

THE OMAHA EVENING BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.

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DECEMBER CIRCULATION 53,534

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss: Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average circulation for the month of December, 1915, was 53,534.

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

Smoke usually indicates more or less fire, also a punk job.

Sorry, Mr. Ground Hog, you couldn't see your way clear to stay awhile.

In proportion to its size the groundhog beats all in physical power. Note how easily it "throws the bull."

The farther President Wilson moves from the scare belt the greater the need for gravity of speech.

The cold wave mistakes the intention. Omaha's "welcome" sign is not an invitation for a permanent visit.

The most interesting part of the preparedness talk will come when congress throws the harpoon into the taxpayers.

Brevity of details mark the British accounts of Zappella raids. "Merrie England" is getting a drop too much for its nerves.

Perhaps the district judges made a mistake in announcing so publicly that there would be no grand jury called this year.

Germany said it would defy the British blockade and denounced it as pure bluff. The Appam incident fits action to the words.

Still, it is only fair to credit Mrs. Wilson with being part of the attraction bringing out such crowds to see and hear the president.

In substance, though not in exact words, the president adopts the Roosevelt motto: "Speak gently and carry a big stick." The joy of Oyster Bay may be imagined.

Why all this fuss and fuming about getting petitions for office-seekers? Anybody can get a petition for any place on the ballot if he has the time and the industry to do the necessary autograph collecting.

The smug complacency of the British in hammering the knuckles of neutrals is bound to produce a jolt if persisted in. Straining patience is risky business for a nation with its hands already full of trouble.

Boasted cost of living aroused war passions in Lisbon, provoking riots which quickly reduced the stocks of food factories. Portugal has not been a republic long enough to get the spirit into the system sufficiently deep to pull off a job comparable with Youngstown, O.

The glorious climate of California deftly plucks the laurels of the cyclone belt to enrich its sunshine museum. Last Thursday a native saphy whiskered around the oil regions of Fresno and leveled 225 derricks. It was going some.

The public mind and public morals will welcome the relief which comes with the final interment of the O'Connor remains at Hastings. The long and fierce legal battle for the dead man's estate conveys to the living the importance of heading off public scandal by making a will.

Fortunately for the truth of history British censors cannot successfully bury the achievements of Zappella raiders in a paucity of words. The German account of the last raid invests the event with sonorous raiment and an atmosphere of picturesque rarity unobtainable on lower levels.

The Union Pacific plainly made a mistake in boosting the passenger rate over the little stretch of line in Nebraska that criss-crosses the Colorado desert. Better change your mind like the president and restore the 5-cent rate before any more damage is done, especially as there is not enough in it for the road to fight for.

High salaries are tacked on to public jobs as a means of attracting superior talent. When the New York public service commissions were created salaries of \$15,000 a year, based on the plus, were secured. Superior talent was attracted, but two members credited to Tammany failed to make good the high salary theory—one was ousted for committing perjury regarding his stock holdings, the second faces indictment for soliciting a bribe. Liberal salaries rarely restrain palms itching for "easy money."

Traced Down to the Source.

President Wilson makes known in very plain words his resentment of the charge that it is the greed of the munitions makers that principally inspires the campaign he is leading for preparedness.

Yes, and the responsibility for the impression that the preparedness movement has its main spring in the munitions manufacturers rests nowhere so much as on papers like the World-Herald, that have been continuously spreading that very idea. It is not so long ago that in equally double-barreled onslaughts, it proposed the slogan, "Take the Profits Out of Arms Making," going on to declare that the only way to do this was to take the whole business over as a government monopoly, which, as The Bee then explained, would be playing right into the hands of the munitions men, who would be only too glad to unload their junk at war prices before the conclusion of peace.

The other chief inspiration of this charge which the president resents may be traced to Mr. Bryan and his Comenar, calling for letters of protest to the president and members of congress against preparedness measures on the ground that preparedness is solely for the benefit of munition makers. Mr. Bryan is skillful at playing on popular prejudice and had made much of this appeal.

It is unfortunate that the president has to devote so much of his valuable time to overcoming the obstacles to his program—set up by pretended friends in his own democratic camp.

New Light on Old Treaties.

One of the most interesting by-products of the war is the impetus it has given to research in the archives of the State department at Washington. Two incidents have arisen that are dealt with under provisions of treaties concluded with Prussia almost a century ago. Prussia was then an independent state, since become a part of the German empire. That the agreements so long ago made have not been superseded is a testimony to the tranquillity of the official relations between the two governments. It has something more significant in its message, though, and that is the need of overhauling the pigeonholes in the State department, and ascertaining just what lurks hidden there. It is apparent that the whole of our agreements with other governments ought to be revised and made to conform to the newer and greater position we hold in the affairs of the world. This will be a worthy task for the secretary of state when the readjustment comes after the war.

Keynote of Preparedness.

Ability to "make good on your talk" is about the way President Wilson summed up the whole doctrine of preparedness in his speech at Des Moines. It is readiness to support protests by such means as will make them effective. This is the basis of order in established society of any grade. It is not the law itself, but the certainty that the processes of the law will be operative that makes it the controlling agency for general good. Until we have strengthened our government by supplying something more efficient than moral right or force of logic to uphold its position on great questions, it will be liable to flouting from nations that are ready for the ultimate emergency. Moral suasion is not yet the dominating influence in the affairs of man. The time may come when it will be, and its arrival will not be seriously retarded by the United States making such preparation as is prudently needed for national safety.

"Giving Up" the Philippines.

The administration measure, dealing with the Philippines, now before congress, appears to have been put together for the purpose of fooling even the Filipinos. Ostensibly a bill designed to settle definitely the attitude of this government towards the islanders, and to fix a policy of development that will lead to independence for the Philippines, it settles nothing. It contains promises as empty as air, and as insincere as any the democrats have made the Filipinos these last fifteen years. What purports to be a pledge to grant full independence within a definitely fixed time is hedged about with such provisions as finally will leave the question as open as it is today. Other suggested reforms are as idle and as inefficient as the moves already made by the administration, which has gone so far in the direction of overturning what had already been done for the advancement of the islanders. The democrats do not, apparently, dare take a decided stand on this question, but cunningly offer something that means nothing. It is so clearly a subterfuge with which to coven voters the wonder is that even desperation would lead the democrats to resort to it. However, it may secure some support for the president in his extremity, but it will do the Filipinos no good.

A Word to Letter Box Contributors.

Just a word to our letter box contributors so they may understand better the rules we are compelled to lay down for our own protection to govern this popular department.

In the first place, the limited space available makes brevity and conciseness imperative in order that it may not be monopolized by one or two to the exclusion of the many. We, therefore, ask our readers to hold their letters down to 300 words, reserving the editor's right to condense those that overrun.

Again, this column is for the discussion of current topics, but not for personalities and re-orientation, nor for mere personal exploitation. This last includes attempts to smuggle in advertising disguised as letters to the editor. It also includes the promotion of campaigns for candidates seeking nomination to political offices.

Inasmuch as we cannot possibly return letter box communications unless specially requested, we make this explanation for those who might otherwise wonder why their letters fall of being printed. We want it understood, however, that we invite and urge our readers to make free use of the Letter Box, subject to these necessary restrictions.

The identity of the Mexican liars provokes keen curiosity in Washington. A round robin request for names may be sent to The White House to relieve the tension.

The Story of the Emerald

Garrett F. Service.

A CORRESPONDENT asks where emeralds originally came from; whether they are next in hardness to the diamond, and which are the most valuable.

The ancients obtained their emeralds mainly from upper Egypt, along the western borders of the Red Sea. But since the discovery of America the principal source of fine emeralds has been at Muzo, near Bogota, in the Republic of Colombia, where a mine has been worked for the last three centuries.

Emeralds do not rank next to the diamond in hardness, that place of honor being taken by sapphires. They may dispute the third place with topaz, but they are more certainly ranked fourth, coming between quartz and topaz. It is useful to reckon the hardness of minerals on a scale of 10. The diamond stands at the top, with 10 points; the sapphire is credited with 9 points, the topaz with 8, the emerald with 7 1/2 to 8, and quartz with 7.

The characteristic color of emeralds is brilliant, vivid green. The shades vary somewhat, but only an expert can select among them. The emerald is a variety of the mineral called beryl, whose transparent specimens are also valued as gems. It is a silicate of aluminum combined with the rare element glaucinum.

The colors of beryls are green, blue, yellow, white and reddish. The peculiar rich green of the emerald is due to the presence of a small amount of oxide of chromium. Emeralds, on account of the rarity of the best specimens, are often sold at prices as high as those of diamonds of equal or even greater size.

There is a bluish-green variety of the beryl known as aquamarine, a gem of much less value than the emerald, which is found in many places, including Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Colorado in this country. Opaque crystals of beryl occasionally attain an enormous size. There is a specimen found at Grafton, N. H., which weighs 2,500 pounds, and others weighing a ton or more are known. Of sardis, however, although composed of the mineral beryl, have no value as gems. Other semi-transparent crystals of beryl attain several pounds in weight.

It is an interesting fact that all the most precious stones, except the diamond, are compounds of the common element aluminum. The diamond stands by itself in not being a compound, but a pure element (carbon), in the form of a transparent crystal. The hardest of all known things, it is also the most brilliant, depending for its beauty not upon accidental colors derived from extraneous sources and chemical blending, but solely upon its own marvelous power of splitting up and dispersing the light waves, and displaying their gorgeous spectral colors. It is a natural spectroscopic.

The great aluminum gems, on the other hand, owe their beauty mainly to inherent colors, so that each of them is monochromatic. The curious fact just referred to, viz.: that except the diamond, all the finest jewel stones are based upon aluminum, comes out clearly in the following list:

- Diamond—Pure crystallized carbon. Sapphire and Ruby—Oxide of aluminum, colored by traces of metallic silice. Emeralds and Beryls—Silicate of aluminum and glaucinum. Chrysoberyl—Compound of aluminum and glaucinum. Topaz—Complicated silicate of aluminum. Garnet—Silicate of aluminum. Turquoise—Phosphate of aluminum.

All of these gems, with the single exception named, owe their colors to impurities, and not one of them is an unaltered element except the diamond. Yet the splendor of the single color exhibited by a fine emerald, sapphire, topaz or ruby is often so effective that the market price of any of these stones may, in particular cases, exceed that of diamonds. These softer stones also lend themselves to the gem-carver's art. Emerald has sometimes been cut into various forms. Nero is said to have had an emerald lens, which he wore in a ring. There is at Florence, Italy, a miniature portrait of Ludovico carved out of a ruby.

People and Events.

A New York youth, fascinated by stories of reformed high life at Sing Sing, set fire to a tenement house in order to get into the penitentiary.

Force of habit, buttressed by sentiment, keeps gold coin in circulation in San Francisco. It is the last surviving "gold city" in the United States.

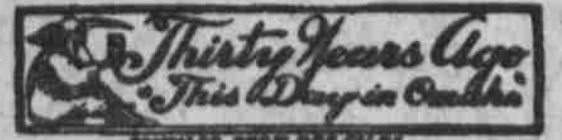
The appearance of long whiskered caterpillars in Connecticut is esteemed in the Nutmeg state an un-falling sign of a long February and a late spring.

Dorothy Tread, 16, of Pittsburgh, laughed so hard at a leap year joke that she dislocated her jaw. A doctor's clutch convinced her that leap year is no joke.

Fourteen patients were frightened away from a dentist's shop in Detroit by a nearby fire. The incident suggests the need of fire extinguishers among other dental facilities.

Magistrate Patay Maguire of Alton, Ill., a noted marrying squire, insists on moderation and dignity while receiving the money. Dying rush hours one day he is the limit allowed bridegrooms in his office. More than that interferes with business.

A troop of hammer-wielders, eager for exercise, are beating a distant tattoo on the expense bills of the New York state commission to the San Francisco exposition. The chairman of the commission, Norman E. Mack, indicates his displeasure by assuring the knockers the bills will be turned in when the commission is ready. The main thing is that the appropriation of \$70,000 has been blown in as it was intended to be.



The cold wave flag has been ordered down, which indicates that the worst of the storm has passed. Nevertheless it was 19 degrees below zero at sunrise and the mildest during the day was 5 above at 3 o'clock.

The program of the Ladies' Musical society was given on the piano by Miss Bella Robinson, assisted by Mrs. Ella J. Rogers, vocalist, and Martin Cahn, pianist.

William Allstadt has resigned from the management of Ed Maurer's bottling establishment to become local agent for it.

Undoubtedly the oldest person in Omaha is said to be Mrs. Augusta Douglas, residing at Twentieth and California, who, next May, will be 100 years old. Her daughter, Mrs. Hall, now visiting her from Colorado Springs, is 77 years of age, and there are grandchildren and great-grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A. E. Marriot, recently of Chicago, succeeds Mr. Freeman as night clerk at the Millard.

John Grant, western superintendent of the Barber Asphalt company, is home from a visit at Washington.

The Nebraska Commandery of the Royal Legion held its second meeting since its organization. After the routine work, Captain Humphrey read a paper on "Gettysburg as I Saw It."

A reception was given by the Metropolitan club to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Cahn, recently married in Chicago.

Guy C. Barros, J. J. Brown and J. W. Gannett have purchased the interests of Messrs. Paxton and Boyd in the Omaha Savings bank and as the directors' meeting Mr. Barros was elected president and Mr. Brown vice president.



Contributors must again be admonished not to exceed 300 words. We have lately been compelled to excise a large number of letters because altogether too long.

Commander in With the President. OMAHA, Neb. 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: Who is the commander-in-chief of our army?

Answer: According to the constitution the president is the commander-in-chief of the army and navy.

Coming Back with Conditions. STAMFORD, Neb. Feb. 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: I was very much amused by an article by Mr. Jenkins...

DEAR MR. KABBIBLE, I'VE BEEN ENGAGED TO A POOR GIRL FOR 8 YEARS. SHE HAS SUDDENLY BECOME RICH. DOES IT LOOK AS THOUGH I'M TRYING TO MARRY HER FOR HER MONEY?

IF YOU TRY TO RUSH THE WEDDING ALL OF A SUDDEN, IT WILL!

They say the widower who has just been married again was all broken up when his first wife died...

Mother (reprovingly)—Tommy, you've been fighting. Didn't you count twenty as I told you when you got angry?

Free Press and Free Speech. NORTH PLATTE, Neb., Feb. 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: Referring to Hon. James Pontius' article on free press...

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Why Money Earns Interest. OMAHA, Feb. 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have been trying to explain to a young sister of mine just how one can put out money at interest and realize dividends on it, but somehow I fail to make her understand and wondered if you could give an example or in some way simplify it so that I could explain it to better advantage.

Stealing a Husband. DENVER, Colo., Jan. 31.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have since was noted the article in The Bee from the pen of Dorothy Dix, "Stealing a Husband an Easy Undertaking."

Answer: Investment money is merely a token of value. When you loan money, you really loan what the money buys; the borrower, if he is in business, for example, is borrowing the goods which he sells at a profit, and he can afford to pay part of the profit as interest on what he borrows.

The Negro is Politic. OMAHA, Feb. 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: The bureau of census has issued a special bulletin on the negroes in the United States which throws high lights on the growing political strength of the negro in Douglas county.

The Hot Springs of Arkansas are on the beautiful Government reservation—their virtues are endorsed and their use is controlled and regulated by Uncle Sam. To his fine army and navy hospitals here he sends his soldiers and sailors for rheumatism, liver, skin and stomach troubles and they go away cured.

Business Men's League. Hot Springs, Ark. Please send booklets.

Persistence is the cardinal virtue in advertising; no matter how good advertising may be in other respects, it must be run frequently and constantly to be really successful.

typically American and quick to recognize certain pecuniary advantages in contributing their support to men who stand for policies that affect their vocations.

"Our childhood ambitions are seldom realized." "Too true." "Life with me is just the reverse of what I thought it would be."

Uplifter (at front door)—Wouldn't you like to take the initiative—Wouldn't you like to take the initiative—Wouldn't you like to take the initiative—

"Your love," he said, "would give me the strength to lift mountains."

"Do you mean to say you only paid \$50 for that frock?" "Yes; but that, of course, was without the trimmings."

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621 Residents of Nebraska registered at Hotel Astor during the past year. 1000 Rooms. 700 with Bath. A cuisine which has made the Astor New York's leading Banqueting place.

Dr. Lyon's PERFECT TOOTH POWDER. The only dentifrice with a measuring tube that scientifically insures just enough powder.

The Hot Springs of Arkansas. A Winter Holiday Worth While. one you'll return from with a better health and bigger enthusiasm...

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