

Representative Officials of Douglas County

Ever Been Cartooned?

Story by Victor Rosewater in The Bee March, 1912

How does it feel to be cartooned? Well, that depends upon the cartoon, and also upon whether it is a first experience, or you have become used to it by repetition of the offense.

The cartoon may produce in the subject either a feeling of elation or of disgust.

If it is a good cartoon, laid on a broad foundation of humor, and the point is well made, it should arouse no resentment. A person ought to be able to take a joke—and a cartoon is supposed to be a joke perpetrated in picture—when the joke is on him, as when it is on the other fellow. If the cartoon is a distortion, breathing malice or deliberate misrepresentation in every line, why, it stimulates a desire to get sight of the artist and have a brick handy about the time he comes within hitting distance. But the ambition to retaliate on the cartoonist will fade away when you realize that he is just working at his profession and probably drawing pictures as he is told to draw them, possibly having the idea supplied, to be elaborated on the drawing-board.

With the single exception of Mr. Bryan who unquestionably holds the record for having been the target for more cartoons than any other person on earth, I believe, I have figured in a larger number of such pictorial portrayals than anyone else now living in Nebraska. This honor, or disgrace, whichever way it is viewed, is due to the persistent practice of personal politics pursued by the opposition in this city and state, by which I, as was my father before me, have been singled out personally to take the burden of every campaign instead of the candidates whom I may be favoring. Never an election passes in which a stranger judging by the cartoons might not easily be led to imagine that I was running for at least one, if not every, office on the ticket, although I have never sought election to public office of any kind. Perhaps it is sheer vanity that has impelled me to save the cartoons in which a pretended likeness of myself figure—if so, I admit the charge—but the collection makes an interesting record of past politics and current history, more interesting to me, no doubt, than to anyone else. I have now nearly 100 of these drawings in my possession, and more a-coming every little while.

That Memorable First Cartoon.

Yes, I remember the appearance of my first cartoon. It was just a little one, but the artist "hit it off," as it were. I had been on the ground at the legislature of 1901 in Lincoln somewhat actively engaged in supervising the job of electing two United States senators, assisted by, or assisting, a number of similarly self-sacrificing patriots with like purposes, among them then District Judge "Ben" Baker. The judge and I offered the cartoonist just the sort of contrast that he revels in. I measure five feet four and a half inches, which is below the average, and weigh around 125 pounds, while "Ben" is large of height and girth and tips the scales quite generously. I have a head of hair that makes me get my money's worth whenever I patronize a barber shop, while "Ben" combs his cranium with a washrag and, except for the small space occupied by an invisible



VICTOR ROSEWATER, OMAHA BEE.

JUDGE BEN BAKER AND "DOC" VICTOR ROSEWATER (Discussing the situation.)

fringe near the neck, keeps a roller skating rink for flies all the year round. I do not use tobacco in any form, while "Ben's" most constant companion is a big black cigar, so you can readily see what the cartoonist did to us. There is "Ben" with feet on a terra firma as against me perched high on a soap box placed on a chair, and then just able to get my mouth on a level with his ear. "Ben" has his cigar at a rakish tilt and wears clothes that bespeak the man of the world, while I am made to look like an immature boy just out of college—it might have been kindergarten.

Of course, I was all puffed up by that cartoon. I thought I must be beginning to amount to something to attract that much attention. I showed it, without attempting to conceal my pride, to friends and acquaintances. I even felt complimented by being associated with such a great man as Judge Baker and to be able to rise as high as he did, even though I had to pile a soap box on top of a chair to do so.

Working On a Famous Toga.

Out of the senatorial campaign of 1906 grew a series of cartoons in which I figured, sometimes in the foreground, and sometimes in the background. In these I was exhibited as working on a toga for "My Pa," and to emphasize the relationship of father and son I was thrust back into youthful apparel with knickerbockers, Buster Brown collar and butterfly necktie, which were entirely foreign to my regular costume. I was depicted as industriously sewing this mantle together, as trying to protect it from mutilation by political enemies and of carrying it through the different stages and vicissitudes of the contest, finally tearfully bringing it home in tatters at the conclusion of the convention tryout.

The preliminary campaign for the support of Nebraska in the republican national convention in 1908 brought me more or less into the thick of it, and at the same time into the cartoon limelight. Then, as now, Mr. Taft was a candidate with whom I had enlisted, while the opposition likewise started out behind Senator LaFollette, and later, when they found that they were losing ground, tried to shift to former President Roosevelt. The personalities of the campaign could not be kept out, nor the artists' pencil withstand the temptation offered. Then the republican party became an infant with lusty lungs, with a tag suspended by a string around its neck labelled, "Republican Reform," which infant I had kidnaped and made away with

rather doubtful likeness. The Chicago Record-Herald once gave me a large part of a page along with a humorous sketch of doings at the republican national campaign headquarters, written by Richard Henry Little, in which I was dubbed "the man with the incandescent smile." The New York Herald artist has also contributed a snapshot taken along with others during an Associated

Press meeting, in which it would take an incandescent light to find the trace of a smile. Good, bad and indifferent, however, or completely devoid of resemblance, they give the experience of being cartooned—of being held up to the public eye with personal characteristics distorted to make the point or draw the laugh, and in time to cauterize whatever sensitive spots a man may have.

V. R.



"MIKE" CLARK Sheriff of Douglas County

and terror to evil-doers, is serving his first term, but his friends and supporters, who are legion and from all walks of life, say it will not be his last.

Michael L. Clark was elected sheriff on the republican ticket.

Few men are more widely known or more popular than Sheriff Clark. He has earned the reputation of being fearless, with justice and fair play to all and favoritism to none. When he became the chief law enforcer of Douglas county Sheriff Clark surrounded himself with an efficient staff of deputies and proceeded to "clean up" all places under his jurisdiction.

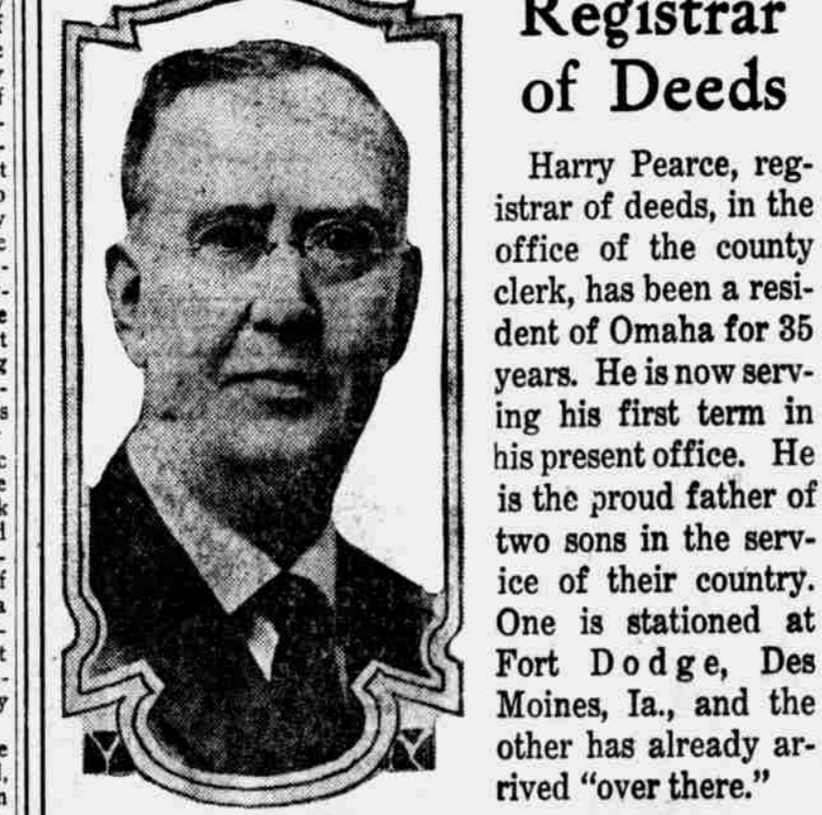
Sheriff Clark has made the Douglas county jail a model bastille, remarked by visitors to be the cleanest in the United States.

Sheriff Clark for many years was associated with the Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway company.



SOPHUS F. NEBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

HARRY PEARCE Registrar of Deeds



Harry Pearce, registrar of deeds, in the office of the county clerk, has been a resident of Omaha for 35 years. He is now serving his first term in his present office. He is the proud father of two sons in the service of their country. One is stationed at Fort Dodge, Des Moines, Ia., and the other has already arrived "over there."

FRANK DEWEY County Clerk



Frank Dewey, county clerk, was born in Cedar Rapids, Ia., and is descended from early New England ancestry. The family has been represented in every war this country has had from early 1700 down to the present time; a fact which indicates that patriotism is one of the marked family characteristics.

About the year 1840 his father helped to found the beautiful city of Cedar Rapids, Ia. Frank came to Omaha in 1878 and has made Omaha his home since. He began his first term as County Clerk in 1912; was elected again in 1914 and re-elected in 1916. He is also Ex-Officio County Comptroller and Superintendent of the City and County Tax Office. His duties are manifold and important and are discharged with the utmost capability and fidelity. He believes that a Public Office is a Public Trust and it is well known that no trust reposed in Frank Dewey is ever betrayed.

Testimonials to The Bee

(Continued from Page Three.)

Justice and Fair Play

Although I am not an "old timer" in the city, I have been here sufficient time, I feel, to get the general trend of affairs in this prosperous, growing city.

It has been a matter of pleasure and satisfaction to note the interest The Bee has always taken in matters pertaining to the great business of life insurance. In spite of the fact that life insurance is one of the four great businesses of the world, ranking on an equal basis with the other big three; namely, banking, railroads and the value of annual manufactured products, we have not always been given proper credit for the work we have done, but The Omaha Bee, with its characteristic sense of justice and fair play, has been always disposed to give life insurance and life insurance men due credit for the part they have played in the upbuilding of this city, and I feel quite sure I am only expressing the sentiments of the rank and file of the fraternity when I wish for this great publication 25 more years of successful activity in our midst.

O. H. Newell
President Nebraska Life Underwriters Association.

Its Fearless Way

It is a pleasure for the Omaha Grain Exchange to extend hearty congratulations to The Omaha Bee and its editor, Victor Rosewater, for the splendid work it has done in the past 25 years, not only in the upbuilding of the Omaha Grain Exchange, but of the city of Omaha and the state of Nebraska.

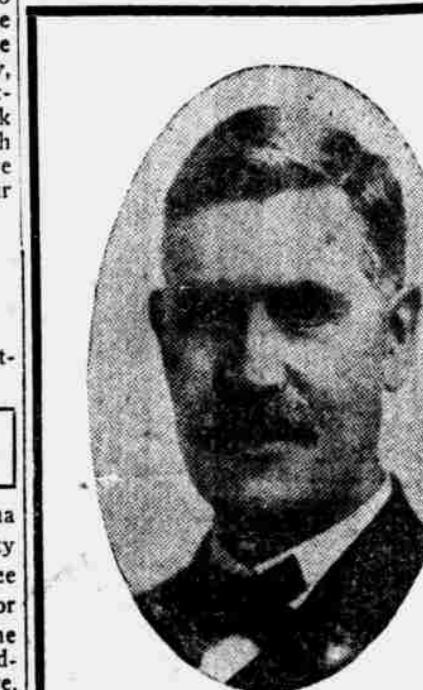
No part of the United States has shown such improvement as our city and the state of Nebraska has during the past 25 years, and The Omaha Bee, in its fearless way, has been a factor in these wonderful improvements. With best wishes for its future success, I remain

J. H. Kershner
President Omaha Grain Exchange.

Imbues All With Faith

In observing the silver anniversary of your quarter of a century of editorial management of The Omaha Bee, I not only congratulate you personally, Mr. Rosewater, but also Omaha and Nebraska. You have made The Bee a vital factor in co-operating with every forward movement that tends to the greatness of the city and state. Its constructive policies and the reliability of its utterances concerning Omaha and Nebraska imbues all with an unshaken faith in the municipality and the commonwealth.

Edward T. Heyden
Omaha Realtor.



Thomas O'Connor County Commissioner Chairman of Finance Committee of Douglas County

Mr. O'Connor has been a resident of Omaha for 32 years. He has always been a prominent figure in GROWING OMAHA. At the present time the finances of DOUGLAS COUNTY are practically on a cash basis with all obligations paid up. Prompt liquidation of maturing bond issues is the soundest policy and \$430,000.00 of County bonds have been redeemed within the last few years. As a result of this policy Douglas County Bonds today are gilt-edge marketable securities. This is one of Mr. O'Connor's many proud achievements.



Louis E. Adams County Surveyor
Congratulations to Victor Rosewater and THE OMAHA BEE