

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE
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Thought for the Day
Selected by Supt. W. H. Small
Knowledge and timber shouldn't be much used till they are seasoned.
—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Happy New Year to all!
Doubly happy leap year to those in need!
Health, prosperity and contentment to all who seek them.

Ungracious though it appears, necessity obliges the old year to pass its grippe to the new.

The waterwagon must observe traffic regulations just as an ordinary vehicle. Don't hog the road.

Under the head of unfinished business the fog end of the New Haven trial gives a hand to the New Year.

As the record now stands, 1915 overshadows recorded history as the banner year of premeditated slaughter.

In casting up accounts of the year, the profit side of the European ledger is the only white spot in the record.

Last year's catch of cod was sufficiently abundant to omit the Nebraska primary catch from the reckoning.

It has been definitely decided who is not to have the postoffice when Judge Wharton steps out, but that isn't the question.

The policy of pitiless publicity had no terrors for the old gray mule which balked and blocked the road of the presidential bridal party.

The shadowy regions popularly supposed to convert good intentions into paving blocks, doubtless plans extensive public improvement with the New Year resolution crop. It never fails.

Leap year's privilege holds good in free states as well as in those dominated by mere man. As a sentimental right it is a back number. Front attacks are never as efficient as the strategy worked on side lines.

The straight and narrow road remains unchanged from the first day of the year to the end of the cycle. They who seek readily find it and those with the will find traveling enjoyable and the scenery exhaling comfort and peace.

Omaha's Record for the Year.
Omaha has just closed one of the most satisfactory years in its history, and now looks forward to greater activity, more energetic effort, and more worthy accomplishment.

In every line of commerce and industry increases have been made during the year, and new records are set. In building it has been the busiest year in the city's history.

Omaha has also made progress in other ways. New schools and new churches have been built, that the intellectual and spiritual needs of the community might be the better served.

Pleading for the Poles.
Today is designated by the president as a special occasion on which relief is to be donated for stricken Poland. The pitiable condition of the innocent inhabitants of this distressed country, caught between the upper and nether millstones of the war in which they have had no voice, has been frequently presented, and need not be further exhibited now.

Austria's Changed Attitude.
The tone of Austria's second note on the Ancona incident, as disclosed by unofficial dispatches, is much milder and more conciliatory than was noted in the first reply. It leads to the supposition that Austria is sincerely concerned in maintaining friendly relations with the United States.

Engagement for Monday.
Property-owners and taxpayers are especially interested in the program of the city council beginning with the session on Monday. That day has been set apart by the council for taking up for consideration the city budget.

Twice Told Tales
Between Drinks.
Henry Foster of Clay county had been arrested for allowing his horse and wagon to block the public thoroughfare for the better part of five hours.

Girl Broke the Ice.
A pretty young woman in blue climbed aboard of a Madison avenue cab yesterday. She took a seat and crossed her legs. Blue silk anklets, about twenty inches of each, were revealed. Across the aisle sat two women of prim, mid-Victorian aspect.

People and Events
Another huge hotel to contain 2,000 rooms and twenty-six floors, is projected in New York City, at a cost of \$10,000,000. It will cover a block of ground somewhere between the Grand Central and Pennsylvania stations.

Much history, some good, most of it bad, was written through the old year. Momentous events crowd the closed ledger and lap over into the new. For the wellbeing of mankind it is to be hoped that peace soon will staunch the wounds of war and save nations from the peril of bleeding to death.

1915—A Retrospect
From the Outlook, New York.
Never has the world been so united as in this year of war, 1915.
As metals fuse under great heat, so have the people of the earth fused under the heat of war.

Methods Not Fair to Germans.
OMAHA, Dec. 29.—To the Editor of The Bee: A writer in one of the daily papers wants to know who made the law that compels the Board of Education to introduce a language into the lower schools...

The fortunate ones are not those who have escaped this experience. Rather are they to be pitied, for they are the oxen. To have sat tranquil and content, unmoved by what has stirred the rest of mankind, is to have been visited with a great misfortune.

This out of vision there has risen union. The very wrath of man has brought forth a world sympathy. A while ago the American might ignore the man of France and his problems, leave out of account the Englishman's doings, forget the plans and ideas of the German.

It is not war, of course, that has really made one family of all the nations of the earth. They were of one family from the beginning. It is not war that has even enabled the nations to know one another, for the railways, the steamships, and the telegraph and telephone have furnished the intercommunication out of which understanding grows.

Problem of Defense.
NORTH LOUP, Neb., Dec. 29.—To the Editor of The Bee: While we are talking about preparedness, why not suppose that an army of invasion of several million men attack us? If that army were divided, one part of it would surely invade from the Gulf of Mexico. If the other could overrun the country of the Mississippi most of the resources of the nation would be in their possession.

Editorial Siftings
Cleveland Plain Dealer: American pork is selling at 90 cents a pound in Berlin. and it looks as if it were going at least that high in Washington.

Chicago Herald: On the return voyage of the Ford ship a bugler will probably wake the passengers with the familiar tune. "I can't get 'em out, I can't get 'em out, I can't get 'em out of the trenches!"

The Taxpayers' league of Wichita has taken steps toward the removal of the city school superintendent on charges of overloading the schools with teachers. The force has been increased by ninety members in the last five years, while the school attendance increased only 1,500.

Philadelphia Record: The merchant marine is doing very well without any governmental assistance. Since July 1 the merchant marine has increased by 137 vessels of nearly 54,000 tons, and the aggregate tonnage is now almost 4,500,000.

Springfield Republican: More than a \$100,000,000 usually spent in European travel was divided among the railroads, hotels and their supporting enterprises in the opinion of "sober-minded traffic men of the railroads," quoted by Secretary Lane in his annual report.

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The Bee's Letter Box
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Advocate of Peace.
OMAHA, Dec. 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: I am of the opinion that this preparedness will bring on war, and we don't want it in our country.

THE CRY OF PEACE.
There breaks the peace of a perfect day. And all the wealth of a nation lay. And the goal of a cruel and mercies war. When victory's word, the applause to roar. To reach a human hand, and a hand to reach a human hand. To reign supreme, and thus cut down. Your fellow men, for fame renown.

A helping hand to lend across the sea. But hold our flag as free. And long may America's grand old name. Be free from wars cold bloody fame. To fire the war for men. To be shot down, and thus we can. In time, our noble race increase. And cross our course "Prince of Peace".

GRINS AND GROANS.
Sunday School Teacher—Children, do you know the house that is open to all, to the poor, the rich, the sad, the happy? to man and woman, to young and to old—do you know the house I mean? Small Boy—Yes, ma'am—the station house. —Boston Transcript.

Editor—Sorry, young man, that you are a failure in this business, but we can't treat you as we can an article here. Applicant (haughtily)—How is that, Editor?—Put a head on you.—Baltimore American.

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Recruiting Officer—We can't pass you. Two fingers are off your right hand and you couldn't pull a trigger. Applicant—Oh, that'll be all right, sir.

Tips on Home Topics
Detroit Free Press: Secretary Lane says the schools of this country have made no progress in the last thirty years. Look at the athletes they've been turning out.

Philadelphia Press: It has been discovered that some of the native chiefs that the administration has been recognizing and turning into "executives" in the Philippines have a record of some hundreds of killings to their credit as head hunters. Well, the same policy of recognition for murderers in Mexico is claimed as a victory for humanity and diplomacy; so it's presumed the Philippine policy is a model of "upliftiness."

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: The submission of estimates by the various departments of the federal government encourages no hope of "return to that simplicity and economy which betrays a democratic government," which the Baltimore platform pledged. Every department wants more money than was appropriated for 1915, although, after the deficiency appropriations made necessary by the failure of the last congress to pass fifteen of the great supply bills are voted, the expenditures for the years 1915 and 1916 will exceed any in the history of the government, being \$17,000,000 more than those of the last republican congress.

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