

## THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

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## You should know that

Nebraska is second state in the  
union in point of number of auto-  
mobiles in use in ratio to popula-  
tion.

Lent starts today. Are you ready?

"Father and Son" week is going nicely. Both  
dad and the boy enjoy it.Another unmistakable sign of spring is the  
call for amateur ball players.D'Annunzio says Italy can not annex Fiume  
now. He refuses to abandon his claim.Governor Edwards' name goes on the ballot  
in Michigan. Those fellows know a good thing.Mr. Baker's resignation now will not make  
much difference as it might have done two  
years ago.Douglas county employees are getting wages  
increased after a fashion. It was slow in com-  
ing to some.It ought to be good when the State of Ne-  
braska and the United States of America clash  
on the dry law.They may call General Pershing the "Duke  
of Victory" in New Orleans, but he will be  
"Black Jack" forever up this way.Home rule has been within reach of Omaha  
for a long time, but never a reasonable effort  
to take it. Why not do as Lincoln did?The expedition which brought Columbus to  
America for the first time is now reported to  
have cost \$7,000. It was money well spent, too.The bootleggers' bund is up against a double-  
header now, with Uncle Sam on one side and  
the state on the other, and all cylinders hitting.New Jersey's public utility commissioner  
says the consumer must pay the increase in  
coal miners' wages. Wonder if he thinks that  
is an original discovery?The British House of Commons has rejected  
a capital tax move, as the government has no  
intention of repudiating its debt or encouraging  
extravagance. The "Plumb plan" for a similar  
tax in the United States would surely meet a  
similar fate were it ever brought forward in  
congress.The reported merger of the Burlington,  
Great Northern and Northern Pacific into one  
system may simplify the Hill management's  
problem, but as a matter of curiosity we would  
like to know how it will get around the North-  
western Securities and the Union Pacific-Central Pa-  
cific decisions?The constitutional convention has made  
what looks like a blunder in opening a way for  
the sale of public school lands. If anything  
should be kept inviolate, it is the endowment of  
the common schools of the state. These lands  
are growing more valuable with each passing  
day, and with careful management should bring  
a steadily increasing revenue. We may well  
doubt if the people will consent to the aliena-  
tion of this heritage of the schools.

## Parable of a Prodigal Father

A certain man had two sons, and the younger of them said to his father: "Father, give me the portion of thy time, and thy attention, and thy companionship, and thy counsel which fall to me." And he divided unto them his living in that he paid the boy's bills, and sent him to select preparatory school, and to dancing school, and to college, and tried to believe that he was doing his full duty by the boys.

And not many days after the father gathered all his interests and aspirations and ambitions and took his journey into a far country, into a land of stocks and bonds and securities and other things which do not interest a boy; and there he wasted his precious opportunity of being a chum to his own son. And when he had spent the very best of his life and had gained money, but had failed to find satisfaction, there arose a mighty famine in his heart; and he began to be in want of sympathy and real companionship. And he went and joined himself to one of the clubs of the country; and they elected him chairman of the house committee and president of the club and sent him to congress. And he would have satisfied himself with the hush that other men did eat, and no man gave unto him any real friendship.

But when he came to himself, he said: "How many men of my acquaintance have boys who talk about their boys and associate with their boys and seem perfectly happy, the comradeship of their sons, and I perish here with heart hunger; I will arise and go to my son, and will say unto him, Son, I have sinned against Heaven and in thy sight; I am no more worthy to be called thy father; make me as one of thy acquaintances." And he arose and came to his son. But while he was yet afar off, his son saw him and was moved with astonishment, and instead of running and falling on his neck, he drew back and was ill at ease. And the father said unto him: "Son, I have sinned against Heaven and in thy sight; I am no more worthy to be called thy father. Forgive me now and let me be your friend." But the son said: "Not so, I wish it were possible, but it is too late. There was a time when I wanted companionship and counsel and to know things, but you were too busy. I got companionship and I got information, but I got the wrong kind, and now, alas, I am wrecked in soul and body, there is no more heart left in me, and there is nothing you can do for me. It is too late, too late, too late!"

## IN THE WAY OF A BARGAIN.

Introduction of an ordinance looking to abandonment of proceedings in the way of acquiring the city gas plant for the people brings squarely a point that may have been lost sight of. Messrs. Ure, Zimman, Towl and Ringer rest their action on the belief that the price fixed by the condemnation board is too high. Mr. Ure is quoted as saying that it is excessive by the amount that it surpasses the estimate of the experts employed by the city to survey the plant. It is implied that were the company to signify its acceptance of the city's figures, \$3,750,000, the proceedings might go on.

Against this Mayor Smith interposes the fact that the condemnation board reached its conclusion after full hearing and consideration. It set a price of \$4,500,000 as a fair valuation of the plant. This is above the city's and below the company's estimate. If proceedings are abandoned by the city at this point, the alternative is a suit to compel specific performance of the contract contained in the determination of the voters to acquire the plant, or that the company shall accept the city's offer. It may well be questioned if either of these exactly squares with the ethical obligation under which the city rests.

Admitting the motive that actuates the majority of the commissioners, that they are looking to what is better for the city, we may also question the form which their method of bargaining is assuming. When the citizens voted to "acquire and appropriate by exercise of the power of eminent domain the gas plant of the Omaha Gas company," no price was fixed, nor was it then or since expected that the value would be determined exclusively by the city, or that the transaction would be concluded on a take it or leave it basis.

If proceedings are broken off now, what will follow may or may not turn out well for the public. It is very sure that no reduction in gas rate will ensue, and it is not at all certain that a new move to set a price will bring any more favorable estimate. It would seem a wise and popular move to close the deal and acquire the plant without litigation if a course to such an end is open.

## Ships at Junk Prices.

Bids offered at the auction sale of the German ships seized by the American government indicate that the newly formed shipping concerns are alive to the bargain instinct. For example, when the Leviathan was built its cost was stated at \$12,000,000, and estimates on its reproduction at present prices range between \$25,000,000 and \$30,000,000, yet this tremendous vessel was grouped with six others, including the George Washington and President Grant, and \$14,000,000 was offered for the lot. Other bids are in line with this.

Americans want a merchant marine. It has been the hope of most for years that our flag would be restored to the high seas. Billions were spent during the war to create ships, with the understanding that when peace came they would become commerce carriers under Old Glory. Thirty splendid German vessels, including the flower of the great Hamburg-American fleet, were seized by our government, a magnificent nucleus for the new merchant marine.

Many good reasons exist why the government as such should not go into the shipping business. No good reason has ever been advanced why it should not foster a merchant marine, by favorable duties, subventions or even by direct subsidies. But all of these combined do not constitute any reason why certain great shipping combinations should be given the enormous favor that is included in the proposed sale of a great fleet at junk prices. If the Leviathan were piled up on a rocky lee shore, with a fair chance of being floated again, the insurance company could sell the wreck for more than is now offered for the vessel in going condition.

Congress may have to act in some way to aid the American shipping industry in peace time. Relaxation of the dry law may be needed to enable passenger boats under the American flag to compete with foreign-owned liners, and other assistance may be needed. This fact, however, does not justify the proceedings which have marked the ship auction up to date.

## On the Making of Platforms.

When Chairman Hays announced his committee that is to collate and codify material for the republican platform, Mr. Bryan, among others, emitted the hoot of scorn. Platforms, said the great commoner, should come sizzling hot from the convention. Delegates, fresh from the people, should express the sentiments and formulate the issues. Just so. And now comes Mr. Bryan, from one of his winter homes, this time at Miami, Fla., and with great particularity proceeds to outline the planks that are to be promulgated at San Francisco. These may be incandescent, coruscating, even fluid in the intensity of their heat, but they will embody the views of the peerless leader as he has now prescribed them. Thomas Riley Marshall, vice president of the United States, also has issued a proclamation stating what the platform shall contain. Likewise, Governor Edwards of New Jersey. By the time the entries close, it will be found that the San Francisco delegates will have to deal with a considerable number of self-appointed keepers of the democratic conscience and any heat noticeable in connection with the platform will probably be the result of friction in driving it through a dominated gathering. The Hays plan for deliberate action still seems good.

## Nebraska Women At Chicago.

A mere man has nothing easy before him when he sets out to follow the ramifications of the suffrage movement, and therefore it is wise to take it as it is told. Thus it is, without any pretense to detailed knowledge, that the male portion of our state's population is today stepping softly and saying little. Mighty few of the men in this great and glorious commonwealth have ever thought that the women folk were such capable leaders and genuine go-getters as has come to the surface since the celebration started over at Chicago. It does not need adherence to the principle involved in woman suffrage, nor absolute acceptance of the dogma of the association, to understand that Nebraska women have been influential and have occupied honorable and arduous posts in the battle that has brought the cause to victory. This is established beyond peradventure by the proceedings, and the daily accounts coming to the Bee from its staff correspondents are most gratifying in this regard. As it has many times in the past, The Bee again takes its hat off to the women of Nebraska.

## Indians for the Army

From the New York Times.

The proposal to organize "one or more" divisions of Indians for the regular army, which has been brought to the attention of congress and may be made a part of the reorganization bill, is commended by General Pershing and other officers, who know how brilliantly the Indian soldiers acquitted themselves in France. Maj. Thomas Reilly of the 16th infantry thus sums up their merits: "They are expert in rifle fighting, game, strong, brave, resourceful. They were superior in scouting and patrol work. They were unexcelled in every phase of every fight." In short, there were no better soldiers in the American expeditionary forces. It is said that most of the 10,000 Indians in the service enlisted. Only Indians who were citizens could be drafted, and a considerable majority of the Indians were not citizens and are still outside the pale.

In the last annual report of Indian Commissioner Cato Sells there is a stirring passage in which he describes the review of a brigade of American troops that had returned from France. "In that triumphal scene," he wrote, "were the descendants of men who were Americans before Attila's fierce Huns were beaten at Chalons, perhaps before the Siege of Troy."

"Probably nothing more helpful has come to this ancient Indian race than the enrollment of 10,000 of its sons simply as American soldiers to challenge the barbarous rule of Central Europe."

In the readiness of the American Indian to fight the battles of the white man, at whose hands he has suffered such wrongs, there is a reproach which should bear fruit in justice to his race in the future. The nobility of the Indian character was expressed in the service, often heroic, that he rendered on the battlefield in France. If vindictiveness had been the dominant trait of the Indian's character, he would never have worn an American uniform. It should turn out to be true, as Commissioner Sells has said, that "nothing more helpful has come to this ancient Indian race" than the service it gave and the sacrifice it offered on fields where civilization trembled in the balance. Congress is disposed to do the fair thing by the Indians at last. The Carter bill, conferring citizenship as a right upon all Indians born within the United States and providing for a distribution of tribal property among Indians judged competent to administer their shares, was passed by the house of representatives on January 14. After this measure becomes a law there will still be Indians who must be protected as wards of the nation, but the purpose is steadily to reduce their number by training and education.

Whether Indians under the new dispensation will desire to wear the army uniform in time of peace can be determined only by the test now proposed. It will be the policy of the War department to recruit units from localities and organize them into regiments to be identified with those localities. Therefore it would be appropriate to enlist Indians for service where there are reservations. But is not the Indian too restless, too little tied to restraint, to endure the routine of peace duty? Time will tell if Indian regiments are to be organized. As an American division consists of about 25,000 men, it is not to be expected that enlistments for more than one division could be obtained, but possibly two peace-strength divisions could be organized. Many Indians would naturally prefer civil occupations. It must be remembered that the number of Indians of enlistment age would probably not exceed the strength of two full divisions.

## Where Was the Sugar?

According to the combined reports of importations and domestic production, there was never before so much sugar in the United States as last year. It has not yet faded from memory, of course, that there was not enough in distribution to go round. There was a shortage during the last half of the year, which at times amounted to a famine.

The reports do not mention the shortage, much less explain it. To the sugar statistician an enormous supply was "visible," but so far as millions of consumers were concerned it was millions. Exports last year amounted to more than 1,500,000,000 pounds, while the year before they were below 1,000,000,000. An explanation of a sort may be discovered there. We are now hearing that some of the exported sugar has been returned to this country. This prompts the question: Was the government's fixed price primarily responsible for the reduction of the visible and available supply by exporting? It has been proved in other instances and in other countries that, while the government may fix a minimum price, it cannot compel anybody to sell, or even to stock up with the goods.—Providence Journal.

## The VELVET HAMMER

By Arthur Brooks Baker

ROBERT S. TRIMBLE.

The worthy horticulturist has got a heavy job. He furnishes the apples, plums and peaches for the mob. The cabbage and carrots, the bananas and peas are not produced upon the vines with soft and silken ease. He has to start at sunrise with the sprinkler and the hoe and give polite attention to each turnip in the row.

He cannot, obviously, then, employ his time and strength by marketing his produce in detail of endless length. He trusts to Robert Trimble, who accepts it in his care, the melons and the cantelopes, the pumpkins ripe and rare, and steers them to the places where they ultimately meet the sorts of persons who desire such sorts of things to eat.

For he's a smooth commission man of keen and careful eye. The worm who pecks an apple cannot hope to pass him by. He knows by looking at a barrel what's happening inside, and senses just the policy that needs to be applied—to heave the contents on the dump or drop them in a deal, for farmers sometimes ship some fruit too truly ripe to peel.

The soft and gentle profit which he hastens to amass have put him in the circles of financial weight and class. He took a trip to Europe when the war was at its height, to boost the welfare of the boys whose function was to fight. Among the many Omahans of quality and edge he holds a place of prominence, we earnestly allege.

Next subject: Oscar G. Lieben.

## TODAY

The Day We Celebrate.

Jean Jules Jusserand, French ambassador and dean of the foreign diplomatic corps at Washington, born at Lyons 65 years ago.

Rt. Rev. Theodore N. Morrison, Episcopal bishop of Iowa, born at Ottawa, Ill., 70 years ago.

Col. William L. Kenly, U. S. A., retired, who served as chief of the division of aeronautics during the war, born in Baltimore county, Maryland, 56 years ago.

Thirty Years Ago in Omaha.

The street railway company after remodeling and repainting some of the old horse cars, began using them as trailers on the electric lines.

George W. Peck, South Omaha pioneer caterer, left for Salt Lake City to start business there.

The Boyd management was erecting a stage and making other alterations in the Coliseum building to get it in readiness for the coming of Adelina Patti and her famous grand opera company.

The Entre Nous club gave a party at Washington hall.

## Our Free Legal Aid

State your case clearly but briefly and a reliable lawyer will furnish the answer or advise in this column. Your name will not be printed.

Let The Bee Advise You.

**Damages-Contract.**  
H. M.—A short time before Christmas I ordered three Electro-Shavers of a certain company and sent my check to pay for them, subject to the razors giving satisfaction. None of the parties called upon them and returned them to me and I sent them back to the company. Now they say the razors are held subject to my order. I have sent them a statement of the amount due me, but they pay no attention to it. The amount involved is \$18.95. Is it collectable? If so, can you refer me to any one in Omaha that will get this for me?

**Answer.**—You have a justifiable claim provided the facts are as you state. We recommend no attorneys. Any local attorney can recommend you to some lawyer in Omaha.

**Marriage and Divorce.**  
J. E. P.—Can a man leave his wife and children and get a divorce and have the wife sign a deed to Nebraska land? All this was done without my knowing anything about it. I was left in poor health and with three little children and destitute.

**Answer.**—Employ a lawyer and move to set aside the deed.

**Marriage and Divorce.**  
H. H.—A was married some time ago, before he was of legal age, by telling a falsehood as to how old he was. He only lived with his wife for 15 days. Would it be possible at this time for him to have his marriage annulled, it being illegal because of his age at that time? Is it necessary to have both parties present before this could be done, as he does not know where his wife is, and has been unable to locate her? About six months after he was married he enlisted in the United States army, and when he came home he was told by several friends, including relatives of his wife, that she had secured a divorce and had married again. However, he was unable to find out where she was, and he has been unable to secure it. If it is impossible for him to have his marriage annulled, will he have to have a divorce from his former wife, considering the above circumstances, before he could remarry?

**Answer.**—It will be necessary for him to secure a divorce before he can remarry.

**Landlord and Tenant.**  
E. C. A.—Will you please answer the following questions through The Bee: If A sells his farm to B, possession to be given March 1, 1920, can A cut wood for his own use too restless to cut it himself, or through the farm and trees grow along the banks. Quite a number of the trees have died. That is the kind of wood that he cut. A quits cutting when B gives him notice to quit, can B sue A for damages? Please print this as soon as you can without delay.

**Answer.**—A is not entitled to timber unless reserved in the deed, but as the timber used was dead trees, B's damages would be nominal.

**Will.**  
J. B.—Please answer in your legal aid department if a man writes his own will, would it be legal in Nebraska or does he have to get an attorney to write it for him? The writer has a bank deposit, also some stock, but no real estate.

**Answer.**—You can legally draw your own will, but would advise you employing an attorney to do so.

**Misrepresentation.**  
W. R.—A's husband made a contract with B to purchase certain lands, and B had the lands transferred to A in consideration of certain money that A had previously loaned him. B, in order to induce A to buy the land, misrepresented the land to A. A conveyed the land to his wife. Can the wife sue B and recover damages for deceit?

**Answer.**—This depends on the question whether in buying the lands the husband was acting for his wife or whether he was acting for himself. From your meager statement of facts I would say he was acting for himself. He took the land in exchange for his own property. He and not his wife owned the right secured by the contract to have the lands conveyed. The conveyance to his wife did not carry with it a cause of action, for this cause of action is in no manner accessory to the title to the lands, but is entirely independent of it.

**You Can Bet on That.**  
As soon as Mr. Hoover definitely decides which party he belongs to, the other won't find it hard to give 37 reasons why he couldn't be president.—Boston Transcript.

**Age of Miracles Not Past.**  
No one can ever doubt the miracles which sees the minister living on his salary fixed 10 years ago, and keeping out of debt.—Universalist Leader.

**Consistent in Its Attitude.**  
America carries its craze for prohibition too far when it prohibits a world peace.—London Opinion.

Not very pretty, trace and see, Who is standing here by me.

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

Dot Puzzle.

12 13 14 15  
11 19 20 18 16  
10 9 8 21 17  
5 7 23 22  
4 3 24 25  
1 2 27 28 26  
31 30 29  
38 36 34  
39 42 40 35  
44 43 41  
46 45  
47

I can shut my eyes and tell

Post Toasties

from any other

corn flakes

—says Bobby

They taste so much

better and they

make a mouthful.

Next subject: Oscar G. Lieben.

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## Little Folks' Corner

Young Citizens' Adventures

Hunting the Spring.

BY ABELLA BELLER BEARD.  
We are going now on the most wonderful hunt we have yet taken, the hunt for spring. Only the alert and keen eyed may find the trail, for it is early still, but that makes it only so much the more thrilling.

Perhaps you who live in the north have not begun to think of spring, though it is high time, for February is a busy month with her. Even where the snow is still deep and cold winds are blowing, she is stirring things up generally underground, and before you know it all her preparations will have been made and in plain sight spring will be here for every one to see.

Now is the time to get into the woods if we would be the first to find her. Look at the trees. Don't you see a change in them? The sap is rising, see how it is sending a warm glow of color to the tips of the branches; notice how it is swelling the buds and coloring them so



that they will soon make a brilliant show against the blue sky. The very sky itself seems to have lifted and the floating clouds no longer drag heavily near the earth.

Turn aside a pile of dry leaves, you may find tender little shoots that have pushed their heads above ground but are still cuddling under the warm blanket of leaves. Down by the brookside there are patches of grass green as the grass of June and in the marsh the handsome though ill-smelling, skunk-cabbage is thrusting up its dark, purple-brown spear.

On the hillside, under the snow, the trailing Arbutus is making ready to blossom, and warm in their furry coats the Pussy-Willows brush our faces softly as we pass.

Where I live it is the Pussy-Willows the boys and girls bring home in triumph to show that they have been on the hunt for spring and have found her.

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DOT PUZZLE.

12 13 14 15  
11 19 20 18 16  
10 9 8 21 17  
5 7 23 22  
4 3 24 25  
1 2 27 28 26  
31 30 29  
38 36 34  
39 42 40 35  
44 43 41  
46 45  
47

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Was the fact that they had to pay taxes to the English government.

You see, they were not represented in that government at all. They felt very strongly that they should not be compelled to pay money without having a voice in the manner in which it was to be spent. Finally, they rebelled.

"After eight years of war, they won their independence. Washington was their leader and it was largely by his skill and devotion that the victory was won. Afterward, he led in forming the new government and was the first president."

"Are the English and Americans still enemies?"

"No, they are now friends. You see that cartoon below Washington's picture shows 'John Bull' and 'Uncle Sam,' who represent England and the United States, walking out together, in the great war just finished, the English and Americans fought side by side like brothers. The success of the colonists merely taught England a lesson. Now she allows her colonies considerable independence. Canada, her greatest colony, comes just about as near governing itself as the United States itself."

(Tomorrow: Molly Price Cook will describe "Short Cuts.")

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ten. It was largely due to his work that this nation was first established.

"Didn't the white men who first came over the Great Water belong to a nation?"

"Yes, but they were not Americans. Most of them were Englishmen. They belonged to England, the great nation across the Great Water. Their government was directed by the English government. They formed a colony of England."

"For a long time this went very well. But the people on this side of the water were surrounded by different conditions from those in which their brothers on the other side lived; different dangers to meet. Thus they began to think differently. They began to feel able to take care of themselves and run their own government."

"The main thing they objected to

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