

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE
FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.
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DECEMBER CIRCULATION.
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State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss:
Dwight Williams, Circulation Manager.
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 28th day of January 1916.

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

Look, look what's here? The ship purchase bill with an automatic pulmotor.

Season and surroundings work against the Rio Grande as a safety swimming resort.

This time the weather man did not fool us, but delivered the goods as per cold-wave flag.

The reports from the royal sick chamber of Holland would indicate that the mumps is no respecter of persons.

The latest exposition of the British blockade carriers to neutral the defiant note: "What are you going to do about it?"

A Kansas woman announces that she will be a candidate for vice president. Brother Burkett might as well understand at once what he is going against.

If the Nebraska bullmoosers insist on putting up third party state and local tickets, some of them may have to double-up and run for two offices at the same.

Governor Morehead won't stand for renomination, but his private secretary, whom he appointed chief justice, will make a try to be elected. That seems a fair exchange.

If it is true that the average pay of the ministers in the Episcopal church in this country is \$1,200, the other churches will have to revise their salary schedules upwards to make a creditable showing.

The basket containing Old Man Noemore, on its transcontinental funeral procession, falls to command a demonstration in Omaha for the very good reason that Omaha has not even cemetery space for chronic knockers.

Missouri justice rounded up the night riders, sending eight leaders to the penitentiary and thirteen followers to churches and Sunday schools. The latter sentence comes perilously close to "cruel and unusual punishment."

The Chicago inquiry into the superior speed of private freight cars over ordinary freight cars proceeds on the supposition that locomotives do all the pulling. The quizzers overlook the noiseless tractive power of the headquarters pull.

It is understood that Senator Hoke Smith's indignant denunciation applies to foreign aggression on the rights of American citizens abroad. The wrongs suffered by American citizens in the state of Georgia have no bearing on the case.

That fire underwriter's report very kindly tells what Omaha is expected to do to make the insurance companies' premiums all velvet, but it is very reticent about telling what the rate-makers will do to relieve our people who have to buy fire policies.

Miss Mary Morgan, formerly of Omaha, the daughter of Frank C. Morgan of this city, is to take the veil and first vows next week of the Order of the Sacred Heart at the convent in St. Louis. Quite a number of her Omaha friends will go to St. Louis to witness the ceremony.

Eyvas & Hoey, two of the cleverest comedians before the public, are billed to put on Hoy's latest comedy, "A Farlor Match," at the Boyd tomorrow.

The property of Judge Porter on the north side of Farnam, being the second lot east of Nineteenth, has been sold to T. L. Kimball and J. H. Huggins for \$12,000. The lot stands about thirty feet above the street and holds a frame cottage. Judge Porter has become a resident of California and the appreciation of his property is a source of exceeding satisfaction to him.

An interesting entertainment was given by the St. Philomena's Temperance society. A musical and literary program was contributed by Miss Webb, Miss Nora Flannery and Messrs. Charles Taggart, Hans, L. Board, A. F. Cavin, Miner and Prof. Hintz.

For the next program of the Golden Pledge society of the St. Mary's Avenue Congregational church, it is announced that Miss Fannie E. Loomis of Boston will render a piano selection, and Mr. Herbert Rogers a violin solo, together with a short comedy by Mr. W. H. Scott and Mr. Hanchett, and the novel song chorus singing popular songs.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Connell, left for the east. Judge Pat O. Hawes has gone to Kentucky for two weeks.

The correct list of officers of the Sperry Light company is as follows: President, C. E. Mayne; vice president, N. B. Falconer; treasurer, Dr. Coffman; secretary, L. S. Reed.

Wanted—Health Department Consolidation.
The trying situation presented by the unusual prevalence of contagious disease in Omaha—likewise in other cities—emphasizes the need for us to mobilize our sickness-fighting forces by consolidating all our health machinery under one board of strategy and one general.

As things now are (and this is not finding fault with anyone on the firing line) we have the conflict and confusion of divided authority and scattered resources. Under the health commissioner's direction the city is supposed to look after sanitation, including quarantine and disinfection and emergency cases. The county, with its county physician, and his assistants, is supposed to take care of the indigent sick and maintain a county hospital for strictly charity patients, but with very limited activities. Still, a third authority, fixed in the school board, has control over health conditions in the public schools.

With the best of intentions, it is impossible to have these three branches of the good-health army concentrate their fire without duplication and waste of ammunition, and the inevitable tendency is to invite dispute over cases in the "twilight zone," which might properly belong to each or all of them.

The movement should be started at once, and should not stop until the goal is reached, to effect a complete merger of all the health, hospital and sanitation machinery which our taxpayers support in order to get the full benefit of the effort exerted and the money spent.

Properly Disciplined.
Reprimanding a captain of the artillery who had been found guilty of assaulting a private soldier and beating him over the head with a heavy pistol, Major General Wood refers to the affair as "one of those regrettable occurrences which bring discredit upon the service."

The language of the commanding general of the army is hardly sufficiently strong to properly characterize the offense. General Wood shows his interest by his action in holding up the sentence of the court-martial, which recommended that the offending captain be reduced ten files in his standing, as being totally inadequate. In an organization such as the army, where the officer has complete power and authority over the private, it would seem that a captain who allowed his temper to lead him into attacking an enlisted man had thereby proved his utter unfitness for command. Self-control is the first qualification sought in a good leader, and in this case it seems to be entirely lacking.

Interference With Neutral Traffic.
Sir Edwin Grey's speech in Commons on the British policy of dealing with world's commerce under war conditions easily convinces the members of Parliament, and very likely will appease the country, as the people over there are just at present eagerly pursuing any justification for the course adopted.

It is not likely to suit the people of the United States so well, nor is it probable that the views of the British foreign minister will be adopted in this country as finally settling the question. Sir Edwin Grey approaches the topic solely from the standpoint of what is better for Great Britain in its position as ruler of the seas at peace and a rather perplexed belligerent in the present war.

No complaint has been made from this side that the blockade cuts off enemy traffic. That is to be expected. What is really objected to is the interference with traffic between neutral ports. The right of neutrals to traffic freely has never been questioned, and even the British cabinet admits it to be fundamental, but a practice has sought to abrogate it. Holding that strictly neutral traffic is subject to interference is a peculiar extension of the principle under which the right to visit and search has been established. It is not supported by the practice of the United States during the Civil war, although that is referred to continually by the British cabinet in its communications and other expressions on the point.

No objection will be raised if the Allies blockade a Dutch port or a Scandinavian port that is dealing directly with Germany. What is seriously objected to is the interception of traffic of neutrals between neutral ports. To admit the correctness of Minister Grey's present position is to concede the ancient British boast, "no flag but by permission floats."

Shipping Bill and Politics.
President Wilson indicates his purpose of pressing again the administration shipping bill, which failed at the last session of congress. Some changes in the measure have been tentatively outlined, one being that under the new plan the government will build and own the ships, and lease them to operators. Assistance to builders will also be provided, under conditions that will give the federal government the service of the vessel in event of war. In the main the features of the measure that were so objectionable are retained.

The urgent necessity for the measure at this time is hardly apparent. American shipyards are all busy, and none will take a contract for delivery short of two years. Therefore, unless the bar against foreign-built vessels is removed, the president's pet measure will be of little service and if it be made possible to buy ships abroad, the money will be spent in foreign shipyards, a course that would not altogether be foreign to democratic administrative practice. As to building the merchant ships in the government navy yards, naval vessels authorized two years ago to be constructed in these yards have not yet been laid down. The shipbuilding industry was never so prosperous as at present, price were never so high and vessels never sold so readily. A project recently broached, that our government buy the German ships interned at New York and other American ports, developed the fact that not only do the Germans decline to sell, but that they are busily constructing more ships.

The president's insistence on his program suggests that he is trying to make political capital out of a situation brought about by the war. A far more useful program would be to provide for the extension of the government navy yards, to increase their capacity.

Despite the extra millions needed to finance preparedness, democratic economists are not passing up a chance for congressional pork.

The Frost on the Window

It is a beautiful sight to see genius at play. I saw such a start the other night, and it convinced me or would have done so if I had needed to be convinced, that Edison's definition of genius, as nothing but "hard work, stick-to-it-iveness and common sense," is utterly wrong, and can only be regarded as a modest disclaimer.

The incident occurred on a railroad train. It was a cold night and the frosted windows resembled squares of sparkling white paper. Just ahead of me was a little boy, who might have been 10 years old, though he looked too tiny for 10, notwithstanding the big spectacles that he wore.

He was facing me, seated with his father and a younger brother. The whitened glass caught his attention, and his dreamy look came into his eyes, and then, slowly, his right hand was lifted and poised before the pane. One could see an idea shaping itself in his mind.

Then his forefinger touched the glass and left a mark, meaningless for all but himself. Several rapid strokes followed, making other marks, all equally unintelligible to an onlooker. Sometimes the slender little finger hesitated, and remained poised for half a minute, moving this way and that in the air, as if a measure were being taken mentally. Then it would fall with decision and a sharply defined black line, or spot, would appear.

It was several minutes before a few swift color-distinguishing strokes suddenly revealed the plan that had from the beginning been in the boy's mind, and now everybody around sat up and took notice.

On the frosty background stood forth a human face, striking, expressive, true to nature, grinning, humorous—a caricature in which the exaggeration of the lines was only such as an experienced artist would have used, so that the whole effect warmed the passengers who had been looking on into smiles and nods of appreciation, admiration and astonishment. Whispers ran around, delighted chuckles were heard, necks were craned, people got up to look from across the aisle.

In a word, genius had suddenly proclaimed its presence in that prosaic place: had, after its manner, applied its magic to the first materials that came to hand, and immediately mediocrity bowed to it on all sides. There were two intelligent-looking Chinamen on the opposite side of the car, and their delight was pleasant to see. Genius crosses all race lines and appeals to universal human nature. Oud Confucius himself would have smiled and applauded if he had been there.

Meanwhile the boy was unaware of the admiration he was awaking; his attention was absorbed in what he was doing, and he was doing it because he couldn't help it. A spark of a Raphael, a Rembrandt, a Michael Angelo, a Hogarth, was burning in him, and it turned the cold rime into a picture that made the spectators forget the chill air and drew them together in the cozy warmth of human sympathy.

Of course the little artist must have had instruction—the certainty of his strokes attested that; but it was equally clear that his force operating was born in his own soul, a free gift from nature, and not the result of "stick-to-it-iveness" or simple "hard work." For genius all work (in its line) is play, and all play is work.

After a while he drew another no less effective picture beside the first one, and for half an hour he was the same unconscious master in that car, exercising a mysterious power over all minds. Then the train stopped at a station, the boy's father helped him on with his little overcoat, and he disappeared from many admiring eyes in the outer darkness.

Immediately afterward a slouching young fellow, with a half-burned cigarette hanging from the corner of his mouth and an air of "up-to-date" impudence and unintelligence, flopped himself into the seat that the boy had occupied, cast an uncomprehending glance at the drawings on the window, flung his head drunkenly against it, and with a swoop of his hat obliterated the creation of genius.

It is better that genius should be a gift and not an acquirement. A world full of nothing but geniuses would be uncomfortable, if not uninhabitable. All men are created equal in their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; but they are not equally gifted. Yet all have gifts of some kind, and the secret of happiness is to find out what your particular gift is and then develop it to the utmost.

You may have talent, if not genius; and talent, which is peculiarly subject to the benign influence of hard work, often leads to far greater success (of the kind that is most widely esteemed in this world) than genius can attain. So when you see genius don't let it awaken envy in your soul, but take your share in its gift by enjoying its achievements.

Twice Told Tales

Cause of the Collapse.
The foreman employed by a big contractor rushed into the office of the boss, wild-eyed and palpitating. "Boss," said he, in a greatly agitated voice, "one of them new houses of ours fell down in the night!" "What's that?" exclaimed the boss, jumping right up and beginning to take notice. "What was the matter? How did it happen?"

"It was the fault of the workmen, boss," answered the foreman. "They made the mistake of taking down the scaffolding before they put on the wall paper." Philadelphia Telegraph.

People and Events.

Unusual courage or an unyielding temper enabled a patient in a Fishers, Mich., hospital to commit suicide by holding her breath. Pulmotomes were used to no avail.

A Philadelphia bridegroom committed suicide when his bride asked him to wipe the dishes. Probably he realized a bridegroom had to do something to get his picture in the papers.

What's the good of working when one must give as alimony two-thirds of the pay check? An Atlantic City man is in jail meditating on the question. Meanwhile he is not bothering about his board bill and the ex-wife is not getting her divvy.

The Hon "Cyclone" Davis, congressman from Texas, explains that his collarless necktie fashion is a real health promoter. Years ago his brother nearly strangled himself, while delivering a speech, with a stiff collar around his neck. Then and there Cyclone resolved that tyrant fashion would never get a chance to restrict the free play of his vocal pipes. The new collars donned at Washington readily expand under air pressure.



The Prescription for Preparedness

SUPERIOR, Neb., Jan. 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: I hear so much said of late about preparedness. I have a scheme which I am sure will work to perfection—it has never failed yet when tried—and that is to put the good old straight republican party in power for the next fifty years, and then no nation on earth will dare to attack us, for they know that the G. O. P. will fight, and knows how to fight, and knows that if any of them start anything, we will not only lick them, but will take their little old territory away from them. They also know that the democrats can't fight and are absolutely opposed to annexation of any more territory.

Now as to candidates, I want to say that I positively will not vote for any republican who straddles and announces himself as a candidate on the republican and progressive ticket. Has a bullmoose any right to vote in a republican caucus? Answer. W. L. HILYARD.

Backs the Nurse to the Limit.

OMAHA, Jan. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: I mean in your issue of the 27th the statement of the nurse who had spunk and principle enough to tell of conditions at the City hospital.

I have no doubt she will be lied down, but she should not be. Patients and parents should stand by her until there is a change in the management of the hospital. I know one parent who feels sure they lost the baby letting him be taken to the City hospital.

Anyone who starts anything with a city official has my sympathy. They can't win, because the clique is too strong. They do things exactly to suit themselves. All the taxpayers can do is to pay for it. Mrs. Joslyn can get the poor dumb brutes taken care of; praise her name. But an ordinary citizen can not get a poor little stepchild taken care of. "Billy" Sunday never said anything truer than when he said Omaha would be a good place to live if a lot of the people who had it by the throat would die or move away.

If I can do anything to help avenge the mothers who have had their babies mistreated, I'll be there, if it is money or muscle. I am sure it would be muscle back of a road club if it were my child. MRS. H. LOHRMAN, 217 Ogden Avenue.

The Shame of Georgia.

OMAHA, Jan. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: In Georgia the genuine Yankee state—not in Mexico—the American citizens were murdered by so-called respectable Georgia citizens, whose parents have probably landed in this country from the Mayflower. Has any one of our senators or representatives in Washington who so vehemently demand intervention in Mexico also demanded of the federal government to intervene—and once and for all to put a stop to the murdering by the mob in Georgia?

What happened in Mexico? Nineteen American citizens were murdered by a band of armed outlaws, over which the de facto government of Mexico has not as yet any control. In Georgia, however, something worse happened. In Georgia the past year there was no revolution, there was no battle fought between contending armies. Georgia has a responsible government, and yet in the last year seventeen American citizens entitled to the protection of the government have been murdered. There is no revolution in Georgia now, and yet within the last month five American citizens were lynched by a mob. It is true the five were negroes, whose lives are not greatly valued in America, particularly so in the south; but when it comes to lynching the Georgia citizens are not so particular. They lynch white men as well as black.

Georgia is not Mexico; Georgia is a proud, free state. It is proud of its history and its laws, yet in the last few years more American citizens were murdered in civilized Georgia than in the barbarous Mexico, where there has been a bloody revolution, and no government.

In the last five years over forty American citizens were murdered by a Georgia mob and not a voice heard demanding the intervention of the Washington government.

The Mexican bandits will eventually be punished as soon as the present Mexican government will establish itself more secure; it will not take very long until American citizens will be safe in Mexico. Will American citizens also be safe in Georgia? H. A.

Light on Scarlet Fever Situation.

OMAHA, Jan. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: I am in full accord and harmony with the health office and heartily endorse the views of the medical profession that all precautionary measures should be taken to check the spread of scarlet fever in the city and every means at their disposal should be used to stamp out the disease, which at present seems to be prevalent in Omaha, but it seems to me that the figures as given out by the health office either need revision or an explanation is due to the public.

According to the "official" statement when the commissioners met with twenty-five invited physicians to discuss the scarlet fever situation in Omaha, the following figures were given out by the health department: One hundred and eighty-two houses are under quarantine.

Fifty-three patients are housed in the Emergency hospital on lower Douglas street and twenty-four are convalescent in the temporary hospital on Lake street and 2,700 children are at home and not attending school.

Now let us analyze the figures. One hundred and eighty-two houses are quarantined. Allowing four persons to a house and presuming that all four are afflicted with scarlet fever, which is by no means the case, we would have 728 cases of scarlet fever in the homes. Fifty-two additional cases are in the Emergency hospital on lower Douglas street and twenty-four are convalescent at the Lake street station, which would give us the sum total of 804 cases of scarlet fever in Omaha.

The health office makes an additional statement that 2,700 children are kept away from school and are at home. The office of the superintendent of instruction, who keeps a strict account of all cases of scarlet fever, as reported from the health department, reports, however, only ninety-four cases of scarlet fever among school children from January 1 until January 25. It can readily be seen that out of the 2,700 for one cause or another kept away from school, only ninety-four have scarlet fever; the balance, or nearly the balance, are afflicted with "headache"—seared to attend school (where they would be safer than roaming in the streets, attending moving picture shows etc.).

The whole mass of figures given out by the health department is a terrible confusion, conflicting with each other and

contradicting one another. The long-sought information, the persistent clamor of the public for the true condition of facts, the real status of the scarlet fever situation in Omaha are, after all, a terra incognita and the public is in the dark today as to the true condition of the so-called "epidemic" as it was before the "official" figures were given out. DR. E. HOLOVITCHNER.

Editorial Snapshots

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Useless army posts and useless navy yards will probably never disappear until the idea of city manager has spread to the national government.

Boston Transcript: Diplomats whose countries are not at war have been invited to both the state dinners at the White House. The only case of historical record where it pays to be neutral.

Washington Star: England has been turning American securities back into this country more rapidly than was expected. Baron Astor has not, however, been called on to throw any United States properties into the market.

New York World: Five negroes, all Americans, were taken from the Worth county jail at Sylvester and lynched, but no United States senator has introduced a resolution calling for intervention in Georgia by the United States. The negroes were hanged to the limb of a tree and their bodies riddled with bullets, but congress in its wrath is not clamoring for the instant invasion of Georgia by federal forces to vindicate the rights of American citizens.

GRINS AND GROANS.

"The cave-dweller would seize a woman by the hair and drag her to his home," commented the best man at the wedding.

"Yes," replied Miss Cayenne. "In those days hair was more natural and furnished a reliable grip."—Washington Star.

Mrs. Gramercy—You really must sign the peace petition getting up.

Mrs. Park—I think it's just lovely, my dear, and I'll sign it as soon as my husband gets rid of his war stocks.—Puck.

DEAR MR. KABIBBLE, MY HUSBAND HAS LEFT ME. HOW WOULD YOU GO ABOUT WUNTING FOR HIM? WITH A CLUB!

"Now, children, I want to see how much you remember of your lesson. Are your fathers mammals or invertebrates?"

"Please, teacher, mine is a republican."—Baltimore American.

Miss Hunter—Weren't you surprised when you heard about my horse running away with me?

Mr. Jullier—Not very. I'd do the same thing myself if I got the chance.—Philadelphia Evening Ledger.

"Say, old chap, are you fond of moving pictures?"

"I should say so."

"Then come round to our house next Tuesday, and give a hand. We're moving that day."—Chicago Herald.

IN A RUT.

E. A. Guest, in Detroit Free Press. Same faces every day I see, The same old tasks to do, I know tomorrow's going to be The yesterday I knew.

Though other fellows higher climb And prosper, I remain the same, A settled fixture all the time And not a mile I gain.

Sometimes I feel that I am tied And bound by circumstance, That in a field of labor wide I've never had a chance.

Only the narrow roads of life My feet have ever trod; Without a thrill I face the strife, A soulless human clod.

And long ago I ceased to dream Of splendors that might be, My eyes gave up the glorious gleam Of future victory.

I used to wonder now and then What time might have in store For me and all my fellow-men, But I do that no more.

Each day is like the yesterday, Each year a year of grind; Along my narrow, dreary way There's nothing new to find.

I see my neighbors proudly claim New pleasures as they go, But all my joys remain the same And not a whit I know.

Do such thoughts ever come to you? Do you rebel at night Against the tasks you have to do, And dread the morning light?

Then rouse yourself and break away, No door to you is shut, Your trouble is that day by day You're sticking in a rut.



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