

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR. The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor. BEE BUILDING, FARNAM AND SEVENTEENTH. Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: By mail per month, per year. Daily without Sunday, 60c per month, \$6.00 per year. Evening and Sunday, 60c per month, \$6.00 per year.

REMITTANCE: Result by draft, express or postal order. Only two-cent stamps received in payment of small accounts. Personal checks, except on Omaha and eastern exchange, not accepted.

OFFICES: Omaha—The Bee Building, 318 N. Street. Council Bluffs—14 North Main street. Lincoln—36 Little Building. Chicago—301 Heart Building. New York—Room 1108, 285 Fifth Avenue. St. Louis—809 New Barracks Commerce. Washington—75 Fourteenth St., N. W.

NOVEMBER CIRCULATION. 52,531. State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss. Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average daily circulation for the month of November, 1914, was 52,531.

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

These are the days when the coal bill tops the pile. Popular slogan in America: "Shop early," in Europe, "Shoot early."

The fire that burned our municipal bathroom seems to have made a clean sweep. Then, too, if the clock were moved up one hour, it would give that much more time for shopping early.

When the mercury is below zero and the weather man forecasts "Warmer," he really means less frigid. Yes and the increasing money emphasis on base ball tends to make the diamond more precious than ever.

If that Nebraska patronage deadlock is not quickly opened, it will be in danger of being frozen in over the winter. Just watch Emperor William fool those doctors by getting while they are disagreeing over what should be done for him.

Remember that zero weather, which nips the securely housed and well dressed, bites right through the poorly clad and half sheltered. After all the time and trouble spent in reaching the capital, Villa evidently did not like it, for he is back up at that dear old Chihuahua again.

The attention of wiseacres who predicted only a six weeks' war is called to the fact that the allies are planning a decisive attack for next spring. Those Nebraska teachers know when they are well treated, and give most tangible proof of appreciation each time they vote to come to Omaha again.

Note that Omaha is over in the increase side of the weekly bank clearings table, while most of the other cities of our size show up in the decrease column. With his encouragement to business, the president has brought a smile of satisfaction to the stern lips of Uncle Jim Hill, which is some achievement in itself.

John Lind says Huerta could never have established peaceful government if he had had all the money in the world, and undoubtedly John Lind is dead right on that point. The navy is pronounced deficient in air craft. No, gentle reader, this is not a verbal paradox—just an evolutionary development that has lifted the navy out of the water and up into the sky.

Another grim reminder of "Hands Across the Sea," is Lord Churchill's felicitation of Japan over the final destruction of the last of the German ships that occupied far eastern waters. Committees are at work writing revisions of Omaha's charter, South Omaha's charter and Lincoln's charter, which are to be put up to the legislature when it convenes. Just a few more arguments for home-made home-rule charters.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha. A public meeting, attended by about seventy-five citizens, discussed proposed charter changes in the Board of Trade rooms. The debate turned on a proposal to authorize a bond issue to provide for a viaduct.

Plugging Up the Leaks.

The declaration that we are suffering a national loss of \$1,000,000 a day as sheer waste resulting from the poor management of our mineral industries is a challenge to the government's economy and efficiency experts that ought to be met without delay. In one detail of coking coal, the director of the bureau of mines reports an annual loss of \$75,000,000. The annual waste of metals in brass furnace practice alone amounts, he says, to \$4,500,000. His bureau also finds where a saving might be effected in natural gas worth about \$15,000,000 a year.

These are practical matters that ought to receive immediate attention. With business duty chastened, the tariff, currency, postal savings, canal tolls, and other similar subjects disposed of or sidetracked for the time being, the administration can find no time like the present for plugging up the leaks at the mines and other places of production through which millions of dollars are annually filtering.

"Economy and efficiency" have been urged for a national watchword and it is a good one. Sometimes, however, there is reason to believe that we are not fully living up to the slogan. A careful preliminary inquiry shows that in mining 600,000,000 tons of coal yearly, 300,000,000 tons are wasted or left underground in unminable condition," says the director's report. Appalling waste! And at a time, too, when the consumers of coal are paying their exorbitant prices, and we are prating about the urgent necessity of unlocking the Alaska fields to relieve the congestion and the early exhaustion of our continental mineral supply.

Every household in the land is vitally affected by this shocking lack of economy and efficiency and probably nothing of more immediate importance suggests itself to the attention of congress at this time than this very condition. As the president is dealing with the conservation of resources, he may give detailed attention to this subject by laying it before congress for action.

Less Disease and More Life.

According to Dr. Victor C. Vaughan of the University of Michigan and president of the American Medical Association, we are gaining a little on old Father Time. The average span of life, he says, has been lengthened fifteen years in the last thirty-five, and moreover death rates are steadily declining. The death rate from tuberculosis, for example, he reports 54 per cent smaller today than it was in 1880. Yet only a short while ago folks were still regarding tuberculosis as virtually incurable, assuming that the only hope for a victim of the "white plague" was slightly to prolong his days by some adroit manipulation of drugs or flight to a milder climate or some other artificial device. Now, of course, even the layman knows that tuberculosis is being very successfully combated, and in many cases conquered.

Furthermore, he knows that the natural forces of sunshine and air, used more as preventives than cures, are the forces chiefly employed in the combat. It is a great tribute to our rather young campaign of better, more rational living, if in a third of a century we have succeeded in tacking onto the average span of life as much as fifteen years. It ought to inspire even a far greater effort than has yet been exerted toward proper living in the future. There is no magic or mystery about longevity. Science and experience teach that it is more a matter of right living, which compasses moral as well as physical precautions, than anything else.

Winter's Armistice.

Winter waits on no king, country or potentate for an armistice. It may not formally suspend hostilities, yet levy its own embargo on continuous fighting. With a blanket of snow as its flag of truce, bleak north winds as its imperial voice, it calls men from activity in the lines, trenches and forts of both armies while the grim elements of nature indulge in a little season of warfare all their own. Already opposing commanders are planning their spring campaigns. Lord Kitchener announces plans for hurling "4,000,000 fresh troops" against the enemy when the fresh breeze once more "on our plains descends." No doubt, the German forces also will spend the winter months in similar preparations. In the meantime both armies are hibernating along a battle front 200 miles in length, with but desultory warfare still going on. It makes the business of war seem all the more grim, this enforced resting on arms, waiting, planning, training to "kill and destroy," to use a famous laconic expression.

Whoever has with good intention, but vainly, proposed an armistice for the Christmas holidays—in fact, we all—may take a little satisfaction in this diminished volume of slaughter. If it were not futile to think of such a thing, civilization might indulge a hope that better ways of settling the issue than hurling 4,000,000 fresh troops back and forth for a decisive battle in the spring, might grow out of this present surcease of fire, though we are constantly reminded that even to talk peace as yet is wasted breath.

A measure is being prepared to be presented to the legislature to extend registration of voters to Nebraska cities and towns of over 2,500 population. At present registration is compulsory only on cities of the metropolitan and first class, with the result that none of the others require it. Some day every citizen entitled to vote will have to be enrolled, no matter where he resides.

A former Omaha pastor, who used to tell us what a wicked city we had, has been shot by a student in an eastern college, of which he was president. We are really sorry that he should be the victim of such a mishap and invite him to come back here, where he can live amid pleasant surroundings and in bodily safety.

It all depends whose ox is gored. Because the allies control the sea traffic, the objection to cutting off from purchase of war munitions and supplies abroad comes from their side. If Germania instead of Britannia ruled the wave, the outcry against such a proposal would be from the other camp.

"More scraps of paper" have been held in contempt of late, but with certain inscriptions on them they might come in mighty handy right about now in this shopping early campaign.

In the Wake of the War

That Proposed Holiday Truce.

Conflicting calendars and creeds raised insurmountable barriers against the proposal of Pope Benedict XV for a truce for the fighting armies all Europe and Asia during the Christmas season. Germany expressed a willingness to agree, but Russia is reported to have declined to suspend hostilities. The proposal contemplated a truce of twenty days, or from December 20 to January 10, so as to cover the different dates on which Christmas day is celebrated by western nations and the Russians. The former observe the Gregorian calendar, date of December 25, while Russia alone of the Christian nations adheres to the Julian calendar. When the Gregorian calendar was launched in 1582 to adjust the time losses due to the Julian system of computation ten days were wiped off the reckoning. In the succeeding centuries the annual difference of eleven minutes and fourteen seconds added another day to the original ten, and the suspension of leap years in 1800 and 1900 increased to thirteen days the difference between the Gregorian and Julian calendars, which makes the Russian Christmas date January 6. Another vital obstacle to a Christmas truce is the inability of a Moslem to spending commendable in a Christian holiday, and the Turks are fighting the war with all the hearty energy of the fanatic against the ancient enemy of the prophet. In this connection it is interesting to note that a record of events in the American civil war shows only one engagement or skirmish at Fort Fisher, N. C., December 25, 1862, preceding the fall of the fortress in 1865. The former action was considerable severe fighting in the four December days of that war, the principal battles being Fredericksburg, December 11 to 14, 1862, and Stone River, December 31, 1863.

Vanished Glories of War.

The general use of entrenchments by the land forces in the present war and of the submarine at sea plucks several plumes from the chapeaus of warriors. What effect will these modern methods have at the recruiting offices of the near future? A letter from a Londoner to an American friend, printed in the Springfield (Mass.) Republican, emphasizes this point. The writer says:

"This is a deadly game. There can be little in the way of heroics, and when it is all over all the sovereigns will have the greater difficulty in getting men for the army and navy in the future. The chance has a poor sailor got? If it is a case of fight, in a fair old standup fashion, out and luck and take your chance—yes. But to have your ship sunk under you without being able to strike a blow is not very attractive. Nor is it very attractive to sit in a wet trench with the shells bursting around you and nary a chance to reply, but to see your friends and comrades killed and wounded. It isn't attractive. "I hear that some of our men who have come home after being wounded are reluctant to go back. They say it is just sickening. Sit in the trenches day after day, then comes your chance. The Germans come up in great numbers and they pour rifle fire and machine gun fire into them. No sport, but that straight murder. No chance for the poor devil to advance, and to keep on shooting into a mass of men who cannot reply to it, they say, worse than being shot at and not being able to reply. They say it is just wholesale massacre. "It looks as though this war would open the eyes of people to what warfare really is under modern conditions, and some of them will be mighty slow to rush into it again."

Paris Street Names Changed.

The Paris municipal council has decided that the name "Albert" shall be given to an avenue or public square in Paris in honor of the king of Belgium. The rue de Berlin has already been changed to the rue de Liege and it is proposed to give a Belgian or English name to the Avenue de l'Opera, which before the war was the Avenue Napoleon. The former Avenue d'Allemagne is now the Avenue Jean Jaures. The city of Rouen has changed the name of the Boulevard Canchois to Boulevard Belges. The place de la Gare in Orleans has been changed to Place Albert I, and two bridges over the Loire have been renamed George V and Nicholas II. This is only the beginning of the radical changes of nomenclature that will in all towns of France mark the war. The transformation is not confined to names of streets, squares and places. All German and Austrian names of products have already disappeared. Eau de Cologne is to be called Eau de Louvain or Eau de Provence. Viennese bread is now called Pain Liegeois. In the phonograph parlors all names of German pieces have been marked off the program.

Blasting Barbed Wire Defenses.

"The French instructions for the removal of barbed wire obstacles," says the Scientific American, "definitely call for the use of explosives. For this purpose long rods of melinite are fastened in bundles of three to a pole sixteen and one-half feet long, three inches wide and one and three-quarter inches thick. At the end of the pole is a collar which projects forward eight inches, and into which the end of a second pole is fitted, if the extent of the explosion is to be more than the length of a single pole. Each pole has a wooden head of almost conical form, with a steel cap and two little wooden wheels five inches in diameter. This pole is pushed straight into the mass of barbed wire or along the ground beneath it. Thanks to its form and to the little wheels with which the head is provided, it slides in easily enough. If necessary, another pole is fitted into the collar of that already in the network of wire. The charge is ignited by means of a fuse connected with the last bundle of melinit in the pole. Each pole supports ninety-nine bundles or packages of explosive, equivalent to about six pounds of melinite per meter (3.28 feet), and is carried by two men. A single pole will blow open a passage about thirteen feet wide."

People and Events

It is estimated that American Indians own property worth \$300,000,000. Has the paleface lost his cunning? With a total of 250,000,000 barrels of apples harvested this year, the American pie belt is fit for any emergency.

As far as investigation goes it is said there are only two men in the congress of the United States equipped with live whiskers for the role of Santa Claus. The big storm which swept the eastern states last Monday did great damage to seashore property, but it broke the drought in Pennsylvania with a spill of three inches. Its value being reckoned up in the millions. Truly, the rains' elements distribute benefits as well as damage.

The threatened contest of the will of Mrs. Frank Leslie, former New York publisher, did not show up when the document was admitted to probate in New York last Monday. The will leaves over \$1,000,000 to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt to be used as the latter directs in furthering the cause of woman suffrage.

How to reach for and separate the other fellow from the yellow and green hills buttoned up in his pocket is the aim of school of finance practiced in Boston. It was supposed the Hub knew all the fine points in that game, but some time, has elapsed since Tom Lawson's school closed its doors, and some forgetteries work overtime.

Mrs. Della M. Valeri of New York testified in court that a buffet luncheon eaten by her in August 13, 1913, gave her four long years of stomach ache and she wants \$5,000 for her "intermittent and continuous distress." Whelp emphasizes the headline of safety first rules for travelers, "Stick to the railroad sandwich."

Various figures of the number of unemployed in New York City are printed, but none exceed the total of 100,000, compared with last winter's total of 100,000. The decrease is said by one correspondent to be "due to better business, a lessened immigration, and measures taken by other communities to take care of their own idle hands, instead of sending them to New York."

Jim Ellis, chairman of the entertainment committee of the Alabama Baptist convention at Selma, is a promoter of thought as well as safety. He made all the bachelors at the Selma Baptist church entertain all the newly-wed delegates at the hotel, engaging and paying for the bridal chambers, flowers, candy and automobiles. The bachelors came across with the energy and means, as becomes men of boundless liberty.



Don't Straddle on Water Power. NORTH LOUP, Neb., Dec. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: The people of the state have expected that the farmers' congress, meeting at Omaha, would place the organization on the side of the people or on the side of the water power interests. The resolution as reported out is a straddle and was very likely written by McAllister, who heads the governor's water power commission. The resolution, in part, reads: "We believe that the state should be in absolute ownership and control of the water power of the state; that water rights should not be sold or leased in perpetuity. The resolution of the legislature in session what is it to do, appropriate \$100,000 by which to survey, map, reduce to specifications and drawings with estimated cost of construction, or lease power sites for twenty, fifty or a hundred years? Leasing for a period of fifty years is practically leasing in perpetuity. Leasing in any way means monopoly of power and high prices for electricity."

McAllister is an attorney, and his resolution shows it. He is also opposed to state ownership and improvement of power sites. More than that, he has held the facts concerning water power under his hand, and has neglected to give those facts to the people by which to form an opinion. I know, because I furnished McAllister the larger part of his technical information. But McAllister got some on me because I would not stand for his and Marshead's silly-dallying methods. The farmers should get on one side or the other. If for state ownership, let them say it, and say, too, that they want the money appropriated by which to do something, and have 15,000-horse power in operation within two years and 10,000-horse power added each year, until 200,000-horse power is in operation. WALTER JOHNSON, Engineer.

The Neutrality of Belgium.

SOUTH OMAHA, Dec. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: In reply to the recent letter of Mr. George Olthoff of Bancroft I will state that by historical reference I find that the neutrality of Belgium was declared many years ago, and Germany was to last forever, and Germany was one of the nations that signed the declaration. When the German army marched into Belgium it had no more right to be there without the consent of Belgium than I would have to go onto the premises of Mr. Olthoff without permission. I have seen statements that a few French soldiers were in Belgium first, but I have never seen that statement authenticated, and I never have been convinced that such was a fact, and even if it is a fact I do not see how it excuses the Germans for marching their armies into Belgium and destroying the cities and ancient monuments and rendering millions of the most thrifty people on earth homeless and penniless. When the Germans captured Antwerp the report was sent out that they captured pounds of wheat and flour, and that it was distributed among the soldiers. Had that wheat and flour been given to the Belgians, to whom it belonged, much suffering would have been avoided. The German army had no more right to that foodstuff than I would have to go into the house of Mr. Olthoff and take his food. When the German army has captured any part of Belgium a levy is made at once for vast sums of money. I call that nothing but robbery. I notice that a levy of \$7,000,000 a month has been made on the city of Brussels alone. That much money would take care of the hungry and homeless Belgians for many days, and the people of this country and other countries would not have to feed them when they should be fed by those who have robbed them of homes and their means of a livelihood. The reason the Belgians are starving is not because the British keep control of the sea, as Mr. Olthoff says, but because the German army deprived them of their homes and sustenance. If England is to blame for the condition of the Belgians, I suppose on the same grounds that if some robbers plundered and burned the house of Mr. Olthoff and took away his means of subsisting, some man would be to blame for his misfortunes. Germany did the invading and no one can successfully say otherwise. Leading German statesmen have admitted that they had no right in Belgium when they invaded that country, and such being a fact I do not see why anybody should any longer defend them for doing so. F. A. AGNEW.

Editorial Viewpoint

Boston Transcript: Says Champ Clark, "No politician can prevent property for a political purpose." Positively punk puff!

St. Louis Globe Democrat: Since his attention has been called to the matter in such a striking way, Mr. Edison may invent a really fire-proof structure.

Indianapolis News: It is officially reported that November shows a favorable balance of trade of \$70,000,000 for us. At this rate of gain some people will have to look for something else to worry about pretty soon.

Houston Post: General Villa seems to be about as slow in his preparations to go into Mexico as the bear is in keeping his Christmas enrage in Berlin. It seems that the whole world has reached the era of the unkept date.

New York World: It took the British government, with the help of the French government, more than two weeks to land 70,000 troops in France; but we learn from a New Jersey militia major that there are two nations which could in two weeks land a force of 150,000 men each at a point on our coast," which shows that any sort of cock-and-bull story is good enough for a scare.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: After a sketchy assistant secretary of the navy has reported a shortage of 13,000 men in the navy, Admiral Blue makes a careful count and finds we are shy 340 officers and 490 men. That is a less sensational story. We can make good the lack without an extra cent of appropriations, if we can keep politics out of the industrial side of the navy.

CHEERY CHAFF.

Howard—Who was it that said, "Give me the man who sings at his work?" Mrs. Howard—Somebody who hasn't lived in the next apartment to one.—Chicago Post. "What are Betty and Jack quarrelling about now?" "Oh, it's one of those wireless quarrels, I guess." "Wireless quarrels? What do you mean?" "Words over nothing, you know."—Boston Transcript. "Coal and diamonds are really made of the same substance." "Well," replied the young woman, who typewrites, "I'll take the diamond, I don't care for the carbon copy."—Boston Transcript. "It seems to me they are getting on very badly with that Chinese lantern decoration." "Well, naturally, my dear, that is a sort of thing which is always hanging fire."—Indianapolis Star. "Men are always late. I have waited here since 6 o'clock for my husband to come, and it is now 7:30." "At what hour were you to meet him?"

MUSIC.

We hear bright music's charming strain, In tones that thrill the heart. They harmonize their sweet refrain With raptures they impart. When music wakes her thrilling spell— Then o'er the lyre's sweet strings, Her spirit of enchantment dwells, With melodies for kings. Those moments, their enraptures weave, Around each tranquil breast, They reconcile those hearts that grieve, With rivulets of rest. They mingle their ecstatic themes With flowing stils of love; Like Arius' smiles that told our dreams From their bright names above. Omaha. C. M.

Your Buffet will need dressing for the holidays. Don't forget to order TIPO (RED OR WHITE) and the other Choice Wines produced by the Italian Swiss Colony. THEY ARE CALIFORNIA'S BEST. At all Grocers, Clubs, Cafes and Wine Dealers.

Practical Gifts in Traveling Goods. Wardrobe Trunks from \$25.00 to \$75.00. Suit Cases from \$5.00 to \$25.00. Lawyers' Brief Cases, \$3.00 to \$15.00. Traveling Bags in all Leathers, Fitted with Toilet Articles. Hand Bags from \$1.00 to \$15.00. Card Cases from 75c to \$6.00. Men's Purses from 50c to \$3.00. Stick Pin Cases, \$1.00 to \$5.00. Traveling Slippers, in cases, \$1.50. Medicine Cases, \$1.00 to \$5.00. Photo Frames, \$1.00 to \$6.00. Folding Umbrellas, \$3.00 to \$8.50. Drinking Cups from 25c to \$3.50. Collar Bags from 75c to \$4.00. Manicure Sets from \$3.75 to \$7.50. Dressing Cases from \$3.75 to \$25.00. FRELING & STEINLE, "GOOD LEATHER GOODS," 1803 Farnam Street.



Splendor and Safety. Just imagine the dancing eyes of the children as they gaze in rapturous glee at the Christmas tree aglow with scores of tiny, brilliant Electric Tree Lighting. Think of the danger from fire when candles are used on a tree filled with highly inflammable articles. Make Christmas thoroughly happy by removing all the anxieties. OMAHA ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER CO.