THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.

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MAY SUNDAY CIRCULATION.

46,903

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss.:
Dwight Williams, circulation manager, says that the average Sunday circulation for the month of May, 1915, was 46,903.
DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager.
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 2d day of June, 1915.
ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

June 6

Thought for the Day

Selected by J. W. Clark

"Liberty is the fullest opportunity for a man to be and do the very best that is possible for him."—Phillips Brooks.

Ready for Ak-Sar-Ben? All aboard!

The 1915 June bride crop is starting off fine.

With all this call for farm help, no excuse remains for the ablebodied panhandler on the street.

At any rate, those 500 Omaha inhabitants who voted "No" on consolidation will not brag about it very long.

The supremacy of Dame Fashion will not be fully vindicated until men are brought to copy women's styles in shoes.

The merger of the Omaha and South Omaha postoffices which paved the way may now be considered a closed incident.

The location of a transcontinental aviation station here gives assurance that all the high-flyers will stop off in Omaha.

If this bombardment of graduating essays and orations does not put the war to rout, the belligerents will have to fight it out to a finish in the trenches.

In spite of our justly celebrated facilities for spreading the news, the shrinkage in the price of flour has not yet announced its arrival at the bake shops.

The freeze-to-the-payroll officeholder who plants himself on the track in front of the train of progress takes a long chance on being run over by the locomotive.

What's this? More ugly rumors about framed-up damage suits in our courts? Now, who could have prompted any innocent client to such downright perjury?

Sweet is the music of prosperity wafted from the lute of Charley Schwab. He has the goods at Bethlehem and warring nations are shelling out for the shells.

The man with the garden hose can afford to be more generous with his lawn sprinkling now that the long promised 'steenth-of-a-cent water rate reduction has actually gone into effect.

The Illinois State Public Utilities commission has ruled that no jitney shall travel a route parallel and competing with a street railway line. Maybe that doesn't please the street railways!

Work of the Civic League.

Omaha has lately been given several concrete illustrations of the activity of a body of enthusiastic citizens who have in mind the bettering of conditions of life in this city. They are not cranks, nor advocates of the impossible, but are zealous men and women, who have sane and definite notions, which are practically presented and as practically carried out. So far the Civic league, which now has a membership of about 4,500, has dealt with the smaller things that have usually been neglected in the rush to give attention to the larger.

One of the practical manifestations of its usefulness was in the campaign against the dandelion. In this the boys and girls were enlisted by the offering of suitable prizes, and as a result some 28,000 bushels of the pest, torn up by the roots, were destroyed. The activity of the Garden club is under the general direction of the Civic league, and its share in improving the waste spots of the city is enough to justify the existence of the league, if it did nothing else. The peony show, just over, at which thousands of magnificent blooms were exhibited, was another of the league's achievements.

The league has many suggestions to offer for the beautifying of the city, all along practical lines, and it purposes an active campaign for keeping the city clean, which it hopes to make effective by such means as will accomplish the result without giving offense even to the citizen who may be negligent and require admonition. Civic pride and love of order and beauty provide the inspiration for the league, and its officers are devoted to these ideals. Its work has already been productive of good and it promises much for the future.

The War and the Rainfall.

Twenty-five years ago, when the west was overrun by "Rainmaker" Wright and his disciples, one of the dogmas set up was that bombarding the heavens would produce rain. In support of this it was cited that the battles of the civil war were invariably followed by rainfall, and the greater the battle, the heavier the precipitation. Against this claim the scientists set up that no bombardment possible to man would disturb sufficient atmosphere to produce even a slight rainfall, and that all storms that followed battles were but coincidental. The controversy is now likely to be renewed, for the coincidence is again visible. It is a far cry from the plains of Galicia to the plains of Nebraska, half way around the globe, but it is a fact that the fall of Przemysl was followed in Nebraska by rain of a torrential nature. Science will boo at the thought of connecting the two events, but the rain fell, just the same, and the bombardment of Przemysl was on a scale never before undertaken. Two hundred thousand shells exploded in an hour by the attacking side alone, without counting the replying fire from the defenders, makes a display of fireworks exceeding all previous experience. That certainly ought to set some waves of atmosphere in motion, even if it didn't cause the deluge in central Nebraska.

Dancing in the Public Parks.

One feature of the program of the new recreation board that deserves attention is the provision for dancing in the public parks. It has been debated a little, and opposition has developed in some quarters, although the objections do not seem to be especially well founded or put forth with much seriousness of purpose. Dancing is a peculiar form of enjoyment, universally practiced, and common to all ages and all races. The movements and figures of the dance are expressive of the emotions, an indication of mental exaltation as well as bodily animation. Dancing has been in all times and among all peoples a recognized factor in all sorts of social functions, religious as well as secular, and it still has its part in the religions of some tribes of men. That dancing in itself is inherently harmful has never been established, but its benefits are easily understood by any who may be inclined to thoughtfully consider the matter. Thousands of Omaha people, old and young, continually seek the pleasure of moving through formal figures, rythmically adjusted to the measures of pleasing music, as a reasonable and desirable diversion. No good reason appears why dancing, under proper supervision, should not be permitted in public parks, while much can be said in support of the proposition.

Missouri River Development.

A report from the colonel of the United States Army engineering corps, in charge of the work on the Missouri river, adverse to the plan of making a survey of the river between Kansas City and Sioux City, is to be vigorously opposed by the Omaha Commercial club. The reason given by the army engineer that the $20,000,000 needed for the construction work between Kansas City and St. Louis had not been appropriated is not sufficient to warrant utter ignoring of the upper reaches of the river. It may be that no money will ever be set aside to make the improvements suggested, but that is no reason why the needed preliminary steps should be neglected. A comprehensive survey of the Missouri should be made and definite and complete plans for its improvement to meet the needs of navigation worked out by the government engineers. Whatever system of inland waterway navigation may eventually be adopted in the United States, the Missouri river must be reckoned on, and competent authority should determine what must be done to make it serviceable.

Taft on National Preparedness.

Between the alarms of militarists and the insistent protests of pacificists there is a vast middle ground on which may stand the multitude of Americans who undoubtedly favor reasonable preparation for national defense. This ground is defined by William Howard Taft in the Saturday Evening Post.

Mr. Taft is not an alarmist nor a pacificist, though leaning more to the latter side if international conditions afford promise of world peace. His experience as secretary of war and later as president give his discussion of adequate preparedness the weight of authority.

Three lines of defense against invasion Mr. Taft regards as essential—the navy, coast fortifications and a mobile army. An adequate navy, constituting the main line of defense, he would base on the naval program of 1903, which called for the building of two first-class battleships a year, with the necessary complement of scout ships, destroyers and submarines. Had this program been followed the nation would have forty-eight battleships in 1919. The refusal of past congresses to adhere to it leaves the navy at present five battleships behind. This deficit in defensive power, he contends, should be made up as quickly as possible, with such alteration of naval plans as the lessons of the European war teaches.

Mr. Taft regards present national fortifications as adequate defense for their immediate localities. They are first-class in construction and caliber of guns, the latter requiring only changes in elevation to equal the range of the largest guns of modern navies. The urgent need in this line is fortifications at all landing ports, and these could be had without increasing the national budget if the political logrollers of congress would permit the abandonment of useless navy yards.

The third line of defense should, in his opinion, consist of a mobile army of 75,000 effective men in the continental United States, exclusive of the artillery service, and the reserve system suggested by Secretary Garrison, these to be supplemented by doubling the capacity of West Point and the establishment of a military school in the middle west.

Mr. Taft's suggestions for adequate preparedness are conservative and must commend themselves to citizens as signposts of the safe middle course.

No more fitting place for curing heartaches could be chosen than the Douglas county court house. The surroundings are impressive, the court rooms imposing, and the age and experience of the judges in soothing palpitation, makes it an ideal sanitarium

Views, Reviews and Interviews

By VICTOR ROSEWATER.

WHILE the achievement of any big thing affords glory enough to go round, we may as well have the history of this Greater Omaha movement straightened out before it gets too badly twisted. South Omaha Omaha was laid out as a townsite by Omaha people who had not the slightest notion of establishing a separate city except for development purposes, and the absolute necessity of annexation was clearly foreseen years ago. How the consolidation movement took its inspiration and secured its momentum is clearly recalled by a letter I have just received from Attorney E. F. Morearty, who has a good memory, and who says:

"Now that the people have voted for annexation by an overwhelming majority, and realizing the great benefits that will accrue by reason of such a decision, it might be well to take a retrospective view of the past that we may be able and willing to give credit to the one, or ones, most deserving of such, for having brought about final annexation. Not wishing to detract from the Commercial club or Mr. Dietz any of the credit due to both, yet I feel that I can frankly and truthfully state that to no higher or greater source can be traced the original and steadfast champion of annexation than to the late Edward Rosewater, founder and the then editor of The Bee.

"While my personal and political relationship with this great man were not at all times of the most friendly nature, yet it was at his urgent request that, twenty-five years ago, as a member of the Omaha city council, I prepared and introduced a resolution in that body which called for an election in the city of Omaha for the purpose of annexing the two cities, that of Omaha and South Omaha; this resolution, having the unanimous support of the council, was passed; following this, Mr. Rosewater and myself proceeded to South Omaha, where we secured like action on the part of the South Omaha city council, the election was held, and Omaha voted almost unanimously for the proposition, a majority of the voters of South Omaha voted for it, but in the count of the ballots, and by the free and easy system of handling the ballots as obtained at that time, the ballot box had been manipulated by a few disreputable ward heelers and the returns were made to show that the proposition was defeated by less than 100 votes.

"Yet undiscouraged and undaunted, the paper which he established, incessantly in season and out of season, and at times without aid or assistance from any source, persisted in the fight, until victory finally perched where it justly belongs, in the editorial sanctum of The Bee."

As here intimated, it was plain all the time that consolidation was eventually inevitable as a step in the upbuilding of Greater Omaha, and that the longer it was deferred the more costly it would be to all concerned—which will soon be more fully realized by many people, who will then wonder why they did not wake up to the fact and help put it over long before.

Members of the Rotary club were not long ago asked for opinions as to what that organization could and should do to supplement its activities and make itself more useful to the community. It had already joined in promoting the garden contest, and had held out a helping hand to local charitable institutions. I gave President Weller a suggestion for a more concentrated effort for beautifying the city. We have a fine example of individual initiative in what is known as "The Prettiest Mile" out on the north boulevard, and I believe that with properly directed energy an equally magnificent showing could be made by taking a stretch of the Lincoln Highway going through the residence districts of Omaha and out through the suburbs, and providing for its uniform treatment from the standpoint of landscape gardening. This would have to be brought about by associating for the purpose the owners of the abutting property with a measure of assistance from the city authorities and interested civic bodies. The merchants of the "500" block inaugurated an enterprise of this kind along business lines by contributing a common fund for ornamental illumination and street cleaning, and in the same way much better results could be secured for embellishing yards, putting in flowers and shrubbery, matching up shade trees in parkways and keeping lawns in trim, by having the work done under a single supervisor directing a crew of gardeners than by each person looking after his own premises in his own way and at his own time.

The chief obstacles always met with here in Omaha in any plan of city beautifying have come from the vacant lots, and from the occasional moss-back who will not do anything himself nor help anyone else do it. In any such scheme, therefore, it must be expected that some who ought to do their shares will either wantonly refuse or have perhaps some legitimate excuse for holding back. This is where the public authorities and outside assistance would be necessary to carry the project through. The city could furnish the superintendence, and the improvement clubs or business leagues could pay the assessments for the vacant lots; the Rotary club could put in a flower bed wheel, the Elks a B. P. O. E. clock, Ak-Sar-Ben a replica of its current years' insignia, etc., at the conspicuous points; and being on the main highway of auto tourist travel, everyone would see the exhibit, and the talk about it would spread over the country. The plan certainly is feasible, although it may be too late for practical execution this year. The time is coming—in fact, is already here—when we must consider the lasting effect of the first impression which our city makes on the stranger, and must take advantage of the wonderful opportunities supplied to us by the natural beauty of Omaha's topography.

The latest old-timer to pass away is John Grant, although in length of time here he was not in the same class with the pioneers, dating his residence back only to the early '80's. To use an expressive phrase, John Grant was "a good old scout"—a staunch and loyal friend who could be depended upon to do as he said he would. He had come to Omaha originally to superintend the first bit of asphalt pavement ever laid here—it was on Douglas, I think, between Thirteenth and Sixteenth streets—and nearly every man, woman and child in the town was a constant inspector on the job. It was John Grant who introduced the first "steam-roller" that ever put in its appearance in these parts, and when the surface was completed it was thrown open to the youngsters for bicycle riding and roller skating, and for weeks those two or three blocks of pavement formed the most popular pleasure resort in the burg. Until the last few years John Grant used to celebrate his birthday annually by giving a party at his house to his friends—stag of course—including public officials, Grand Army of the Republic comrades, personal friends and Masonic brothers, unique as an elaborate feast, and for the scintillating humor and goodfellowship John Grant was always boosting other people into office. He never held any office himself except to fill a vacancy in the county commissionership, for accepting which he was profuse in his apologies. As county commissioner he rendered conscientious service, although even then he was beginning to grow feeble.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

SOUNDED FROM BEE FILES

The demands of Omaha for a new cemetery are to be met by the Forest Lawn Cemetery association, recently incorporated. The site for the proposed burial ground has been selected and purchased from J. H. Brackin as trustee, consisting of 320 acres, almost immediately west of the town of Florence and just four miles from the postoffice.

Lord Thomas Haskett, Senator Sharon's English son-in-law, accompanied by his wife and children, passed through Omaha in a special car on their way to San Francisco.

The marriage of M. J. Doane of Boston and Miss Lillie Dort took place at the residence of the bride's parents, Rev. W. J. Harsha officiating.

Drake O'Riley, Richard O'Riley and Harry Meetes started on a three months' visit to Europe.

Miss Elizabeth Poppleton left for the east to attend the annual meeting of the Vassar alumnae.

Dr. G. M. Crowell is back from a trip to Philadelphia.

TABLOIDS OF SCIENCE.

Oval water pipes are less liable to burst when frozen than round ones.

There is potash enough for the United States in the kelp beds of the Pacific coasts of Alaska and the coast states.

According to an English oculist, digestive troubles have an important effect on diseases of the eye, while eye weaknesses have but little effect upon digestion.

Standard clocks in the Paris observatory are kept ninety feet under ground, where the variation in temperature has been less than one degree in several years.

Scientists have established the age of a pine tree in New Zealand at 1,300 years.

The farther the waters of the oceans get from the equator the less salt they contain.

According to a French authority perfect linoleum has twice the wearing qualities of tiling and more than four times those of hardwood floors.

Leading chemists believe that the war may shift the drug manufacturing center to this country. The raw materials are plentiful, but synthetic skill is said to be lacking.

Vanillin is the active principle which makes vanilla ice cream so popular. It occurs in the roots of oats and the leaves and roots of a number of plants. It has been found to be poisonous to clover, wheat, cowpeas and other plants.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Hindoos venerate the common marigold and frequently adorn their idols with wreaths of its golden flowers.

The United States Hay Fever association for more than forty years has held an annual meeting at Bethlehem, N. H., in August, Bethlehem being out of the sneeze zone.

Hick Colgan, the famous wolf catcher who lives near Atchison, Kan., has captured a total of 729 wolves. He receives a bounty of $5 for gray wolves and $1 for coyotes. Since the first of this year he has captured thirty-nine.

A house at Stratford, Conn., is probably to be demolished because of the noises made by alleged ghostly visitants. The house dates back to revolutionary times. Cannon balls rolling downstairs are heard and also the swish of skirts and click of military heels.

A meteor which fell a few days ago in front of the home of Charles Solmon, who lives near Prescott, Mich., went to an unknown depth and water came up to the surface in the hole it made, although Solmon had been unable to strike water at a depth of eighty feet.

The close connection between Cupid and the culinary art was illustrated by three marital suits lately in New Jersey, one woman leaving her husband because he refused to give her turkey at New Year's, a husband accusing his wife of monotony in the menu of kidney stew, while still another complained that his wife cooked his pork chops in soap.

Dr. Ivory Lowe of Canaan, Me., the oldest physician in Somerset county, is using a wagon which has been in use continuously for forty-five years. Dr. Lowe says the wagon has made on an average of twenty miles each day for forty-five years, thus making the wagon's total trip about 235,000 miles. It still has its original wheels and its original tires.

SIGNPOSTS OF PROGRESS.

Montreal has the largest flour mill in the British empire; it turns out 5,000 barrels a day.

The war has been responsible for the establishment of the first successful barium industry in the United States.

The first factory in the United States for the manufacture of benzol from coal will be established in Pennsylvania.

Salt for commercial purposes is being extracted from sea water on an extensive scale by a plant in southern California.

It has been estimated that nearly 300,000,000 feet, or more than 55,000 miles, of film are used up yearly to satisfy the world's demand for moving pictures.

In the twelve months ended April 30, there were 877 merchant vessels built and officially numbered in the United States. The gross tonnage of these ships was 179,456.

Up to May 1, 142 foreign built vessels of 509,705 gross tons, valued at $32,000,000, have been registered under the American flag to engage in foreign trade, under the act of August 18 last.

For light duty one of the largest locomotive works in the United States is turning out a locomotive that resembles the coal burning type in outline, but is driven by an internal combustion engine with oil or gasoline fuel.

It is estimated that 50 per cent of the 1,750,000 automobiles in use in the United States are owned by farmers, and the percentage is increasing each year. It is estimated that 40 per cent of the 1915 output will go to the farming communities.

New Jersey has been materially improving its housing conditions through its board of tenement house supervision. The law creating this board has been in operation ten years. During this time 11,119 "new law" tenements have been built.

AROUND THE CITIES.

Topeka threatens to seize the local postoffice for taxes. Rocking the boat?

Kansas City reports nine mysterious disappearances of women since April 1.

New Orleans reports that 70,000 buildings in the city, one-half of the total, have been made rat proof.

New York has just paid $768,451 for fifty-six acres of land condemned to form a part of East River park in Astoria.

Salt Lake City authorities turned down all the bids for $300,000 of city bonds because the best bid offered, with commissions deducted, ran the price below par.

Chicago's health department hints to undertakers that advertising their "wearing apparel" as "fashionable dress suits" is a grave breach of professional propriety.

St. Louis has lost confidence in the boosting value of a directory census. The latest roster of residents estimates the population at 544,300, a come-down of 9,199 from last year.

Sioux City put up a long pull and a strong pull for population and pulled the census total up to 81,787 when the polls closed June 1. It is believed none of the Sioux tribe escaped the hustlers.

Comparing conditions in Brooklyn now with those of twenty-five years ago, when annexation took place, the Brooklyn Eagle shows the tax rate, on the ratio of value, is unchanged, while the population has grown 142 per cent and its death rate dropped from 22.17 to 13.5 per 1,000.

SECULAR SHOTS AT PULPIT.

Detroit Free Press: A Pennsylvania clergyman who died recently at the age of 82 had married 1,054 couples, but that should not be held against him.

Brooklyn Eagle: Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, censured by the Presbyterian general assembly for an anti-prohibition letter to a friend in California, can sympathize with Union seminary. Ministerial liberty and academic liberty have much in common.

Springfield Republican: A touch of inhumanity makes the rest of the world kin. The American Jewish committee notes that the persecution of the Jews has entirely ceased in Palestine and that the great sufferers there at present are the Roman Catholic religious orders. The Turks, however, have long been more friendly to the Jews than to the various sects of Christians.

St. Louis Republic: The revival of the old fashion of street preaching, accomplished by the Church Federation of St. Louis, will head off a great deal of more or less aimless and hopeless talk about the weakness of the modern church in "reaching" men. The way to reach men is simplicity itself; it is to go where they are. That's the way any other sort of live animal is reached.

Boston Transcript: With forceful unity of decision the Unitarians, now in convention in Boston, have determined to stand by their time-honored name. They have known that the liberal spirit could not be harmed by a word apparently narrow in what it denotes yet truly broad in what actual practice has made it to signify. Retaining all the values which past association and tradition have built round the name, the Unitarians have surely not lessened its worth for the future.

"MADE IN U. S. A."

Washington Post: When Henry Sienkiewicz refers to this country as the "conscience of the world," it's enough to make us shell out in a new and better way.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: The president advises his countrymen in these troublous war times to sit tight, and think hard, and not talk. Marked copies, please, to our distinguished fellow citizens, the conqueror at Syracuse and the spellbinder of the Chautauqua platform.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Rather disconcerting truth has come out that the eulogy of the kaiser in his youth which appears in the speller used in the public schools of Chicago was written by Mrs. Ella Flagg Young herself, though some years ago before the present war was thought of; the kaiser is the only individual singled out for praise. Now it stirs Bohemian, Polish, Serbian, French and Italian parents to protests. Isn't this neutrality business a caution?

Washington Post: The money of the world will flow by hundreds of millions of dollars this year into the pockets of the farmers of the United States, and with our great manufacturing plants and this assured huge foreign demand the billion-dollar balance of trade to be shown at the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1915, should have another billion added to it by the close of the next year. Never in the history of the United States were there in evidence such convincing proofs of record-breaking business along all lines.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

"My daughter is having her voice trained," said Mr. Cumrox.
"Is she a soprano or a contralto?"
"I dunno. I suppose she'll decide to be whichever costs the most."—Washington Star.

"That match was the union of natural mates."
"In what way?"
"She was dove-eyed and he was pigeon-toed."—Baltimore American.

She—No, Mr. Jimpson, I'm sorry; but I wouldn't marry the best man living.
He—No? Well, at any rate, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that he offered himself.—Boston Globe.

"That stupid assistant of mine lost me a good customer."
"How was that?"
"He saw by the papers that she was receiving yesterday, so he took that opportunity to deliver a couple of cases of beer."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"When water becomes ice," asked the teacher, "what is the great change that takes place?"
"The greatest change, ma'am," said the little boy, "is the change in price."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Flatbush—I was out shopping with my wife yesterday and I lost her in the crowd.
Bensonhurst—You were lucky.
"No, I wasn't. She found me."—Yonkers Statesman.

"Had a most enjoyable time at the dentist's this afternoon."
"Eh! Enjoyable?"
"Yes. When I went in, another dentist was filling my dentist's teeth."—Baltimore American.

"This scientist undertakes to prove that Helen of Troy had a flat nose."
"And I hope he proves it. Folks yap about Helen of Troy like there hasn't been a pretty woman since."—Chicago Post.

Mother—What kind of a show did papa take you to see while you were in the city?
Bobbie—It was a dandy show, mamma, with ladies dressed in stockings clean up to their necks.—Puck.

WHAT PA DOESN'T KNOW.

Edgar A. Guest, in Detroit Free Press.

Sometimes when folks come in to call
on Ma an' Pa's away,
An' I'm supposed to be where I can't
hear a word they say,
Ma starts to tell 'em all about Pa's fine
an' splendid ways,
An' just how good an' kind he is, an'
all the jokes he plays;
An' how he never gives her any reason
for complaint,
Until she has the women folks believin'
Pa's a saint.

Pa's just an ordinary man—he tells us
so himself,
He has to work all day to get his
little bit of pelf.
He isn't one that's known to fame, he
can't do clever things,
He isn't one that makes a speech, or
out in public sings,
But Ma just makes him out to be a man
the world would cheer
If it could know the worth of him—when
he's not there to hear.

When Pa's away Ma tells her friends
how much of him she thinks,
An' just how good it is to have a man
that never drinks.
She dwells upon his thoughtful ways,
his patience an' his worth,
An' boasts that she is married to the
finest man on earth.
But if Pa isn't home on time, an' supper has to wait
She gives it to him, good an' strong, for gettin' in so late.

Sometimes when Ma is scolding Pa, an'
he don't say a word,
I feel like tellin' him the things that Ma
don't know I've heard.
I feel like crawlin' in his lap, an' whis-
perin', "Never mind,"
Deep in her heart Ma really thinks you're
all that's good an' kind.
She thinks that you're the finest man
there is on earth, I know
Because most every afternoon she tells
the neighbors so."

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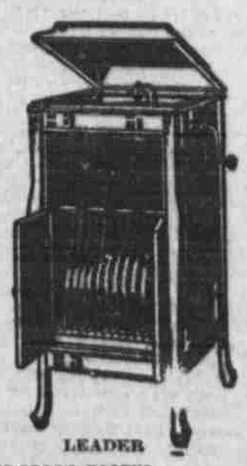

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