THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

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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. Pitiless 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.

Old King Coal is on the witness stand now.

New Yorkers see the light quickly. They have reorganized the Bryan club.

Home rule for Omaha ought to mean home rule and not a half-way measure.

Relief from the sugar shortage is promised, but it seems a long time coming here.

Over 30,000 children trooped off to school in Omaha yesterday. There's an army for you.

At any rate, the Nebraska Bar association did not find its docket lacking one interesting case.

Nine million dollars in building permits for 1919 is just a hint as to what 1920 will roll up. Watch Omaha grow!

A Jugo-Slav army is reported to be on the way to Dalmatia, so our old friend Gabe D'Annunzio may yet get the argument he has been looking for.

The National Municipal League has adopted the Nebraska constitution as a model on which to form an ideal constitution. The convention at Lincoln will please note.

The king pin of the wood alcohol poisoners is said to be in custody. The whole trouble is that our laws do not comprehend any adequate punishment for such miscreants.

What to do with drug addicts is now puzzling the authorities. It might have helped a little if that had been considered before the crusade for arresting them was started.

Night schools in Omaha are to resume their mission of spreading true Americanism in the form of useful learning. This is one opportunity the foreign-born should not neglect.

Vienna reports that the Austrian art treasures are to be pledged for relief expenses. In other words, the loot of former wars will be pawned to meet bills resulting from the last.

European members are debating when and where the first meeting of the League of Nations is to be held, and wondering if America will be there with a vote or only as a spectator. The latter seems most likely.

Little trouble in securing funds to build the air mail hangar is reported, but a lot of folks wonder why such a building should be erected from private means, particularly when the postmaster general reports the air mail service to be self-sustaining.

Stock growers are not content with the attorney general's "victory" over the packers, but ask the president for permission to kick the meat trust, now that it is down. However, public opinion long ago ceased to look on the cattle barons as philanthropists.

The Battle of the Eggs

The war between the women and egg dealers of Lincoln, Neb., has more than local interest.

Disappointed at the failure of public investigations of the high cost of living to bring relief, the Woman's club took matters into its own hands and proceeded first to boycott eggs. Within two weeks it had brought prices down from 85 to 55 cents a dozen, and apparently the victory was won. But immediately following the lifting of the boycott prices jumped to 90 cents. Now comes the superior merit of the Lincoln plan of campaigning. The embattled club women have returned to the fray. The ban on egg-buying will go into effect again, and apparently they will continue to fight it out on this line if it takes all winter.

Their resolve to keep at it is an example to cost-of-living crusaders everywhere who retire from the field after the first skirmish and allow their enthusiasm for reform to spend itself in talk without action. The Nebraska women plan a state-wide campaign against all forms of food-profiteering. It will be a triumph worth while if they succeed in permanently reducing the price of one article of food. That is the grand stroke, and having achieved it in one thing they may proceed to further victories.

Best of all is their disposition to do for themselves what Americans are nowadays too prone to leave to legislation and government regulation to do. The remedy for the high cost of living is still in the hands of the people themselves and cannot be delegated to legislatures. Unfortunately the remedy involves self-denial, and self-denial is a troublesome thing to a public accustomed to rely on law for all kinds of relief.—New York World

TOLD IN A LINE.

Brevity continues the soul of wit. In these days of touch and go, the man who can give his message in the fewest words is the one who gets a hearing. That is the meat of this editorial. The Bureau of Publicity of the Chamber of Commerce addressed a questionnaire to several hundred newcomers, asking their reasons for selecting Omaha as a home. Here are some of the answers:

"Omaha is a prosperous city."
"A city with an apparent future."
"I saw a great future for Omaha."
"Because of its rapid increase in business."
"Because of the prosperity of Omaha and location as railroad center."
"Because of its large per capita bank clearings."
"Because it is a wonderful railroad center with growing business."
"Omaha is situated in center of one of best farming sections in the United States."
"It has a bright looking future."
"Because of good crop conditions and the territory tapped by the railroads out of Omaha."
"Omaha is a distributing point for a vast amount of good territory with unlimited possibilities."
"I believe it to be the fastest growing business city in the United States."
"The logical distributing point for an immense and productive territory."
"I surveyed several western cities and found Omaha the most prosperous and with the best chances to continue prosperous; also liked its attitude toward the young business man."
"Omaha is one of the best medical centers in the United States."
"Because it is the logical distributing point for the central west."
"My study of the territory convinced me that Omaha will be a city of 500,000 by 1930."
"I consider Omaha a city of wonderful possibilities."
"Omaha is the biggest city of its size in the middle west."
"Omaha is making rapid commercial strides."

Volumes might be written, but more could not be told. The Bee suggests that these reasons be given circulation. They do not cover the entire field, but each carries conviction, and combined they are eloquent of the opportunities and advantages offered here.

Solving the Strike Question.

The president's industrial commission is giving serious attention to the difficult job set for it. In looking ahead to the settlement of disputes before they come to the crisis that involves an interruption of work, the body tentatively suggests means often put forward by others who have studied the question. It is for a board of review, to which such matters may be taken for examination and adjustment.

That such an agency can successfully function was fairly well established by the experience of the War Labor board, which settled a great many labor troubles during the emergency. In this, however, the decisions were almost universally in favor of the employes, and were easily accepted by the employers, who were permitted to pass along to the consumer any increase in the pay roll. Under peace conditions this result might not be so happily retained. A somewhat narrower view of the whole situation is likely to obtain. This, however, does not argue against the soundness of the proposal.

In working out the details of the plan, and this danger is made clear in the announcement from the board, the tendency is to make the machinery too intricate and cumbersome. If such a scheme is adopted, it would be well to start it in the simplest possible form, that it may function with the utmost freedom and speed, extending it as experience warrants, but preserving it carefully from such complications as hampered the operation of the Canadian law There the possibility of retaining a dispute indefinitely in the hands of the board, prolonging interminably the process of adjustment, wore out the patience of the men and destroyed their confidence in the government's plan. It is possible to avoid this, and other inconveniences, and the plan is worthy a trial because it is reasonable.

Jam at Ellis Island.

Between outgoing anarchists and other undesirables and incoming immigrants, the government's quarters at Ellis Island are overtaxed. The rush for admittance to this country has behind it a desire to get in before the bars are put up. The outgoing tide is the result of Uncle Sam's losing patience with a few of his uninvited guests, who preferred to make trouble rather than help do the work of the land. The honest, industrious alien still is welcome here, regardless of his nationality. He will find work and good wages, and opportunity to better his condition in every way. He will, however, be required to conform to our laws and customs, to restrain himself just as American citizens are required to. When he makes up his mind that the government should be overthrown, and decides to set about the job, he will discover that the only way to do this is at the polls, where qualified voters can bring about revolutions as often as they feel like it. It might not be a bad idea to allow the incoming stream to pass near enough to that outward bound to get some first-hand information as to the things the government will not tolerate. Heaven knows, the administration has been patient with them, but some have gone too far, and are now going away to stay.

Items in the Family Budget.

The National Industrial Conference board sends out a statement that the cost of living has increased 82.2 per cent between July, 1914, and November, 1919. In apportioning the increase to the family budget the board finds that food has gone up 92 per cent; shelter, 38 per cent; clothing, 135 per cent; fuel, heat and light, 48 per cent; and sundries, 75 per cent. Here is an opportunity for the individual to analyze his costs and determine for himself where he best can effect a saving. The president of the American woollen mills tells the country that if the people will be content to wear the coarser grades of cloth, it will be easy to materially reduce the expense of clothing. So long as everybody has in mind only the finest grades, according to Mr. Wood, the price must remain high. In a similar way other manufacturers advise the consumer. The problem, therefore, for the moment at least resolves itself into an individual one. Eliminate extravagance, eschew expensive things, and perhaps the top will fall off the pyramid of prices. It will be time well spent at the beginning of the new year to check over the expenditures of the one just passed, and rearrange the family budget on a basis that will achieve greater economy.

Marse Henry on the Outlook

From the Jacksonville (Fla.) Metropolis.

The democratic party is dead, the republican party has breathed its last. Col. Henry W. Watterson, leading journalist of his age, and known and loved on two continents as "Marse Henry," is authority for the statement.

Answering a question in the lobby of the Hotel Seminole this morning, regarding the growing strength of the republican party in the south, Colonel Watterson considered a minute and declared, "Politics is in a fluid state. Strictly speaking, there is neither a republican party nor a democratic party. There are nothing but two worn-out labels, which mean nothing but offices for the rascally politicians. The south, rich again and prosperous, sticks to the democratic label through force of circumstances and habit.

"The negro has been hitherto a kind of cohesive plaster. But with the elimination of the negro question the solid south must be considered a thing of the past." Colonel Watterson stopped and his eyes looked into a past when the democratic party and south had been synonymous, and when he helped general the democratic forces to victory.

Then in answer to the question, "What about the democratic party?" he spoke tersely. "There is no democratic party. The president has abolished the democratic party. There is in its place a Wilson party—Mr. Wilson will not be able personally to lead this because of his ill health. But his son-in-law, McAdoo, in line succeeding, will probably lead this to overwhelming defeat next year. Nothing seems surer than that the republicans will sweep the country in 1920."

With the searching vision that has made him the greatest journalist of his day Colonel Watterson was following the declining power of the democratic party to its final defeat, when he was recalled with the question, "What do you think of the president's attitude in the league of nations?" His eyes flashed. "The league of nations is a fad—a phantom, a figment of the president's idealism. It will never be ratified.

"This country is never going to hitch itself onto a world of unknown complications, nor underwrite the combustions of Europe. We shall be strongest and best as an independent power, exercising a friendly and benign interest over the affairs of human kind."

"Don't you believe the republicans are gaining strength in the south?" he was asked. "The republicans probably will carry several of what are called the southern states," he predicted.

"You see, then, the creation of a new party?" he was questioned.

"There is always a new party for the fellows that are down and out," he answered. "All the same, two parties, the one calling itself republican and the other calling itself democratic, will dominate in the elections. New questions already coming into view will divide these parties more decisively."

"Do you believe the league of nations is responsible for the growing republican strength in the south?" was the final question.

"The republicans have gained strength in the south from general conditions and not from any special cause," he gave as his opinion.

"But I came down here to enjoy the Florida sunshine, not to talk politics, he smiled. "Don't you know I am retired and don't know anything about politics now?" he questioned quizzically and started for the door, a waiting automobile and a drive. The reporter was unconvinced.

"Wait a minute, how about the democratic presidential possibilities for 1920?" the question stopped him. He came back and continued, "get this down right now, it's important."

The reporter visioned a big story, and his answer breathlessly.

"Presidential possibilities are always in the air," Colonel Watterson chuckled and was gone.

A visitor to Florida for 40 years, Colonel Watterson is in Jacksonville for an indefinite stay on his way to Cuba to remain until spring. He is accompanied by his daughter.

Lesson of the Coal Strike

If the period of unreason that has paralyzed the coal industry is indeed about to come to an end the American public may well rejoice. At the same time it cannot afford to overlook the fact that a mere patched-up agreement with the bituminous coal miners will not eliminate the long-existing peril which has been made clear to all in the anxious weeks that have brought large sections of the country to the verge of disaster. There must be put into effect permanent methods of dealing justly with the grievances of the mine workers and there must be devised a rational policy of mining and distributing coal throughout the year instead of in seasonal bursts of feverish activity.

It has been successfully demonstrated that the supplying of coal to the nation is too vital an industry to be left at the mercy of the passion or the whim of a few men who recognize no duty to the American people. Politicians, coal mine operators and trade union leaders, no less than the great public, should be ready to concede that there must be provided just and orderly processes of settling disputes over wages and working conditions in the coal-mining industry. The peril of the present teaches a lesson that no people capable of self-government should fail to apply effectively to meet demonstrated needs.—Chicago News.

Our Friend, the Snake

There seems to be born into the average human being an aversion for the snake. Despite this fact there is a movement on foot, almost world wide in its scope, to stop the destruction of harmless snakes, because they feed on insects and their larvae, moles, house and field mice, and other plant and vegetable enemies.

In this country, California was the first to start in the movement. On the Pacific coast the most destructive agent of the crops, is the gopher, or ground squirrel. As soon as it was learned that the gopher snake lived solely on the gopher, a state-wide campaign was started to protect the snake. Then two or three of the eastern states were aroused to the fact that their agricultural interests were aided through the protection of native snakes.

The mole, which is such a menace to the lawn, garden and crops, can only be annihilated by the snake.

The rats, carriers of contagious diseases, terror of the poultry raiser and wholesale destroyer of all sorts of grain, are a delicacy to the snake.

The poisonous varieties of snake can be detected often before being seen by the peculiar, nauseating cucumber-like odor. As a rule no snake will bite a human being unless first attacked. Comparatively few varieties of northern snakes are poisonous.—The Thrift Magazine.

TODAY

The Day We Celebrate.

Henry E. Maxwell, attorney-at-law, born 1866.

P. A. Wells, attorney-at-law, born 1867.

Rudyard Kipling, "the soldiers' poet," born at Bombay, India (of English parentage), 54 years ago.

Prof. Stephen Leacock of McGill university, widely known as a writer, born in England 50 years ago.

Simon Guggenheim, prominent capitalist and one-time senator from Colorado, born in Philadelphia 52 years ago.

Maj. Gen. Charles G. Treat, prominent officer of the United States army, born in Maine 60 years ago.

Thirty Years Ago in Omaha.

The Apollo club gave its eighth concert at Boyd's Opera house.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Gavin.

Mrs. Dundy gave a beautiful reception for Miss Dundy.

A meeting was held at the Newman Methodist Episcopal church on St. Mary's avenue by Mrs. Woodward to organize a Woman's Christian Temperance union.

The Bee's Letter Box

School Government for Nebraska.

Mullen, Neb., Dec. 26.—To the Editor of The Bee: May I discuss for a moment the proposed "revision of the state plan of education" as presented by the committee of the State Teachers' association.

The adoption of this amendment to the constitution would bring about a very radical change in our whole educational system, especially as regards the common schools and normals.

Why should we of Nebraska make this change, taking duties and responsibilities away from the people, at this of all times when the world is struggling to bring governments closer to the people. I will quote the beginning of section 2. "The State Department of Education shall be controlled by a state board of education composed of seven citizens appointed by the governor——"

Why appoint this important board? Two farmers' organizations have already passed resolutions recommending a board of education to be elected by the people, one from each congressional district and one at large. Is it not strange that the people who sacrificed so much in the struggle to make men free should face a proposition to deprive them of a vital part of that freedom, the right to keep close to the power in whose hands they commit the greatest of all institutions, our system of public schools. Notice further section 3. "The state board of education shall appoint a state commissioner of education and fix his compensation and term of office, and enforce the laws of the state relating to education." This paragraph eliminates the office of state superintendent.

But it remains to find in section 6, the proposition which if adopted would transform our counties into little "Irelands" of dissension, and I say that with no disrespect to Ireland, but in compassion for the fix into which she has been drawn. I refer to these words:

"The state legislature shall provide for the general election of a board of education for each city district, a county board of education for each county district, and shall classify school corporations and grant powers to them. Each county district board of education shall have general supervision and control of the public school system of the county except in city school districts, as shall be defined by law. City and county boards of education shall have separate authority in the administration of the schools in the districts under their control."

Under the above provisions we would neither elect the state superintendent nor the county superintendents. One board would be given the control of all the schools in the county except the city schools. In short, here is the "county unit" plan of school management, beautifully "sandwiched" in this amendment. I just want to call your attention to this fact. It is well, some times, to know what we are swallowing—for we may need an antidote. However, it may be wise in this instance to take the "antidote" first.

W. H. CAMPBELL.

MUCH IN LITTLE.

German experimenters are trying out electrical machinery for cutting peat.

Alcohol is being made from calcium carbide at a rate of about 12,000,000 gallons a year at a Swiss plant.

Numerous advantages are claimed for a recently patented watch that has a clamp to fasten it to a telephone.

Apparatus that massages women's throats with sprays of water to improve their contour has been invented.

The sale of intoxicating drinks was prohibited in England as early as the reign of the Saxon King Edgar, who closed hundreds of ale houses.

The earliest exports of cotton seed from America were made in 1785, in which year one bag was sent from Charleston to Liverpool, while 12 were sent fom Philadelphia and one from New York.

It is a great saving of coal to store it in a dry place, well protected on all sides from the weather. Coal left out of doors, exposed to the weather for, say, a month, loses about one-third of its heating quality.

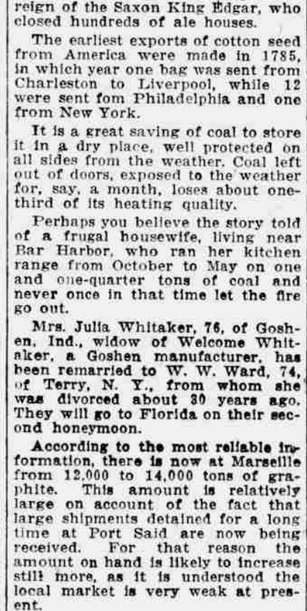
Perhaps you believe the story told of a frugal housewife, living near Bar Harbor, who ran her kitchen range from October to May on one and one-quarter tons of coal and never once in that time let the fire go out.

Mrs. Julia Whitaker, 76, of Goshen, Ind., widow of Welcome Whitaker, a Goshen manufacturer, has been remarried to W. W. Ward, 74, of Terry, N. Y., from whom she was divorced about 30 years ago. They will go to Florida on their second honeymoon.

According to the most reliable information, there is now at Marseille from 12,000 to 14,000 tons of graphite. This amount is relatively large on account of the fact that large shipments detained for a long time at Port Said are now being received. For that reason the amount on hand is likely to increase still more, as it is understood the local market is very weak at present.

A census taken on May 4, 1918, showed that there were 1,418,070 white inhabitants in the Union of South Africa on that date, as compared with 1,276,242 in 1911. This is an increase of 141,828, or 11.1 per cent; and of this increase 42,198 were males and 99,630 females. The density of the white population was thus 2.9 per square mile. It is estimated that the density of the colored population was 11.5 per square mile.

DAILY CARTOONETTE.



Little Folks' Corner

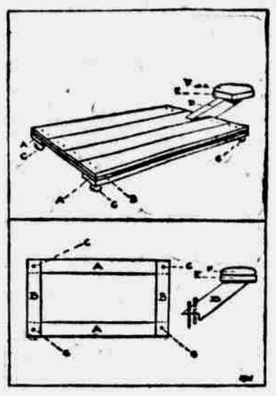
For Boys to Make Handicraft

A Creeper for Garage.

By GRANT M. HYDE.

If father likes to take care of his own car, as many car-owners do, he has probably often wished that he knew of some scheme to make easier the work of getting under to reach out-of-the-way grease-cups on the chassis. Why not build him a "creeper," like those the mechanics use in the repair shops—or rather a wooden imitation of the spring affairs they use?

The creeper should be made strongly and of good sound wood—clear-grained pine, yellow pine, cypress, or anything else that is handy—for father is heavy. The stock for the frame-work should be



⅞-in. wood, 4 or 5 in. wide (B and B are 18 in. long; A and A are 36 in. long.) Fasten the joints with screws. The platform on top should be made of some lighter boards, about ½-in. thick, taken from grocery boxes—strong but flexible enough to bend a little.

For wheels, get four strong furniture castors—preferably with metal wheels—at the hardware store. Select castors that have locking devices which drive into the holes first and keep the castors from falling out. Bore holes for the castors in the frame-work at C, C, C, and C before you nail down the top boards.

A head-rest will be a much-appreciated addition to the creeper for father will tell you that his neck gets tired when he is working under the car. The standard (D) for the head-rest should be cut out of a 2x4, and should be about a foot long, slanted so as to hold the rest about 4 in. above the creeper. The crosspiece should be a 1-in. board, 5x8 in., covered with cotton-stuffed cloth. As it is often handy to take off the head-rest for certain kinds of jobs, fasten it to the creeper with two long stove bolts.

(Next week: "Cheese Box Work Stand.")

Privilege of War.

Members of the Surrey Volunteers on being disbanded were told that they could keep their overcoats on payment of one pound. It is hoped that they may also be allowed a share in the next war on payment of their entrance fee.—London Punch.

Spirit of the Home.

And after you build beyond a certain point you are building away from the home idea entirely. Simplicity, warmth, sympathy, love make the home, and pile on luxury and formality too much and you'll kill it.—Houston Post.

Never Find It.

Tolerance is one of the keystones of our creed, and we intend to spend the rest of our life trying to think of some kind word that we can conscientiously say about Mr. Burleson

Way to Success.

Too much idleness is a dangerous thing; drink deep of the Industrial spring. Collective bargaining will never develop an Edison or a Schwab.—Houston Post.

IN THE BEST OF HUMOR.

Doctor—How can I do anything for you if you still persist in smoking?
"That's what I'm paying you to find out."—Life.

She—Now be good.
He—I'll be good for a kiss.
She—You can't come to see me unless you are good for nothing.—Michigan Gargoyle.

Waiter (in lower Main street restaurant)—The steak is all to the good today, mister.
Customer—Fetch me a small tenderloin, not very rare.
Waiter (bawling to cook)—One roadhouse!—Buffalo Express.

"I fear your parents don't care for me. Your father said he would mop up the floor with me."
"And what did mother say?"
"Said she was glad to see him for once evince a willingness to assist in the housecleaning."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"How do you like that cigar I gave you, old man? For 200 bands off that brand they give you a gramophone."
"You don't say! If I smoked 200 of those cigars I wouldn't want a gramophone; I'd want a harp."—Tit-Bits.

"I bet I know what makes sister wear her hair bunched down over her ears," said the small boy.
"Do you?" replied the affable young man.
"Yes. But I ain't goin' to tell. Only if my ears were as big as sister's I'd do something like that myself.—Washington Star.

"When you were a boy did you enjoy reading about pirates?"
"Yes," replied Mr. Grimpson, "but it's different now."
"How so?"
"When I read about pirates in the newspapers these days I get so mad I want to go out and shed the life blood of every profiteer I can lay my hands on."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

"Your intellectual friend enjoyed the movies?"
"She seemed to, and I must give her credit for one thing."
"What is that?"
"Although she knows considerably more about Latin and Greek than she does about making a pie, she refrained from calling attention to the grammatical mistakes in the sub-titles."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

For Girls to Make Homecraft

New Year's Party Costume.

By CAROLYN SHERWIN BAILEY.

Don't worry because it is the night before the New Year's party, and your dress isn't ready. You can make a lovely costume using home materials, cheesecloth, cotton batting sitiched with black yarn to look like ermine, old silkoline curtains for flowered silk, castoff burlap or denim for huntsman's things and gilt and silver paper for crowns and jewels.

The Snow Queen.

Wear a white dress and over it a long white cloak made of an old sheet edged with the cotton batting ermine. Sprinkle the fur with frost powder. Tufts of cotton, also frosted, should be caught to the cloak. A string of white or glass beads and a stiff white paper crown covered with cotton wool with small silver paper stars pasted on at intervals completes the snow queen's dress.

Mistress Time.

Study a picture of the ancient Greeks that shows the long tunic-like dress of the girls with its border in the form of a fret. Make yourself a tunic of heavy cheesecloth and paste on a border cut from gilt paper. Do your hair in a Grecian twist and wear a band of yellow ribbon that comes down over your forehead. Carry an hour glass or a small sickle.

The Spirit of the Woods.

A skirt of dark burlap or denim, a white blouse and a girdle of moss green velvet make the foundation for the costume. Trim the border

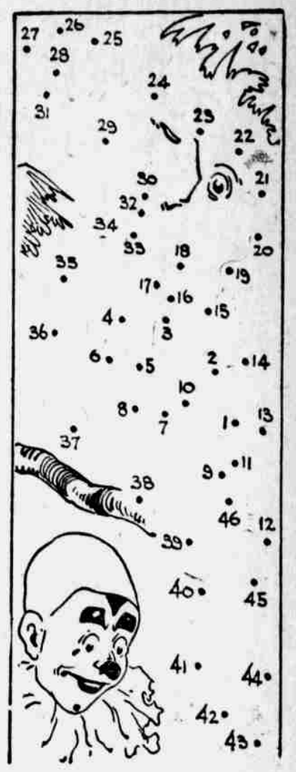
of the skirt with artificial holly and wear a wreath of it. Carry a bunch of evergreens or wear a spray of pine.

The Spirit of the Hearth.

This is for the dark-haired girl who can wear flame-color. Cover an old red dress with crimson tulle or the red tarleton on sale at holiday time. The covering should be full enough so that it will move like the fire it represents, and a painted border of yellow will give it the appearance of flames. A long string of black wooden beads typifies the coals of the hearth. Use the big wooden kindergarten beads, staining them black. And do make yourself a cricket to perch on your shoulder. His body is cotton batting, covered with black crepe paper, and his legs are hat wire, wound with black silk and bent into shape.

(Next week: "The New Painted Furniture.")

DOT PUZZLE.



How man can play at this game? Why —— ——.

Draw from one to two, and so on to the end.

No Orders Go With Him.

Italy has retired 22,000 army officers by official decree, but even if d'Annunzio is included he probably won't pay any attention to it.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Wouldn't Take Long.

We have been wondering for a week or two how long it would have taken a bunch of paragraphers to decide to accept an advance of 14 per cent.—Marion Star.

Trip to Woodshed Necessary.

Past experience has not provided much encouragement for hopes that Carranza can be reached by methods of kind persuasion.—Washington Star.

What Is It?

Exchange goes lower every hour, but inasmuch as nobody knows anything about exchange and never feels the difference, what of it?—Washington Post.