with literary aspirations had assembled at a dinner. Two minor poets became engaged in conversation.

"I saw your spring poem in the Wonder Magazine," said one.

"Did you?" questioned the other, becoming suddenly animated.

"Yes, and I heard rather a neat compliment passed on it by a young woman."

"What did she say?"

"She wanted to know if I had written it."—New York Times.

The Bee's Letter Box

Science and its Originator.

Omaha, March 29.—To the Editor of The Bee: I think Mr. Knight shows a great amount of ignorance when he says that the Bible has nothing to do with the progress of modern times. If Mr. Knight will read some history of a few hundred years ago he will find that there was only one creed that strangled progress and put people to death for the same. They were still fighting progress and if they were in power today this world would be in a terrible plight. They are not using and never did use the Bible to fight with, but went by order of his tyrant that sits on a throne and calls himself greater than Jesus Christ.

Now, if Mr. Knight will look into the work that missionaries are doing in the foreign lands today, he will find that they are teaching civilization and Bible christianity. Now what has done this? The Bible. If it hadn't been for the Bible we wouldn't have any missionaries today, and we would be as ignorant as any heathen in foreign lands. Science is all right but to whom are we indebted for this science? God and his precious word, the Bible. May God help people to realize it.

H. LEE—A Believer in the Bible.

Grateful to Groh.

Omaha, March 29.—To the Editor of The Bee: The members of the Ministerial union are certainly grateful to A. R. Groh, the genial philanthropist and brilliant writer of The Bee staff for his excellent defense of religion under the title, "Religion in Need of No Defenders."

Certainly no one in the brief limits of space which Mr. Groh allows himself, could more clearly and completely marshal the facts and arguments which constrain the reasonable man of today to support Christianity.

We trust that the objector and all who agree with him will be open-minded enough to review the religion which they have misapprehended and discover in the light of Christ and his true exponents the beauty, truth and strength of Christianity. It is the simple truth that "Even if we should grant that Christianity has no divine foundation, the argument would still be all in its favor," because of the fact that Christians have as their life purpose, "Doing good and trying to make the world the best possible place to live in."

FREDERICK W. LEAVITT.

SOME DAY.

Lois Zellner in Film Fun.

"Member when you and I were kids? And it got too dark to play. We'd sit on the steps and talk it out—You and I and Tom and Dot—'But what were we going to be some day?'"

You said you would be a pirate bold And sail on the bounding seas. Wear a big black mask and a sword of steel, And turned-in boots with a golden heel And live a life of ease.

And Dot and I were to go to war Where the cruel bullets sting. To nurse the soldiers back to life, And after the end of the bloody strife To be the bride of a handsome king.

And Tom was to be an engineer On the fast Nine-Ninety-Nine. To blow the whistle and ring the bell, And streak through the town with a screech and a yell.

The Hero of the line.

Nowadays when the youngsters chat Of the future that they plan to give, You'll hear them say, with the greatest glee, "When I grow up I'm gonna be—A movie' plicker man!"

CHEERY CHAFF.

Betty—I shall not wed until I can marry a hero.

Mary—Well, my dear, just show any man who proposes to you a schedule of your yearly expenses, and if he doesn't balk out, he's one.—Boston Transcript.

"Could you suggest some suitable badge for our Don't Worry club?" asked the typewriter boarder.

"How would a pin-knot do?" asked the cheerful idiot.—Indianapolis News.

DEAR MR. KABBIE.

I'M IN LOVE WITH A CALIFORNIAN—SHOULD I MARRY HIM?

—MISS SWEETHEART

WHY GO SO FAR—YOU CAN DO JUST AS WELL IN ILLINOIS!

She chatted away while he tinkered with a balky motor.

"Yes, the story gave me quite a start," "Um," he growled, "I wish you'd tell it to this automobile."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"I wonder what we would do without telephones, autos, newspapers and movies."

"Yes, then we'd have time to fall in love and cultivate a few friends, besides enjoying the scenery."—Life.

He—You can't understand the anxiety with which one goes into a forlorn hope.

She—Oh, yes, I can. I saw Miss Oldgirl headed for a beauty parlor yesterday.—Baltimore American.

"When the Exercise Of Our Limbs

affords us pleasure in walking and the play of our senses upon the various objects of nature quickens and stimulates our spirit, then our relation to the world and to ourselves is what it should be—simple, direct and wholesome." These words from a great philosopher are deep with meaning.

This firm, by simple, direct and truthful advertising, tries to make its publicity wholesome and refreshing. If it quickens your interest and stimulates a desire to use our products, it affords us much satisfaction—no disappointment lurks behind the facts we print. We consider the relations between the public and ourselves cooperative and mutually important to conserve.

The L. V. Nicholas Oil Company

Grain Exchange Bldg., Omaha, Neb.



Drug Store News

Our exceptionally complete stocks include everything in the drug line which a thoroughly efficient drug store should carry. We watch our stocks carefully and replenish them as often as necessary to keep assortments unbroken. "You can save time and money by trading at the Five Rexall Stores."

Toilet Articles

25c Holmes' Frostilla for... 17c

\$2.50 Mary Garden Perfumes, per oz... \$1.74

50c Ricksecker's Cold Cream, per jar... 34c

Special Sale Hughes' Ideal Rubber Cushion Back Hair Brushes, each... 94c and \$1