

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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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 average daily circulation for the month of March, 1914, was 51,641.

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War by any other name is just as horrible. Arbor day almost slipped by this year without making its presence known.

John Lind seems to have had a rather important message to deliver, after all.

Fletcher did it with almost the same neatness and dispatch that Dewey did it.

Down at Vera Cruz four centuries of history since the first invader landed loom up in the background.

It is the irony of fate that the clash of arms should come with our foreign affairs in charge of the great apostle of peace.

On the military map Vera Cruz is so much bigger than Tampico that the naval strategists could see only one shining mark.

In the heat and excitement of war, do not forget that Omaha's ball team copped the first peaceful battle of the season at home.

It is a hundred-to-one shot that nine out of ten house members voting out the mileage grab expect the senate to sidetrack the calamity.

Enlistments for the political campaign will give war temporarily until it is known whether enlistments are required for the military campaign.

Still, it might be possible for a patriotic member of congress to vote "Yes" or "No" without making a glib play speech for home consumption.

The conference of democratic editors of Nebraska transformed itself into a session on the distribution of pie. Just an outcropping of early piety.

Even some senators and congressmen seem to be imbued with the peculiar idea that we cannot have a war without first passing a declaration-of-war resolution.

Wonder what has become of the inventive genius whose reports from Mele St. Nicholas thrilled the American union sixteen years ago? Duty and glory awaits him at Tampico or Vera Cruz.

The gallant warriors of the Colorado militia, who have been deprived of that desperate enemy, "Mother" Jones, are without valid excuse for further delay in merging with Coxe's army.

April 23, 1846, sixty-eight years ago, the first blood was shed in the Mexican war at the present site of Brownsville, Tex. The stage is now set to tempt a repetition, though the dates may not coincide.

Railroad papers "point with pride" to the "incontrovertible showing" made by President Rea in support of increased freight rates. A salary of \$100,000 ought to inspire a superior line of defensive tactics.

"No political colonels," shouts Senator Hitchcock's newspaper. Now, whom can he have in mind? Surely not the colonel of the Third Nebraska who won fame and glory in Spanish-American war history.

Upper Farnam street property owners had a session with the council committee on streets and bridges on the appropriation for damages for proposed grading, over 100 being present. A. D. Jones presided and John Hampton acted as secretary. Those who participated in the discussion included T. W. T. Richards, Martin Dushane, Joseph Redfield, Cyrus Ross, G. W. Ambrose, Charles Hartman, Dr. C. L. Hart, Fred Behm, J. M. Thurston, B. E. Hall, E. Rosewater, E. L. Emery and Andrew Rosewater.

The reported abandonment of the Union Pacific base ball club seems to turn on objections entered by higher-ups against Sunday games, but it is expected that the trouble will be adjusted, and the club go ahead with the season's program.

A postal card from Amsterdam announces the safe arrival there of Max Meyer and his wife, now traveling abroad.

The Chautauque circle meeting enjoyed an entertainment contributed by Mr. G. W. Ryan, Miss Della McDonald, Mr. George A. Pritchard, Rev. C. W. Scaville and Miss Emma Finch.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Boyce have given up their residence in Omaha. Mrs. Boyce going to visit in the east and Mr. Boyce to Montana to close up some business. They may return in the fall.

It is announced that Deputy Marshal Ed Gorman is to be continued in charge of the city jail.

The Seizure of Vera Cruz.

The successful seizure of Vera Cruz by American marines has followed the announced plan of the president even faster than was expected.

The president persists in the view that the landing of marines at Vera Cruz is not an act of war, and that there is yet hope that warfare, in the comprehensive sense of the term, may be avoided.

Vera Cruz is the main seaport of Mexico, in practical reality the port of entry for Mexico City, the national capital. Shutting off the outlet to Vera Cruz closes the main artery of traffic and communication in and out of Mexico City.

But taking possession of even one port of Mexico raises our flag in a foreign country. It opens up wide the question how much further that flag shall be carried and how long it may stay there, questions on which everyone will speculate, but which cannot have their answers for the present.

Junkets and Near Junkets.

The three-shell confidence man used to say, "Now you see it, and now you don't see it. Which shell covers the little white ball?"

Of course, that has nothing to do with the difficulty of telling the difference between a legal junket and an illegal junket, a junket and a near junket, an excursion for which the public official must foot his own bills and an excursion for which he may reimburse himself out of the public treasury.

We now have rulings by a learned judge of our district court which says that junket money drawn by a city commissioner or a school board officer must be put back, but that junket money drawn by a water commissioner may be safely pocketed.

Will Warring Mexicans Unite?

"If war is thrust upon Mexico the United States will find that it will have a foe that will fight bitterly to the last ditch," says Cesar Canecco, Mexican consul in Chicago, voicing the general sentiment that federal and rebel forces will unite if war is prolonged.

"I do not believe it possible that the United States will invade my country over such a trivial matter as whether salutes to national flags should follow each other or be given simultaneously," continues the sophisticated Senator Canecco. No, any invasion by the United States will not be over a trivial matter. It will be because of the intolerable prolongation of turbulence, plunder and murder of American citizens and other foreigners by both federals and constitutionalists, the destruction of commerce, the overthrow of government, the reign of anarchy, all to the sullen defiance of civilization.

But as to a speedy union of the now antagonistic forces in Mexico, which ordinarily would follow foreign interference, it is not so imminent nor certain because the lines of internal dissension have become deep cut. If we must have more war in Mexico before we can have peace, it will make no difference to us whether the Mexicans get together first or last. Mexico can enjoy stable and orderly conditions only through a government that is acceptable to all its people, and such a government cannot be had while insurrection and civil war continues.

Saving the Babies.

While Omaha has been having its "baby show" Chicago is planning a "babies' week," both enterprises indicating a healthful state of public interest in the coming generation.

It is interesting to note, in this connection, that all such ventures tend to raise the common question of "eugenics." Now, it is true that some good and conservative folk already have begun to look askance at that word "eugenics," only because, however, the idea back of it has been belittled in some quarters by some very absurd procedures. It embodies an ideal, however, at which we may well aim, that ideal being expressed by the American Society for the Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality—"to save every baby that is born."

"No more political colonels!" Well, Nebraska has a democratic governor right now, and no one can be made a colonel of a Nebraska regiment except by his commission.

The Bee's Letter Box

Asks Which to "Dirty" Business. OMAHA, April 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: Collier's "Slightly Weekly," in commenting on the last installment of a recently deceased wholesale liquor dealer, who bequeathed his fortune to his heirs on condition that they would not engage in the liquor business, reaches the conclusion that such proviso was made by the testator because he did not want his heirs to be in such a "dirty" business.

The testator may have had entirely different reasons for putting that provision in his will, but the chances are that it merely improved the opportunity for indulging in one of its weekly poisonous flings at the liquor business, which as usual includes the "amalgam" manufacturer. It does not seem to occur to Collier's that not less than 90 per cent of our grown male population (let us call them voters) use wine, beer or whisky in some form or other temporarily, thereby creating a demand for its manufacture, and that if the sale and manufacture is a "dirty" business, it is induced by 90 per cent of the voters who create the demand. Even in prohibition territory—"dry"—at least 70 per cent of the voters use liquor more or less. Why does not Collier's, if it wants to destroy the liquor traffic, attack the consumers who create that "dirty" business, and without whom it could not possibly exist? Every club, every host serving liquor to his guest, according to Collier's is engaged in a "dirty" business.

The Byron Reed collection here contains some of the account books of George Washington, showing that the father of our country owned and operated a distillery, selling its product, and who, according to Collier's, was therefore engaged in a "dirty" business. A vast proportion of the distilled spirits, from which our government derives some \$100,000,000 annual revenue, is sold through the drug trade, and used very largely for medicinal and other non-beverage purposes, as also a large quantity of wines. The distillery here does business with some thirty wholesale druggists and has some fifty or more hospitals on its books, but its manufacture, according to Collier's, is engaged in a "dirty" business. Yet the United States government through its public treasury collects one-third of its total income from that "dirty" business.

Collier's purpose, of course, is obvious. It copies the plan of the Anti-Saloon League, through glaring misrepresentations, to stigmatize without distinction the men engaged in a "dirty" business, the real objectionable features of which are entirely beyond the control of the manufacturers, and entirely the fault of the people who, through their duly elected officials, allow them to exist. The evident purpose of such tactics can only be to create prejudice and false impression by hearing false witness.

The dirtiest business of all is that of destroying the character of another. "Who steals my purse steals trash; but he that filches from me my good name, robs me of that which neither heaven nor earth makes poor indeed." The men engaged in that dirty business are the publishers of sensational papers, against whom the injured individual has no redress. If, in the failure of the law to punish or prevent such abuses of the press, a person so assailed should, in defending his good name injure the publisher of such libelous "news," and if I should sit on a jury trying his case, I would be tempted to say "not guilty."

OMAHA, April 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: Miss Helen Cudahy is not going to be a nurse, unless she can find an easy position. She started to take a three-year course, but she says three months probably will be enough for her. There is too much work to the job, and she does not have to work. Papa Cudahy's millions make it unnecessary.

People and Events

Richard Croker has been given the freedom of the city of Dublin. But he cannot break the privilege as he worked New York. The American society for thrift offered a prize to school children for the best definition of thrift. The prize was won by Hazel Haag of Warren, Pa. Her definition was: "Thrift is management of one's affairs in such a manner that the value of one's possessions is being constantly increased."

The claim of London that Charles Cross station is the busiest traffic spot on earth, handling 15,000,000 passengers yearly, is rebutted by The New York Times which gives Boston's South Station a year record of 2,547,300 passengers. Grand Central Station, takes second place with a record of 2,400,000.

Our Former Mexican War

The Start, the Finish and the Profits

Sixty-eight years ago this month the United States precipitated war with Mexico, which continued from April 25, 1846, until September, 1847, and added 613,250 square miles of territory, exclusive of Texas, to this country, an area nine times as large as the State of Nebraska.

The southwestern boundary line of Texas, whether the Rio Grande or the river Nueces, was the primary cause of the war, but back of it was the stimulus of "Manifest destiny," the acquisition of New Mexico and California and the spur for revenge for the massacre of the Alamo. President Polk assumed the right to decide upon the Rio Grande as the boundary without Mexico's consent.

Scott was general-in-chief in Mexico. He had 8,500 men. Santa Ana, his opponent, had 12,000. Scott landed his force at Vera Cruz. There our navy helped him by pecking away at the ancient fort of San Juan de Ulua, which had made much trouble for Hawkins and some of the other old-time treebooters. Scott put his men ashore by means of surfboats. On March 27 he had them in motion, and moreover somewhat increased his force by drawing on Taylor.

August 7 he set out for the capital, which by this time was defended by some 30,000 men. A series of engagements followed this movement. August 18 and 20 three battles were fought, namely, those of Contreras, Churubusco and San Antonio. These were really parts of one general engagement. Let it not be imagined for a moment that the Mexicans did not fight. They fought here with bravery and stubbornness. But in the end they were completely routed. Pursuit of them reached to the very gates of their capital.

Both these positions were carried by assault and the Mexicans driven from the field. The next two days were given to the assault of Chapultepec. Batteries were played on both sides for this purpose, and September 13 a simultaneous assault was made.

Twice Told Tales. He Knew. In a small town on the outskirts of Boston, Mass., a patriotic Hebrew had amassed a small fortune by selling framed pictures, after that well known revolutionary painting, the spirit of '76.

Getting Used to It. An amateur charity worker, visiting a family in the tenement district, was alarmed to see the mother dash a cup of cold water in the face of the baby she had just finished dressing.

GRINS AND GROANS. Magistrate—Can't this case be settled out of court? Mulligan—Sure, sure. That's what we were trying to do, your honor, when the police interfered.—Brooklyn Life.

Mr. He never made any effort to support himself. "Oh, yes, he has. To my certain knowledge, he's proposed to every girl with money he knows."—Baltimore American.

Mr. "Doesn't it give you a terrible feeling when you run over a man?" they asked him. "Well, if he's a large man," replied the automobilist, "it does give me a pretty rough jolt."—Ladies Home Journal.

Mr. "Mary didn't like my Easter hat." "Why?" "She said it made me look so old." "Yes," she meant the exact opposite.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mr. "Norris—Can you break a twenty for me? Noyce—if I could I should break a record."—Boston Transcript.

Mr. "Marcellus—Mr. Beaubrun is the most awkward person I know. Whenever he kisses anybody it sounds like a pistol shot." "I've never noticed anything of the kind." "Waverly—Seems to me it's more like a blunderbuss."—Judge.

Mr. "Your valet went on strike, did he?" "I hope you didn't accede to his demands?" "Oh, my life, I had to, old chap, the cunning creature actually threatened to leave me one morning when I was half dressed!"—London Opinion.

Mr. "Taking down your rural free delivery box?" "Yes, I've got to put up something bigger. Since I began getting grindstones and wheelbarrows by parcel post."—ONESTI DOO.

Mr. I find that what I need is a storage warehouse.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mr. "Inez—Why didn't you arrest that burglar who was found under your bed?" "Inez—He said that if I wouldn't have him arrested he'd never tell how dusty he got."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Mr. "Miss Young—What in your opinion is the best time for a girl to marry?" "Miss Elder—Whenever the man is willing."—Indianapolis News.

Mr. "Employer—Good morning, Robert. I hope all your family are well this morning." "Office Boy (unsuspectingly)—Yes, sir, thank you. Employer—I'm glad to hear it, Robert. There is to be a base ball game this afternoon, and I was afraid it might have a fatal effect on some of them."—Boston Transcript.

Mr. "CUPID EXONERATED. The affair of David and B. N. T. was the best time for a girl to marry?" "If you are not wise to the facts in the case—But I happen to know." Friend David may pose as a love-lorn buffoon. With more talent for whining, that would be enough.

Mr. "But B. N. T. isn't bothered one bit for she happens to know." Friend David may boast of a Roman nose. And common sense—but oh! They belong to a certain bachelor mold that I happen to know.

Mr. "Then don't mention Cupid in this debate for he hasn't once used his bow." "Take this for a fact from the pen of one who happens to know."—ONESTI DOO.

OMAHA COFFEE NEWS. Price. Just for the sake of argument, let's agree that you can buy a "fair grade" coffee for 25 or 30c per lb. But we won't admit it's good quality.

Our April Piano Clearance Means Big Savings to Buyers! Come in as soon as possible and let's talk pianos. It's to your interest to get the very best piano your money will buy.

Hayden Bros. Price list: 1 Steinway \$300, 1 Hardman \$150, 1 Kimball \$150, 1 Weller \$175, 1 Vose & Son \$200, 1 Miller \$125, 1 Schner \$100, 1 Sveck & Kelso \$125.