

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
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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, 1913, was 52,068.

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

Not even the weather man can guess right every time.

Still, December rain will wet the ground, preferable as snow would be.

With Jenny and John, the Lind household may be sure of a permanent place in history.

Banks are the most prompt of all correspondents. If you do not believe it, just overdraw.

Florida strawberries are reported to be available at 75 cents a quart, but that does not help out the egg situation.

The "safety first" propaganda has spread from land to sea, not, however, because it has entirely conquered the land.

No, the "old west" has not completely vanished. Bank robbers still go on horseback instead of in autos in a few places.

Says an amateur philosopher: "The candidates that get beat on election day are strong for the recall." And that's no lie!

Huerta persists in saying the United States will do nothing, but he is evidently changing his mind about Carranza and Villa.

"Mr. Bryan has shown that he knows how to forgive and forget," observes Senator Hitchcock's newspaper. Stop your coddling.

Some of his South American admirers have presented the colonel with a fine horse. What he really went out to get, though, was an elephant and a donkey.

The experts keep telling us that the tango is all right if properly danced. More than that, every couple that dances are dead sure they dance properly.

The secretary of war calls for an additional military appropriation of \$10,000,000; the secretary of navy for three dreadnaughts. Then some folks persist in saying that Mr. Bryan and his dove of peace are the whole cabinet.

An author of note assures us that the novel which aspires to be among the six best sellers "will not be linked permanently to the garbage can." Of course, this is no admission as to the present condition of our popular fiction.

Some friend of Governor Cox of Ohio is making a big-to-do over the fact that the governor has re-declared fifty-seven ante-election pledges—"fifty-seven varieties, mark it down." But is it such a remarkable thing for a democrat to redeem a campaign promise?

According to Coburn of Kansas, the wheat acreage planted right now is the largest in the state's history, and its condition the highest since 1908. That's something to build on, and we take it that substantially similar report could be made for Nebraska.

The 18-year-old clerk in New York who stole \$50,000 has gone to Sing Sing for two and one-half to four years. Something is wrong with the management of a business concern that makes it possible for an untried youthful subordinate to get away with \$50,000.

Still, if some of the effort toward laying a foundation for municipal ownership of all public utilities were directed toward reducing the "robber" rates for service from the water works, already municipally owned, the appearance of consistency would be more striking.

Why Not Do it Now?

The special law committee appointed to advise the forthcoming meeting of the republican national committee of its powers and limitations reports that the committee has no expressly conferred authority to change the representation ratio, but that there is nothing to prevent it from calling an intermediate national convention to make the desired change.

With due respect to the high character and ability of the committee, and without questioning its findings of law, we may doubt the wisdom of its conclusion. The fact is that there is no precedent for either proposed action, and if the national committee calls an intermediate convention it will be striking out on new ground just as much as if it were to change the apportionment—in fact, more so, because it has changed the apportionment once or twice in minor detail, subject to subsequent ratification by the next convention.

If a new and more equitable apportionment is wanted, it is merely a question of the best and quickest way to accomplish the result. The party organization corresponds most closely with our federal and state system. If the national committee were to go ahead with a satisfactory reapportionment plan—submitting it, as congress submits a constitutional amendment, to be effective as soon as approved by the state organizations of three-fourths of the states—there would be no trouble about it whatever. When thus adopted, no one could question the legality of the procedure or take exception to it. The next convention would then be made up on the new plan, whereas the proposed intermediate convention, called on the old apportionment, would renew and accentuate the very inequalities of representation we are trying to get away from, and we have no assurance they would be corrected without a sharp conflict.

The Mothers' Club Idea.

In addressing the Mothers' club of the vicinity of Monmouth Park school, Miss Tobitt, city librarian, said: I regret to say that some patrons of the library read many books, but remember little or nothing of what they read. The children ought to be taught to think about what they read and they ought to be helped in choosing good books to read.

If the mothers will take that information and advice seriously and apply it consistently the effect will be a substantial warrant for the existence of such an organization as a mothers' club. Like any other good advice, its real value lies in application. In the light of Miss Tobitt's timely suggestions it is easy to conceive of large usefulness coming from this or any similar mothers' club. The Bee has but recently called attention to the extreme importance of directing the child's reading, which should be done with just as much care and vigilance as exercised in the selection of his bodily food. The education given the child at school is by no means all the education he needs and the mothers' club idea suggests a link for coupling up the home with the school in a way that is productive of much good.

This thing of devouring books, but not digesting them, is bad for young or old. Not infrequently one hears a man mention the many books he has read, as if that were something to boast of. Quality counts more than quantity in book reading. Careful discrimination and thoughtfulness must be gained from reading or the reading is vain.

Federal Corporation Law.

Manufacturers of the middle west have again projected the plan for a single federal corporation law instead of the many state regulations affecting their business. The time, however, is perhaps not propitious with congress under absolute control of the democratic party, always the party of state rights. The manufacturers, like the common carriers, doing interstate business, naturally would prefer one system of regulation to forty-eight, although it must be said they have not as a rule courted control of any kind or come to their present position entirely without some spurring-on from rather rigid state laws.

But the manufacturers are entitled to be taken at their word now and may be expected to produce some strong argument for federal preference to state regulation of interstate business. "There is a plan of reformation, legally and commercially, fair and reasonable alike to all," says the president of the association. "I believe that congress has the power and should exercise it to enact a general national corporation law, equitably and comprehensively fashioned and available to all corporations that engage in interstate business." Eventually such a step will have to be taken, even though it wait until the democrats are unhorsed. The whole tendency of governmental relations to corporations points that way and the people are not apt to ignore forever modern principles merely for the sake of preserving an antiquated theory of states rights.

Cheer up, the sun shines even in Oregon, every now and then.

Looking Backward This Day in Omaha

COMPILED FROM OUR FILES

DECEMBER 6.

Thirty Years Ago—General Winfield Scott Hancock was a visitor to Omaha today, coming in two special cars with a party, including Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Foster, Mr. Russell and Mr. Barbour in one car, and McKensie, Bowell, minister of customs for Canada, his wife, two daughters, son and servants in the other car. They were met at the transfer by General Howard, and proceeded west at noon.

The English Lutheran Sunday school is rehearsing a cantata to be produced in the holidays. A. E. Patrick has opened an office at 318 South Fourteenth street, where he is putting on the market a new addition to the city named "Patrick's addition." The addition covers twenty acres on Saunders street, only a quarter of a mile from the present street car terminus. Mrs. E. P. Davis, 104 Chicago street, wants a girl for general housework. New officers of engine company No. 1 are Charles G. Hunt, president; George A. Coulter, vice president; D. W. Lane, secretary; W. J. Whitehouse, treasurer; J. Herrold, foreman; George Shields, first assistant, and L. E. Cassidy, second assistant. M. A. McNamara returned from a business trip to Salt Lake City, Ogden and other western points.

As a special inducement to smokers Max Meyer & Co. offer fresh imported cigars at from 6.50 to \$50 per 100.

Twenty Years Ago—Rev. Frank Crane of First Methodist church was laid up with the influenza, otherwise lairdie.

Peter F. Dalley and his "Country Sport" company left for Chicago.

Nate Elliot was downtown for the first time since he was taken sick some three weeks ago.

County Clerk Sackett returned from Illinois, where he visited his old home for two weeks.

Councilman Sol Prince fathered a resolution at the city council meeting to set aside December 21 as the day for the normal opening of the new city hall. The plan was for an elaborate ceremony.

Judge Dundy of the federal court refused to allow John M. Thurston's request for an annual salary of \$18,000, to each of the five receivers of the Union Pacific. The judge said it was folly to allow any such exorbitant amount for the work falling to these gentlemen. He was indisposed to name a definite figure until he saw what they really did, but he felt certain that \$18,000 was too much.

H. Victor White and Mary S. Moore obtained license to wed on the morrow.

Ten Years Ago—George E. Pritchett discussed the "Property Rights of Women" before the Omaha Philosophical society. The trend of his observations was that women enjoy increasing larger rights with the advance of modern times.

Idea M. Tarbell's scathing Standard Oil articles were being advertised in the columns of The Bee, adorned by John D. Rockefeller's photo.

R. O. Willis, editor of the Bemer Times, put in the day in St. metropolitan.

Judge J. H. Lindale of West Point is in town.

The Elks held their memorial for the departed dead at Lloyd theater. The first address was made by Frank S. Howell and Frank Crawford read one written by W. H. Thompson of Grand Island. On the flower-decorated stage among the others sat Messrs. Howell and Crawford, Arthur C. Wakeley, Major R. S. Wilcox, Lytle Abbott, Lulu Gibson, John L. Kennedy, Charles L. Saunders, Thomas Kilpatrick and H. Vance Lane.

It was reported in railroad circles that a plan was on foot looking to the absorption by the Northwestern of the Minneapolis & Omaha railroad, already, in fact, a part of the Northwestern system.

United States Senator Charles H. Dierich spent the day at the Her Grand.

People Talked About

Nathan Melinek, 12 years old, has astonished St. Louis by chanting Hebrew psalms and orthodox ritual for three hours without a break.

One Dr. Burgess, operating the "Atom Radio Medical Institute" of Chicago, achieved the topnotch medical speed by turning out a full-fledged "doctor" in four seconds.

By a flawless system of exchanging transfers properly purchased, conductors on the Chicago & Joliet electric "knocked down" more than the company would stand for and twenty of them were arrested in one day last week. When working in form, one expert is said to have averaged \$1.35 an hour.

From a pugilist to a preacher in one year's time is the record of Mark Beer of Wickboro, Pa., who recently preached his first sermon in the Brethren of Christ church. Beer a year ago was a pugilist, but he experienced a change of heart, and his friends predict for him a successful career in the ministry.

A committee of congressmen on a trip of inspection to the Panama canal sailed into a gale in the Gulf on the way down and were given an awful shake up and down and otherwise rudely maltreated. Every member coughed up with more pain and weariness of spirit than he ever experienced by alarums an election night.

Governor Cole Blaise of South Carolina continues scoffing at justice and society. Last week he pardoned a batch of 100 convicts, twenty-eight of them serving life sentences for murder and twenty-eight for manslaughter. Even by working overtime the courts cannot keep pace with the governor's speed as a pardoner.

When Gilbert Somerset of Los Angeles, Cal., received a notice that an "unstable" addressed to him, he had been deluged in the postoffice there he did not think it worth while to furnish a cent for its transportation, but a second notice induced him to provide a stamp. The letter contained a check for \$1.50.

Whenever in feeding hard coal into the furnace a thought of the cost intrudes, forget the thought and draw whatever consolation you can from the fact that your luxurious style of heating also warmed the "cockles of the hearth" of Lackawanna stockholders who have drawn a 20 per cent dividend this year.

"I expect to be doing my regular duty as a police officer when I am 100 years old," said Oliver Naughton to friends who congratulated him on his ninety-third birthday. Houghton, who has served continuously on the Weymouth (Mass.) force since the civil war, is probably the oldest policeman now in active service in the United States.

In Other Lands

The Kaiser's Troubles.

A succession of administrative troubles that has been the soul of the Kaiser mark the closing year in Germany. The revelations at the recent Krupp trial showing the close relations between militarism and the gun foundry proved exceedingly annoying. Of course, the chief distributor of the gun foundry pelf and two grafting army officers were convicted, but conviction only partially paved the way for the blasting light turned on the manufacture of war scares and the sympathetic bond between militarism and the making of guns and armor plate. Moreover, the revelations furnished abundant reasons for scoffing at official patriots appealing for increased appropriations. The outbreak of indignation at the opening session of the Reichstag, last Wednesday, though provoked by race riots in Alsace, had its taproot in the Krupp scandal and in the growing burden of military and naval expenses. For forty years the conquered French provinces have been a source of irritation to victor and vanquished. French in origin and association, the residents resolutely refused to be Germanized. Like the Poles in Prussian Poland, they resisted quietly every attempt to alter their racial customs. Military rule, intensified by the customary harshness of the conqueror, served to strengthen the determined resistance of the natives, which occasionally overleaped the bounds of restraint, as the Zabern incident illustrates. On top of these annoyances leaps the high cost of living, which has turned an opulent imperial treasury balance into a deficit, necessitating the sale of one of the Kaiser's palaces.

Deadly Lure of Gold. Colonel W. C. Gorgas, the sanitary conqueror of the Panama canal zone, is speeding to South Africa in response to an invitation from the authorities of the South African union to consult with them on ways and means of reducing the appalling death rate among employees in and about the gold mines of the Rand. According to the Government Gazette, in the first three months of the present year there were 209 deaths from accidents on or in the mines, and these figures simply represent the normal rate, over 1,000 a year. In the same period there were 2,059 deaths from diseases among the miners, including both natives and whites. During the ten years ending December 31, 1912, the number of natives who died of disease while actually working in the mines was 52,250, and the number killed or injured in accidents was 16,555. And in the last five years 33,105 were "invalided" home—sent away to die. The minister of native affairs recently described the death rate among tropical natives at the mines as "little less than murder"—it had then reached 118 per 1,000; and in the houses of the assembly it was stated by Mr. Maitseley that at some of the mines the death rate among whites employed underground was no less than 100 per 1,000. Truly the awful toll of life is a mighty price to pay for the huge golden dividends poured into British coffers.

Nestor of Modern Rulers. Emperor Francis Joseph completed on Tuesday last the sixty-fifth year of continuous rule of the Austro-Hungarian empire. This constitutes the record reign of modern times. A searcher of bygone monarchial scores digs back to Rameses II, the sorcerer of Greece, who held his throne sixty-seven years, for a credible record of equal length, but that was thirty centuries ago. In the early years of his reign Emperor Francis Joseph authorized or permitted a great deal of shooting and flogging. On one occasion the mother of a victim of his shooting squad, crossed the emperor in scaling Lermo, and his career is a remarkable fulfillment of that mother's condemnation. As an illustration the London Everyman cites the tragedy of the square of Queretaro, where his brother and ill-fated Emperor Maximilian faced a Mexican firing party; the tragedy of the Vatican, where his sister-in-law, the Empress Charlotte, lost her reason, never to recover it; the tragedy of Meyerling, where his only son died in his shame with his mistress; the tragedy of Paris, where his step-in-law, the Duchess d'Alencon, perished in the flames at the bazar de la charite; the tragedy of the Pacific ocean, where his relative, "John Orth," vanished, leaving no trace or record; the tragedy of Geneva, where his wife was struck down without warning by the assassin's dagger—all these things could be represented as so many stages in the untiring and undeviating march of Nemesis.

Affairs in China. On the eve of conflicting reports of doings in the young "republic" of China, one fact does quite clear—President Yuan Shih Kai is the whole works. True, he has a cabinet, an executive senate, and other job holders, but what Yuan says goes without argument. He opens and closes the debate, and no understrapper possessing any regard for his neck questions the wisdom of Yuan's policy. He is the center of the government, and he has substituted an appointive body of a few members. Embarrassing sections of the constitution were repealed and others substituted without the bother and expense of a primary. Offensive party opponents and rebellious army officers have been silenced with the axe. Confucianism has been proclaimed the religion of the people. The army is in process of reorganization, and every looting agency has been touched for funds to finance the government. The "ideal republic" of China is a dream of yesterday. The dictatorship of Yuan Shih Kai is the reality of today.

Crime in London. The report of the commissioner of police of London for the year 1912 challenges the attention of peace officers of American cities. During the year in that city of 2,800,000 people there were twenty-three murders. In every case the murderer was arrested. Nine of them committed suicide. They knew that trial meant conviction, and that conviction meant the death sentence and execution. General technicality is discredited over there, and appeals and delays rarely are permitted to sidetrack the hangman's loop. Four murderers await trial. Five were tried and adjudged insane. The other five were convicted and sentenced to death, and the sentence has been executed. The record is a tribute to the certainty and celerity of justice with the bar on.

Room for Improvement. Cleveland Plain Dealer. Now that the senate is to be composed of men elected by the people it may decide to do away with its antiquated rules of courtesy and the privilege of unlimited debate, thereby transforming itself into a real legislative body.

As to Convention Reapportionment

From article by Victor Rosewater, Editor of The Bee, in December Political Science Quarterly.

After reviewing the history of delegate representation in republican conventions, the five different schemes of reapportionment that have been offered in the past are taken up. It is explained that "all consideration of the subject is on the assumption that we are to continue our present mode of election, at least for the immediate future, by the mechanism of convention nominations and electoral college balloting, and that nominations by a nation-wide presidential primary and election by direct popular vote are still more or less remote." The article then concludes: "For the 1916 convention the republicans have conditions confronting them which were not within the purview of any of these reapportionment plans when proposed. No one pretends that the vote polled for the republican candidate in 1912 would furnish a fair basis for any of these apportionment schemes. Every one knows that in two states the republicans were deprived last year of even a large place on the ballot. In many states large numbers of republicans voted the democratic ticket or the progressive ticket with no intention of permanently abandoning their own party, and they expect to participate in the next presidential preliminaries—in fact, the very purpose of reorganization is to bring them back. The strangest thing is that the southern states, for the most part, whose over-representation had precipitated the trouble in the last election than would several northern states priding themselves on being the bulwark of the republican party. To go back to 1908 for a basis of representation would hardly supply the deficiency, for under normal stress the changes of eight years would alter relative values, and it is certain 1908 returns do not now reflect the distribution of the party's strength between and within the states and territories.

"Still another new development demands consideration, and that is the change in the body of the electorate. If the disfranchisement of the blacks in the south vitiated the allotment of delegates on the electoral college plan, the enfranchisement of the women in other states, almost doubling the number of voters, has there set the pendulum as far in the other direction. A congressional district in California, for example, elects but one member of congress (being apportioned on the basis of population) and adds but one member to the electoral college, but in choosing convention delegates such district, if awarded an additional delegate for each 10,000 votes or major fraction, would have two for one as compared with the nonsuffrage district. The unfairness of this disproportionate representation would differ only in degree from the unfairness of giving to southern states convention delegates for disfranchised blacks voters shut out of the polls at the election.

"Still another new condition must also be borne in mind, although the obstacle thus presented is perhaps local. Quite a few of our states have enacted legislation purporting to govern the election of national convention delegates. In my own state of Nebraska, in Wisconsin, in Oregon, and I believe also in other states which have similar statutes, this law provides for the choosing of delegates for all political parties at one primary election, and in the same manner. As drawn it calls for the election every fourth year of four delegates-at-large and two delegates in each congressional district; in other words, all these laws assume the permanency of the existing apportionment. If they control they must be changed to meet any change promulgated by the party itself. It should be mentioned that able lawyers wholly deny to the states any power to legislate over national convention or to fix the representation of the state in such conventions. It is, however, not necessary in this connection to explain the reasoning or to pursue the point they make.

"One may concede the injustice of the present apportionment and yet reply that it is easy to criticize and to pick to pieces. It is a proper and pertinent question to ask what one has to offer in its place. From my study of the subject I am convinced that the national nominating convention should rest on the same dual basis of equality between the states and proportion to numbers as does the national legislature in its two branches. I would retain the delegates-at-large for the states in double the number accorded each congressional district one delegate with the right to earn an additional delegate, or delegates, by substantial contribution to the voting strength of the party. To avoid the disproportion arising from the varying suffrage qualifications in the different states, I would compute the ratio, not by absolute number of 10,000 votes, but by a proportion, say 20 or 25 percent of the entire vote for president cast in each particular district. If the vote were doubled then by the inclusion of the women, the percentage representation would still maintain the parity. In the matter of the territories, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands, which delegates shall have a voice in the convention, but no vote either in the convention or in any of its committees.

"The advantages which should commend this proposal, as I see them, may be briefly enumerated: "(1) It insures a national, as against a sectional, party organization. It does this by according delegate representation in the convention to every state, congressional district and territorial possession. "(2) It makes party strength a main,

HARNESSING THE RIVERS.

W. J. Lampton in New York Sun.

"Little drops of water, Little grains of sand, Make the mighty ocean And the beautiful land." Little drops of water From the sea arise By evaporation Up into the skies. Little drops of water, In the form of rain, Presently are coming Back to earth again. Little drops of water, Soak into the sand Making creeks and rivers All throughout the land. Little drops of water, In the rivers run Over falls and rapids Sparkling in the sun. Little drops of water, Don't seem very strong In the falls and rapids As they dash along. Little drops of water, Just the same are those Which, combined together, Run the dynamos. Little drops of water, Every day and hour Gathering for the struggle, Make electric power. Little drops of water, Tiny at their source, Bring to man the wonders Of a mighty force. Little drops of water, Little grains of sand, Don't know any better, They can't understand.

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