

# THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Special Branches: **Tyler 1000**

BEER TELEPHONES:

OFFICES OF THE BEE

Daily 66,315—Sunday 63,160

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

### You should know that

Receipts of corn at the Omaha mills and elevators increased more than 25 per cent in 1919 over the total of 1918.

### What The Bee Stands For:

1. Respect for the law and maintenance of order.
2. Speedy and certain punishment of crime through the regular operation of the courts.
3. Pithless publicity and condemnation of inefficiency lawlessness and corruption in office.
4. Frank recognition and commendation of honest and efficient public service.
5. Inculcation of Americanism as the true basis of good citizenship.

### Homestretch for Santa Claus!

Straw votes are interesting, but they seldom elect anyone.

The Yuletide season works wonders; look at Bryan and Hitchcock!

But why did he have to go east to get the advice he might have found at home?

Another effort to control the price of sugar is to be made. We all know what happened last time.

When the soviet ark reaches its destination, the passengers will be able to report progress, but not in America.

A \$30,000 bull burned up in a box car, just as a common feeder steer would do. Railroad wrecks do not regard royalty.

The United States Grain corporation again promises cheaper flour to combat the advancing prices. It can not come too soon.

The Hitchcock-Underwood finish fight has been put off till the middle of next month. One of the principals may go stale by that time.

Ten of thirteen representative industries show increases in number of workmen employed for the year. Business is getting back.

If "Tommy" Allen reintends to start a crusade against the home-grown profiteer, he will never have a better chance than right now.

That Paris athlete who played on the stage wearing only a loin cloth recalls Tamara de Swirsky, who danced in Omaha a few years ago.

Our old friend, "Gabe" d'Annunzio, declines to bother about submitting the Fiume question to a referendum. He has decided, so why trouble the villagers?

The American Legion declines to accept the position of the secretary of war on the Broms release, and asks an inquiry. If Baker can get away with this, he can do anything.

Mr. Wilson has revoked sentence of death passed on three American officers who failed in the Argonne fight. Saved from death, they will have a lifetime of explanation ahead.

Nebraska teachers have again chosen Omaha as a meeting place by a very handsome majority, thus once more demonstrating the discriminating taste as well as sound judgment of the corps.

General Pershing still stands for universal military training as a means for strengthening the physical as well as the moral fiber of the nation's youth. This does not imply militarism, but a sensible method of developing the nation's manhood.

A Denver preacher named Lackland proposes a "jazzy" orchestra to warm up his congregation, and he is a Methodist. A preacher of that denomination who must have a negro minstrel exhibition to put life into his hearers ought to be named Lackjob.

### To Remove the Kick

Hearings have been held before the federal prohibition commissioner to devise some means for taking the kick out of hair tonic and bay rum and for rendering innocuous as beverages all flavoring extracts intended for household use. It is insisted by the prohibition enforcement officials that something must be done to render these articles unfit for drinking purposes, if the country is to be placed upon a bone-dry basis.

The suggestion has been put forward that bay rum, hair tonic and other concoctions used in the barber shops should be doctored up with ingredients which would make them unattractive as beverages, but the manufacturers protest that a man would not care to have a lotion rubbed upon his cheeks or into his hair which would make him smell like a drug store back of the prescription counter. They are willing to have a little croton oil or other deleterious substance added if it does not destroy the commercial value of the article.

Manufacturers of flavoring extracts also balk at the idea of being compelled to put up their wares in such small packages that no man with an illegal thirst could get intoxicated on one bottle even if he drank it all. Their complaint is that many of their customers buy in large bulk, and if they were compelled to put up their goods in small packages it would be a serious handicap to them.—Washington Post.

### TO AVERT FUTURE STRIKES.

One feature of the president's instructions to the commission that is to inquire into the bituminous coal industry refers to that phase of the problem which relates to the rights of the public. In this he takes the principle involved in the anthracite coal commission named by President Roosevelt, the outcome of which was so notably beneficial in the way of stabilizing that industry. It is possible to fix a basis for the calculation of profits and of wages, and so arrange that operations will be continuous while disputes between employers and the operators are being adjusted.

The public is interested in seeing that the miners get a just wage, that the operators receive proper return on investment, and that a steady, ample supply of fuel is available at a price that is not unreasonable. In such a problem, with the factors easily ascertainable, the answer depends on the care exercised in the calculations. The Wilson commission is clothed with all the power the Roosevelt body had, and if it makes an inquiry as detailed and comprehensive, reaching a conclusion as definite and dependable, it will have performed a splendid service.

With such a principle established in the mining industry, a way is opened to the effective solution of the railway labor problem. The Adamson law does not touch the spot, while anti-strike provision of the Cummins bill, just passed by the senate, lacks much in the way of providing satisfactory means of settlement. When an understanding is reached as to the elements of costs, and this should not be hard to find, then the proper division between owner and operative may also be determined.

Justice should determine this, not expediency. A bargain ought to rest on something more worthy than the mere physical strength of either party. Might does not make right in the economic any more than it does in the political word. Agreements should be morally and ethically as well as legally sound. The president's soft coal commission, following the trail blazed by the Roosevelt hard coal board of inquiry, may lead to a way by which much if not all the danger of great industrial disturbances may be averted.

### Breaking the Treaty Deadlock.

Answering the challenge from the president, the republican members of the senate committee on foreign relations have recommended the passage of the Knox resolution, which aims to declare peace without formal ratification of the Versailles treaty. It preserves the salient and important provisions of that treaty, excluding the pact for a league of nations. On this action will come later. "Mild" reservationists and administration democrats alike are lined up against the Knox resolution, which requires only a majority vote to carry. As an alternative, Senator Underwood proposes the appointment of a committee of ten to work out a compromise. The resolutions will come up for discussion soon after the holiday recess, and definite action may be taken early in January.

Nothing is shown of the purpose of the Underwood plan, other than it may be taken as indicative of a mood to mollify the president if possible. On the other hand, the Knox resolution fairly expresses the republican attitude on the question, a willingness to declare peace with Germany and Austria on the basis of the treaty, with the exception of the covenant for a League of Nations. As this pact is the sole point in difference now, it is reasonable that the dispute on it be adjourned while the war is brought to an end through the formal declaration of congress. Mr. Wilson's determination to have his own way has been the stumbling block. Whether he is ready for peace with the League of Nations to be decided later may be known after the holidays.

### Berger's "Victory" Hollow.

Only one interpretation may reasonably be put on the result of the Milwaukee election. That is that a majority of the voters of the Fifth Wisconsin congressional district are thoroughly indignant in their condition of "class consciousness." The mistake should not be made of considering the objection to Victor Berger as resting on his profession of socialism. Not at all; he was permitted once to serve a term in congress as a socialist, was allowed to speak and vote as such, and in all ways to exercise the functions of a member of congress. Prior to his expulsion from the present house he was allowed to draw his pay as a member, although under conviction on a charge of sedition. Other socialists have sat in congress as such, so this can not be the reason. Berger was expelled from congress because he was deemed unfit to sit in the house, owing to his treasonable course during the war. He will probably be again expelled for the same reason. If the voters of the Fifth Wisconsin district prefer to go unrepresented in order that they may publicly avow their devotion to their convicted leader, that is their affair. The disgrace of the affair must be shared in some degree by the whole country. It does not partake of the nature of a public calamity, however, any more than does the conviction of a group of I. W. W. agitators or the deportation of a shipload of undesirable disturbers from abroad. Any "victory" Berger may have won is empty save as it feeds his monumental egotism and shames the nation.

### "Harmony" for Nebraska Democrats.

Politics certainly does make strange bedfellows. Here we have the inspiring picture of William Jennings Bryan and Gilbert Monell Hitchcock lying down together like a pair of sucking doves! What hath wrought this change? Politics. "Hitch" wants the Nebraska delegation in the democratic national convention to support his candidacy for president, and the peerless one wants help for his views as opposed to the Wilsonian policies. What stronger cement could be sought?

Four brief years ago the secretary of state was rubbing salt into the various spots on the senator's raw body from which the hide had been removed by an ungrateful administration. At the same time the senator was doing what little lay in his power to make rough and unpleasant the path over which the secretary of state had to travel. Is this all forgotten? Don't you believe it.

Neither of these amiable statesmen ever forgets an injury, however much either may incline to overlook favors received. But the need for "harmony" is such that each is willing to sacrifice something just now in order that he may get what he is looking for next June, laying over until after the convention all those personal grievances, big and little, that have kept them apart. The "singing of ingratitude" may be salvaged but it will rankle, just the same.

### The Short Ballot

From the Chicago Tribune.

The best of all ways to defeat democracy is to make its political opponents complicated for any one but a specialist to operate.

It is the best way because the very thing that makes machinery look democratic may be the thing that makes it difficult to control. We are therefore thrown off the track leading to effective correction.

The chief illustration of this is the blanket ballot. There democracy smothered itself. It has acted on the theory that in order to control our machinery at every point we must elect every official directly, and in order to be entirely free in our choice, we must throw open the contest to every one.

This is supposed to be democratic, but it does not work out in practice as democratic. If we have so many candidates we cannot possibly learn who they are, so many offices to vote on and so many primaries and elections to attend, we simply refuse to attend. Thus instead of keeping control we lose it. It passes over into the control of men who make a business of politics, who work at politics while we work at our personal affairs, who work while we sleep. They and their organized followers do not miss primaries or elections. They know all the names on the blanket ballots, no matter how many, whom the names stand for and what they citizen does not. He can't take all his time to find out. He votes in the dark, except for the principal officers sometimes, or as he may have learned to trust the report of civic societies or of newspapers.

Therefore, when we increase the number of officials we elect, we are not electing, we give ourselves a job we cannot do, we set machinery we cannot control. We do not control; we are controlled. This isn't democracy, or even representative republicanism. It is oligarchy wearing the name of democracy.

The correction for this is to shorten the ballot, elect a few officials and hold them responsible for results. We can know a few candidates. We will go to a few primaries and elections. We therefore can and will control the simplified political machinery. This is real democratic government, not bogus; it is real representation; it is political machinery actually under control of the voters; self-government in practice, not merely in theory.

Demagogues who want to play only upon ignorance and half thinking always favor frequent elections and many candidates. So do political professionals who wish to keep control of the machinery. But the thinking citizen who considers the actual workings of representative government will understand that if he is to control he must simplify.

The short ballot reform, therefore, is perhaps the most important political reform we can establish. The constitutional convention, we hope, will cut elective offices down to a minimum. Merely administrative officers should be appointed by an executive responsible to the people, as in the case of that great model of government, our federal constitution. The only elective officials should be those which legislate or have to do with public policies. The election of judges is an established policy in Illinois.

### Roosevelt and His Teacher

To say that the late—and still much alive—Col. Theodore Roosevelt knew everything about everything would be a large exaggeration, of course, but it was entirely characteristic of him that when Viscount Grey, as an expert on British birds, took him for a long walk in the country to tell him about the birds they encountered, he found something like resentment about the fact that the colonel was about as well informed as himself concerning them, and had little to learn except to identify them by their songs.

What the colonel knew about the British birds, evidently, was what he could get out of books, and it was entirely like him that he expressed something like resentment about the fact that the colonel was about as well informed as himself concerning them, and had little to learn except to identify them by their songs. Colonel Roosevelt did know an approach to everything to be found in books, for not only did he read an enormous number of them—all at enormous speed—but he read all kinds of books, and he remembered their contents with an accuracy that enabled him on almost innumerable occasions to astonish specialists by holding his own with them in their own domains.

His method of acquisition were his own, and they enabled him to find time for doing whatever he wanted to do—chiefly, no doubt, because what he wanted to do he wanted with vehemence.—New York Times.

### The VELVET HAMMER

By Arthur Brooks Baker

CHARLES HENRY PICKENS.

He heads a wholesale grocery whose praise we joy to sing because it is a laudable and creditable thing. He marshals forth our daily grub in grand and artful array, and should he fall down on the job for any single day he'd lose a large and lovely host of true and faithful friends whom sheer starvation would have brought to their untimely ends.

For when a fellow has the proper groceries within, no need to fear that he will grow translucent, pale and thin. Frank, foolish faddists fulminate the fond, fantastic fact that those who eat the less have more to put upon their back; but who would care to show himself upon the happy street in bones which wore a lot of clothes but very little meat?

When Omaha was in its young, abbreviated pants, and few as yet had dreamed its grand and ponderous advance, he helped to save it through those young, impressive years—a hero fireman he, among the firemen volunteers. Who knows if, save for those distinguished services of old, we might be but a cinder heap forgotten, gray and cold.

When steamboats used to trail the river's winding bends, they counted him among their fine and influential friends. He still is known as Commodore because of vital faith in schemes of which there's nothing left but memory and wrath. The gal, Missouri still pursues its modeling in sand, but freight and passengers in haste prefer to use the land.

Next Subject: Luther Drake.

### TODAY

The Day We Celebrate.

Robert W. Patrick, attorney, born 1858. Frank B. Kellogg, United States senator from Minnesota, born at Potsdam, N. Y., 63 years ago.

Bainbridge Colby, former member of the United States shipping board, born at St. Louis, 50 years ago.

Edna Goodrich, a noted actress of the American stage, born at Logansport, Ind., 36 years ago.

Opie Read, well-known Chicago author and journalist, born at Nashville, Tenn., 67 years ago.

Harvey M. McClellan, utility infielder of the Chicago American league baseball team, born at Cynthiana, Ky., 25 years ago.

Thirty Years Ago in Omaha.

Mrs. Kountze returned from New York accompanied by her sons, Mr. Herman, Mr. Augustus and Mr. Charles Kountze, who were to remain in Omaha for the holidays.

Collin J. McKenzie, lord lieutenant of Peebleshire, Scotland, was visiting here. Mr. McKenzie was one of the original investors in South Omaha four or five years before.

Articles of incorporation of the Union Abstract and Trust company were filed with a capital stock of \$100,000.

Richard Smith and John H. Hart were elected as delegates to the national meeting of the Builders and Traders in St. Paul.

### The Bee's Letter Box

President's Plan for Settling Strikes.

Oxford, Neb., Dec. 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: In December 11 Bee, Mr. Ex-Coal Miner writes me: "I am going down in a dirty hole in the morning to come out O. K. in the evening or maybe to be taken home by the stretcher. Try to get a man who goes up in an airship, out to drive a trucking outfit on the farm, or handle a rail train, may be a crushed corpse before night. There is no secure place in this world and the death rate in many occupations is greater than in the usual old mining is a useful and honorable occupation and those choosing that occupation should receive all the protection of law and the rights of citizenship that any other class receives."

If we admit that the miners were right when they entered into a conspiracy to cut the supply of coal at the beginning of winter, we must acknowledge the end of constitutionality and the end of government to define law and adjudicate differences between citizens. There is no law against laborers quitting their job, singly or collectively, and there is plenty of law to prevent conspiracies to cut off the necessities of life from the public, whether the conspirators be miners, miners' employers or farmers. Had farmers withheld their products from the markets starvation would have been the miners' doom and their sick wives have been against the cost of burial rather than the cost of living.

Probably the most disappointing happening of the world-disappointing administration of President Wilson is its complete back-down and sullen surrender to the coal strike. No wonder that the miners' hands in despair and disgust refuse to be longer the flag scapegoat. When the miners deserted the government and hastened to applaud their hands in despair and disgust refuse to be longer the flag scapegoat. When the miners deserted the government and hastened to applaud their hands in despair and disgust refuse to be longer the flag scapegoat.

The crows are with us winter and summer, it is only when they are starving that they seek fields and pastures new, and then they do not go far. They like to live in big colonies, but after one has been named he is never allowed by the others to return to them. As an outcast and stranger he is beaten off if he approaches and must spend the rest of his life in unhappy loneliness. Remember this and do not name Jim Crow unless you can keep him.

Envelopes first came into use in 1820. Australia has nearly 300,000 acres of uncultivated forests. One-sixth of the world's supply of gutta serena is obtained in India. Sealskin is naturally of a light drab color, but it is dyed for the market. A small, crawling without a pause, would occupy 14 days 5 hours to travel a mile.

The world's record of sugar plantations contain 13,000 acres, has 30 miles of railway and employs 1,500 people.

Eminent scientists believe that not a single microbe exists in mountain air above the height of 2,000 feet. The leaf of the Ceylon talipot palm, which grows to 100 feet in height, is so wide that it will cover 2 men.

It is unlawful in Turkey to seize a man's residence for debt, and sufficient land to support him is also exempt from seizure.

The "drum language" of a tribe in the Congo. These people can by this means converse with each other at considerable distances.

It is an interesting fact that sugar exists not only in the cane, beet root and maple, but also in the sap of about 150 other plants and trees.

There is in Delhi a wrought iron column which was placed there nearly 1,800 years ago, and at the present time shows practically no signs of deterioration.

The staple crop of China is said to be sweet potatoes. There is no section which does not raise them, and they are a substantial part of the diet of a greater part of the Chinese people.

Natural dyes made mostly from vegetables, plants and wood, were practically the only dyes known for centuries. Their gradual disuse in the last 100 years has been due to the discovery that dyes could be made from coal tar.

A Portuguese, Alberto Castello Branco, is said to have planted the first tree in Rio de Janeiro in 1760, and from this small beginning has been developed the industry which has made Brazil the greatest coffee producer of the world.

A Parisian paper announces that all subscribers will be allowed to purchase ten pounds of sugar at cost price, and since sugar is one of the scarcest commodities in Paris at the present time, it is likely that the circulation of the paper is in for a considerable boom.

### Little Folks' Corner

#### Nature Study

##### Outdoor Life

BY ADELIA BELLE BEARD.

Jim Crow is not black all the way through, though most farmers and some writers seem to think he is. He has red blood in his veins and a warm heart, capable of affection, in his breast. You will find this out for yourself if you tame him when he is young and make a companion of him.

As a pet he is always doing unexpected things and is so funny about it you forgive his mischief. Of all American birds he is the most intelligent and not only understands much that you say, but tries hard to answer, making noises in his throat that sound amazingly like words.

There was a pet crow in my family who always grew very confidential when I dug worms for him. Closely following my trowel as it turned up the earth, he would talk softly and sometimes chuckle genially as if at a joke he was getting off.

Jim Crow is funny in his wild state too, but he has his serious moments and, if you watch him closely, you will see that he uses his reason and memory. He is very clever and outwits the farm boy whose duty it is to drive him out of the cornfield. To be sure he takes his toll of corn but he pays for it. Without his vigilant beak, the corn would often be entirely destroyed by its more serious enemies, the cutworm, grasshopper and May beetle.

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#### Study Problems Solved

Starting That Theme.

If you were starting out to explore an island, would you just wander about till you thought you had seen it all? No. You would first sit down and plan your journey. You would go about it with some sort of system.

When you subject a theme, you are exploring a subject with your mind. It has boundaries, high points that stand out, and low places that you ought to know about just like your island. Be sure then to plan your journey. If you don't, you are liable to get lost and certainly you will not know when you have finished your journey.

The first thing to decide is the point of view from which to write. This will be determined largely by the people for whom you are writing. You are writing a theme on base ball. Are you writing for people who never saw a base ball and know nothing about the game? Or are you writing for people who see no fun in the game? Then you must show your readers the fun and excitement of hitting a liner over the center fielder's head, of catching a runner napping off second base, or of making a home run.

Next arrange the points you intend to make in the form of an outline. If you do not do this, you may drag the poor reader on an aimless journey which ends nowhere and convinces him of nothing except that you don't know how to write.

You are now ready to start writing. Use your outline to suggest the road. Remember you are exploring the road for your readers to follow. Make it so plain they can't miss it. Write your own ideas, simply and clearly with your reader always in mind, and you'll be surprised to find that getting out that theme is so much easier than you thought.

IN THE BEST OF HUMOR.

"I hear you are moving away." "Glad to green fields and pastures new, eh?" "You might put it that way. As a matter of fact I'm going to occupy a flat in a literary apartment-house in another town."—Birmingham Post.

"This pianist is charging me enough for a little music. I wonder how he figures it." "Dunno. He's making a fearful racket." "I'll say he is. Probably he charges by the pound."—Judge.

Minister—Do you believe in a hereafter? "I'll say it will be an injustice if there isn't one. I haven't been able to find the top secret of my company since the regiment was demobilized."—Judge.

Teat—People will have no use for corkcorks now that a ban has been placed on liquor. Critic—Why not? There's lots of good old patent medicines with kinks 'em on the market, ain't there?—Yonkers Statesman.

Victim—Sir, your dog bit me. "Owner—You must pardon him, sir; this dog was formerly a soldier dog and has been trained to attack every suspicious-looking character."—Houston Post.

Daughter—A certain young man sent me these flowers this morning. "Paper—Don't say 'a certain young man,' my dear. There's only one 'certain' man you've got 'em.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

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### DOT PUZZLE

The hunter shot but missed, you see. Draw from one to two and so on to the end.

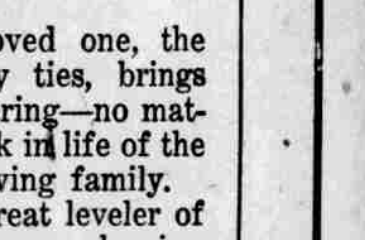
**THE BANK**  
PERSONAL ATTENTION

### Fortunes

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