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DECEMBER CIRCULATION.

#### 53,534

State of Nebraska. County of Dongtas, as: Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the sverage circulation for the month of December, 1915, was 13,104. DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager, Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this sih day of January, 1936.

ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Ades 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

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 Zeppelin 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 Appato incident fits action to the words.

Still, it is only fair to credit Mrs. Wilson with being part of the attraction bringing out of man. The time may come when it will be. such crowds to see and hear the president.

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

Why all this fuse 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 completency 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 bands already full of trouble,

Boosted 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 jeb comparable with Youngstown, O.

The glorious climate of California deftiy plucks the laurels of the cyclone belt to enrich its sunshine museum, Last Thursday a native sephyr whisked around the oil regions of Fresno and leveled 526 derricks, It was going

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

Fortunately for the truth of history British censors cannot successfully bury the achievements of Zeppelin 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 unattainable on lower

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 corner. Better change your mind like the president and restore the 2-cent rate before any more damage is done, especially as there is not enough in it for the road to fight

High salaries are tacked on to public jobs as m means of attracting superior talent. When otherwise wonder why their letters fall of being the New York public service commissions were erested salaries of \$15,000 a year, based on the sea, 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 helting a bribe. Liberal salaries rarely restrains 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 .-World-Herald.

Yes, and the responsibility for the impression that the preparedness movement has its mainspring 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 Commoner, 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 tranquility 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 readjustent 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 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 cozen 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 recrimination, 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 of-

Inasmuch as we cannot possibly return letter box communications unless specially requested. we make this explanation for those who might 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

CORRESPONDENT asks where emeralds origi-A nally came from; whether they are next in hardness to the diamond, and which are the

The ancients obtained their emeralds mainly from upper Egypt, along the western borders of the Red Ses. But since the discovery of America the principal source of fine emeralds has been at Muzo, near Rogota, 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 topax, but they are more certainly ranked fourth, coming between quarts and topax. It is usual to recken 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 topas with 8, the emerald with 716 to 8, and quartz with 7.

The charactertistic 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 gluci-

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 axide 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 2,900 pounds, and others weighing a ton or more are known. Of course, these masses, although composed of the mineral beryl, have no value as gems. Other semi-transparent crytals 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 nat-

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 our clearly in the following list:

Diamond-Pure crystallised carbon. Sapphire and Ruby-Oxide of aluminum, colored by traces of metallic exides. Emeralds and Beryls-Silicate of aluminum and

Chrysoberyl-Compound of aluminum and glucinum.

Topas-Complicated silicate of aluminum. Garnet-Silicate of aluminum.

quoise-Phosphete of aluminum All of these gems, with the single exception named owe their colors to impurities, and not one of them is an unmixed element except the diamond.

Yet the splendor of the single color exhibited by a fine emerald, sapphire, topax 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 gemcarver's art. Emerald has sometimes been cut into various forms. Nero is said to have had an emerald ens which he were in a ring. There is at Florence, Italy, a miniature portrait of Ludovico Sforza carved

### 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 caterolliars in Connecticut is esteemed in the Nutmeg state an unfailing sign of a long February and a late spring. Dorothy Troud, 16, of Pittsburgh, laughed so hard at a leap year loke that she distocated her jaw. A

doctor's clutch convinced her that leap year is no Fourteen patients were frightened away from a dentist's shop in Detroit by a nearby fire. The inci-

dent suggests the need of fire extinguishers among other dental facilities. Magistrate Patsy Maguire of Alton, Ill., a noted

marrying squire, insists on moderation and dignity while earning the money, During rush hours one kiss 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 \$700,000 has been blown to as it was

The cold wave flag has been ordered down, which indicates that the worst of the storm has passed. Nevertheless it was 10 degrees below zero at sunrise and the mildest during the day was 5 above at 3

The program of the Ladies' Musical society was given on the plane by Miss Hella Robinson, assisted by Mrs. Ella J. Rogers, vocalist, and Martin Calm.

William Allatadt 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, new visiting her from Colorado Springs, is 77 years of age, and there are grandchildren and great-grandchildren and greatgreat-grandchildren.

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

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

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

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

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



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

Command is With the President. OMAHA, Neb. 2.-To the Editor of The Bee: Who is the commander-in-chief of

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. who, like myself, is one of those thou sands of calves who have gotten back I am acquainted with Mr. Rankin and the Jenkins article amused me. I see that Mr. Rankin would be rather in favor of killing the prodigal outright, when it comes to later on the old man had rather view with alarm. What was the trouble down at Chicago in 1912. any way? Really now, do you think it would have been better for us prodigals to have gotten a little Venetian red and oil and rubbed it on our head and swallowed hard and tried to get the dose down even if it had caused some of us to ye up? We had a perfect right to support Theodora didn't we? I don't think there is much in this hero worship business. but how strange that smart man even like Mr. Wilson will campaign against tariff commission, tell us there was no

been hypnotized by Theodore. We're back all right, may be so, but we're alfired independent and believe in majority rule. W. S. HEDGES. P. S. Mr. Hughes looks mighty good Pree Press and Free Speech. NORTH PLATTE, Neb., Feb. 2-To the

Editor of The Bee: Referring to Hon. James Pontius' article on free press in The Bee letter bok, I am going to pay my tribute to him if you will permit me to do so. As an editor he is of the class that deserves to be held up above the type of editors who are tied hand and foot by a crowd who would destroy the heart of our grand old nation if they had the least opportunity, and that heart is free press and speece. When this is mussled you have taken the backbone out of our constitution and there are hundreds who are doing their mightiest to attain that result, and furthermore, any individual who favors the suppression of free press and free speech in bounds of civil law does not show one ounce of American patriotism and should be deported to Old Mexico. Spain or some other seaport where the speech and press is muzzled. Then you would hear him howl like a Nebraska coyote. The press and speech are muszled to some extent here, but, thank God, we have with us a few editors that stand out before the patriotic citizens of our "good old U. S. A." and make their views plain, and their views are as truthful, as sure as the Missouri river is muddy.

If we had more editors like Jan tius and less of the type that hands out the junk as Metcalfe's Nebraskan does you would see a cleaner country in polities and all other things. Such unpatriotism as Metcalfe displays would put us back in the dark ages, and also bring about the same results when our fore-fathers lost tons of blood to wriggle our are opposing our freedom of press speech and worship and all other American free institutions. We have a grand old nation. Let's preserve our constitu tion that is so dear to every American, regardless of politics. If there is any who are stopping in free America who do not like our clean-cut methods of free press, speech and public school handling let them move back. For free-V. A. BRADSHAW.

Why Money Enras Interest. OMAHA, Feb. 3.-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 fall 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.

LEWIS LE MOYNE. Answer: Investment money is merely token of value, When you loan money, you really loan what the money buys; so 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 borrows. That is the explanation of interest, whether the money is loaned directly, or indirectly, by being deposited in a bank, which, in turn, loans it to the borrower who puts it to work.

Stealing a Husband. DENVER, Colo., Jan. 31.-To the Editor of The Ree: Not long since was noted the article in The Bee from the pen of Dorothy Dix, "Stealing a Husband an

Elasy Undertaking." Conceding the logic and justice of her arguments, I would like to ask if Miss Dix thinks that the "other woman" plays fair when she uses these "biandishments and flatteries" (as is usually the case), while the wife is unavoidably absent from her husband? Perhaps Miss Dix has noticed that stealing of any kind is seldom aplished in the light of day-usually in the darkness of night when the victim is asleep and helpiess. JUSTICE.

The Negro in Politics. OMAHA, Feb. 1.-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. In 1910 this county had 2,217 negro males over the age of Il years. The mortality among the negroes was in 1910 just 106, which is a very considerable increase over the death rate of 1900. It is fair to assume from the light of the statistics that less than 50 percent of the whole of the negro mortality was male over 16 years. In the five succeeding years then the Douglas county negro has only a possible loss of 200 males over 16 years by death, while fully twice that number has awelled the Douglas county negro population by influx from other states. Approximately 500 negro males of over 16 years in 1910 have attained their majority and remained in Douglas county. It is a safe estimate that negro males in Douglas county over 21 years is approximately 2,000.

The Douglas county negro does not vote en masse except where a negro candidate in involved. Considerable more political ndence is exercised among them than is true of the alien vote, they being

typically American and quick to recogsize certain pecuniary alvantages in con tributing their support to men who stand for policies that affect their avocations. in a word, the Douglas county negro is politically supersensitive, quick to resent political affront, loyal to political friends, but still susceptible to sound political doctrine. WILL N. JOHNSON.

SMILING LINES.

Uplifter (at front door)—Wouldn't you like to take the initiative—
Lady of the House—We're taking more magazines than we can afford now.—Detroit Free Press.

"Your love," he said, "would give me the strength to lift mountains." "Dearest," she murmurer, "It will only be necessary for you to raise the dust."— Boston Transcript.

"Do you mean to say you only paid \$50 for that frock?"
"Yes; but that, of course, was without the trimmings."
"How much were the trimmings?"
"A hundred and fifty."—Judge.

DEAR MA, KABIBBLE 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." "That is why he was so anxious to be repaired."—Baltimore American.

hurry about military preparedness, hang back on woman's suffrage, no ship subsidy and then come out with such a change of heart. Verily, hath Woodrow

ng this portrait to study your wife's face Patron-Then you'll never get a speak-ing likeness.—Baltimore American

"Our childhood ambitions are seldom

"Inex," she asked of the rather envious bridesmaid who was assisting her, "did I appear nervous during the ceremony?" "Just a little at first," replied ines; "but not after Gerald had said 'I do."—Phinadelphia Inquirer.

#### PESSIMIST BREAKS LOOSE.

There is a land of small delight
Where all we mortals dwell,
Where something pesters day and night
And holidays, as well.
Misfortune's ice is spread afar,
Whereon each mortal slips;
And those who dodge the motor car
Appendicitis grips

While shines the sun man maketh hay, And sunstroke is his gain. He saveth for a rainy day, And io, it doesn't rain. The demon corn gnaws at his feet, Or rain his eyetooth rides. Or something that he's had to eat Disturbs his whole insides.

His wife deletes what'er he's carned
And buyeth flats galore,
And, every time his back is turned,
They raise his taxes more.
Almost before he gets to bed
A new day doth commence,
Full oft he'd wish that he were dead—
Except for the expense.

Such is the life we mortals live-Mother (reprovingly)—Tommy, you've been fighting. Didn't you count twenty as I told you when you got angry?

Tommy—Sure I counted twenty—one number of each punch I gave him.—Puck.

Artist—Mr. Jibbs, I would like in paint—Hard luck knocks all the time.

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