

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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JANUARY CIRCULATION. 53,102

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 January, 1916, was 53,102.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 3d day of February, 1916. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

The scare thrown into Wall street by the president's speeches ended as usual in a "shake-down."

Two Douglas county juries emphasize the motto of the year: "Let no guilty gunman escape."

The lengthening list of primary filings in this state is taking a new spurt. Let one and all come in, for the water in April will be fine.

The compromise "pure goods" bill pending in congress is considerably limited to home consumption, leaving an open door for touching the foreigner.

That recent decree forbidding foreigners buying land in Mexico is a needless precaution. A foreigner desiring Mexican real estate at this time makes a strong bid for a padded cell.

If Omaha ever has to come to a grapple with the railroads on the depot question, or any other matter of essential disagreement, this city has several reserves that have never been called into action.

Two additional preparedness tours are under consideration at the White House, but Nebraska's superior travel facilities are overlooked in both. Thus the Antelope state acquires standing as the Switzerland of the political belt.

While doctors disagree, the patient dies. Is any more forcible argument needed to reinforce The Bee's demand for legislation consolidating all the health and hospital machinery of county, city and school district under one responsible authority?

Pretty near time to get busy with those new school buildings. It is almost a year since the bonds were voted, on the urgent plea that they were needed to replace dangerous buildings, and furnish additional accommodations without a moment's delay.

The prospect of "Brother William" spending a month in Nebraska before the primaries to help "Brother Charley" bodes no good to Senator Hitchcock's aspirations for re-election. Now watch the senator's newspaper proceed to manifest its displeasure.

Mr. Estabrook's manager thinks Mr. Cummins should keep his presidential box out of Nebraska if he does not want to invite the Estabrook boom into Iowa. Well, now this is a free country, and competition is not only the life of trade, but also the life of politics.

For the second time the federal courts affirm the right of the national government to prosecute and punish fraud at elections involving congressmen. The failure of the appeal of Terre Haute's political crooks constitutes a mighty force for honesty at the ballot box.

However, should Uncle Sam decide that Omaha is strictly in the munition factory belt, it is confidently believed real estate men can be induced to suspend their fears and provide a suitable site for the nation's necessities. Patriotism combined with business outweighs prejudice.

An army officer states that fourteen army divisions are needed to defend exposed points on the Pacific coast. If Senator Works' plan of working the defenders a few hours each day in neighboring fields goes through, the estimated force will insure preparedness and provide an inexpensive solution of the labor problem on the coast.

Unusual Tale of the Sea. Many novel stories have come out from the hell-pit of war, but the strangest of all has to do with an adventure at sea. It is so unlike any of the traditions of the seafarer that it is all but incredible. A British trawler captain, seeing a number of Germans, clinging helplessly to the floating wreckage of a Zeppelin, reports that he abandoned them to their fate, because he feared possible capture by the castaways. All the history of the British navy, from the time the islanders first began to paddle about in coracle or corby will not parallel this exploit. Nor is it possible the annals of any other nation will yield a precedent for leaving helpless foes to die because their rescue might be attended by some danger. This Grimby skipper has fairly won a place alongside of "Old Floyd Ireton," who was, "for his hard heart, tattered and feathered and carried in a cart, by the women of Marblehead."

The "Gentleman's Agreement" Among Presidential Aspirants.

Conditions developed in Iowa furnish public confirmation of what has been generally suspected to exist, namely, a reciprocal "gentleman's agreement" of favorite son candidates for the republican nomination not to invade one another's state. The inevitable logic of this unwritten compact is a complete nullification of the principle upon which the presidential primary is built, for it is only necessary for each state in the union to produce its own favorite son and set up an embargo against any outside candidate coming in as a vote seeker, to make impossible a real contest anywhere except in the event that one and the same state begot two or more favorite sons, thus compelled to fight it out for the mastery between themselves.

As the situation is shaping, it would seem that our presidential primary laws instead of helping to secure an expression of the popular choice are really working to prevent it. In Minnesota, for example, where the lists have just been closed, though it presents no favorite son, only three names are to be submitted on the ballot, out of nearly a dozen who are generally regarded as among the eligibles. To say that the result in Minnesota with this limited choice can represent the real sentiment of the republican rank and file is wholly beyond the question, for it can voice merely the preference as between those avowedly seeking the endorsement of the republicans in that state.

We have no doubt that in Minnesota, as in Nebraska, an untrammelled expression would show an overwhelming majority for Justice Hughes as against the whole field, and that the same thing would happen in almost all the states, including the so-called "favorite-son" states, and that this would be true in spite of all "gentleman's agreements" in restraint of political competition.

Dealing with the Appam Case.

The State department is dealing just now with one of the most perplexing cases yet presented for its adjudication in connection with the war. It comes from the presence of the Appam in American waters, and the necessity of establishing its status. The British ambassador urges that it be dealt with under the provisions of the convention of The Hague, which would necessitate restoring the vessel to its British owners. Germans naturally object to this, and Ambassador Bernstorff sets up the clause of the treaty of 1828 with Prussia as governing, under which the Appam is held to be a German prize.

The decision in this case is momentous, because of its bearing on other matters pending before the State department. The Lusitania incident, the Frye case, in fact every maritime dispute now pending between the United States and Germany has been taken up under the Prussian treaty. If it be determined now that The Hague convention has superseded that old treaty, forgotten, but the only one existing between the United States and Germany, it will disarrange all the negotiations so far carried on to settle the disputes. The delicacy of the situation will be appreciated by any who have closely followed the movements of the governments involved. Nor will these be the only incidents, for it may easily be accepted that similar cases will arise during the war. All other treaties are involved as well in the proposition that the general terms of The Hague convention be made superior to distinct agreements between nations. The present case is most serious in its every aspect, and its disposition will broadly affect the whole course of the United States in the present war.

Damon and Pythias Devotion.

"Brother Charley" is just now exhibiting for the edification of his fellow Nebraskans a fine example of brotherly devotion. Bowing to "Brother Bill's" superior wisdom, he meekly puts himself forward as a sacrifice in the interest of kin-dry democracy, and thereby attains the very apotheosis of love that passeth understanding. He will make the race for governor in order that the party may be saved from itself. This result was not arrived at by easy stages. Considerable maneuvering was required in order to get Morehead, Allen and other candidates safely shunted onto sidetracks, but they are there now, and the main line is opened to Lincoln's mayor, who will lead the sanctified hosts of unterrified democracy to defeat in Nebraska. Edgar Howard may be satisfied with the situation, and Mayor "Jim" will back into line with whatever grace he may; but, where will Colonel Maher go with his typewriter? And what comfort can our senator get out of the situation?

Petty Squabbling Costs a Life.

Omaha has just been given a remarkably forcible illustration of the necessity for establishing a public hospital under one control. In this instance the dispute between the city and county physicians as to which should take charge of the case continues while the patient dies. Isn't it about time to stop this pettishness and settle once and for all the question of responsibility in such cases? It ought to be made impossible for this incident to be repeated. It isn't properly a question of expense, for the public willingly bears the charges for succoring the helpless. The city and county are practically one, and the money all comes from the taxpayers finally. Division of responsibility in the matter of hospital and similar charitable service is absurd. A working agreement ought to be reached without much difficulty, and the disgrace of the present situation be permanently removed by legislation as soon as it can be brought about.

And now the Union Pacific sets up the inviolable mandate of the Interstate Commerce commission in defense of its passenger rate boost between Nebraska points on that stretch of its line which cater-corners Colorado. Ticket buyers are told "the Interstate commission won't let us charge any less," and when the commission's ruling favors the road, it never questions it.

Snowbanks and snow blankets ranging from three to thirty feet high in the northwest appear sufficiently robust to deprive the oldest inhabitant of the power of speech.

If Earth Should Run Away

Garrett P. Serviss. THE earth's velocity is nearly 30 kilometers per second, or 18 1/2 miles. If this were increased to about 42 kilometers, or 26 1/4 miles, the earth's orbit would become a parabola, and it would escape from the sun, unless Jupiter or some other planetary policeman arrested it. Of course, the earth's power to attract other bodies, and the power of other bodies to attract the earth, would not be destroyed by the change in the earth's velocity. It would continue to pick up meteors as it flew away, and it might still be attended by its faithful little scarred-faced daughter, the moon, whose silvery smile, however, would grow faint as they receded from the sun.

This question leads into a field of scientific romance of extraordinary fascination, although, to most persons, it is unknown on account of the mathematical hedge that surrounds it. The attraction called gravitation is like a social tie, binding the worlds into communities. A man may run away from his home, but he cannot escape from humanity. So the earth might run away from the sun, but it could never escape from the universe.

As I have already said, it might be arrested almost at the outset of its flight by some great planet like Jupiter. Many comets traveling along parabolic orbits, and therefore apparently safe in their independence, have ventured into the solar system and found themselves caught by passing too near to Jupiter or another planet.

The effect of such an approach, if it be close enough, may be in such a way that the attraction of the planet acts to retard the comet's velocity, is to throw the comet from a parabolic orbit into an elliptical one, and, an ellipse being a closed curve, the unlucky comet is henceforth a sort of treadmill prisoner to the sun, for although Jupiter may make the arrest, it is always the sun that claims and controls the captive.

Another very interesting fact is that an intruder into the solar system captured in that way always has the hope of ultimate escape held before it, as long as it maintains its identity, for the time is almost certain to arrive, in the course of ages, when it will encounter its original captor under such conditions that its velocity will be accelerated, and then it will run away on a parabolic or hyperbolic path, and breathe again the freedom of interstellar space.

This applies to the earth if we suppose our planet to start on its evasion in such a way as to pass very close to Jupiter, and under such circumstances that the attraction of that planet would retard its velocity and bring it down once more within the critical limit of elliptic motion.

The runaway would thus find itself in the fix of a horse that has broken its tie rope only to be immediately caught by a lasso attached to the same post. But the new orbit would probably be quite different from the old one, except that it would still be elliptical.

Suppose that some pull, of unknown origin, should set the earth free. Astronomers would discover the fact at once, and it is safe to say that there would be the greatest excitement on this globe that mankind has ever experienced. "The earth is running away," "Off for the depths of space!" "What is going to become of us?" "Which star is to be our new sun?"

These would be the all-absorbing subjects of discussion in the streets, the forums, the churches, the universities, the social gatherings; while wars, politics and almost all business itself would be forgotten.

Presently, perhaps, the observatories would announce that we were going to meet Jupiter. The huge planet would bar our way like a big traffic guardian, his broad gold shield glaring menace in the midnight sky! He would hurl us, shamed, into the presence of the solar magistrate. Our perihelion might be so close to the sun that everything on the earth would be scorched up; or we might be condemned to circle farther away than before, an offender sent to the planetary Siberia.

As the ages rolled on, if humanity remained in existence it would bitterly lament the change from the genial days of remote antiquity, when the earth basked in just the right quantity of sunshine, with just the right seasonal changes to give zest and interest to life. Now the once happy planet would be a victim of the brutality of its captor, for Jupiter would never forget and never stay his hand, but every time that the unfortunate runaway encountered him (as it could not avoid doing periodically) he would be likely to impress some new and disagreeable change upon its orbit, playing with his captive as a cat with a mouse. We know him, for he has done just that with comets! It would be glorious exercise for his muscles to kick the earth about! And the majestic sun would let him have his way, for the powers that be have no sympathy with seekers after liberty.

Yet the time might come when liberty would, after all, be attained. At some meeting of the arrested and the arrested the former might twirl us the wrong way, and then the tormented earth would at last be off among the stars!

In millions of years it might join the cortege of mighty Sirius, and prune itself in that brilliant company like a wandering sparrow cast into a colony of the birds of paradise.

But, on the other hand, it might stray forever to the cold and gloom of immensity, or become the slave of some hateful little solar tyrant, too insignificant to have ever been glimpsed by the telescopes of its astronomers when, in the glorious past, they surveyed the universe from the safe and comfortable shelter of their own place in the household of their own sun.

Twice Told Tales

Sherlock. The great detective, laying aside professional cares for the evening, is attending a dance. Introduced to a beautiful woman, he asks her to dance with him and she graciously consents. "You have been married several years," he murmurs, after a couple of rounds of the floor. "How could you guess that?" she asks. "I am not wearing my wedding ring. Do I look like a married woman?" "Not at all," he replies, gallantly. "But I knew you were married the moment we started to dance. You at once began doing the leading."—Judge.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

Adelaide Moore held forth in the opera house in "As You Like It" to a large and refined audience. A notable feature of the performance is that it introduced professionally an Omaha girl, Miss Genevieve Ingersoll, for the first time at her home.

The city directory for 1884, just out, contains 23,716 names, making 100 more pages than that of last year. The guessers have the population estimate on the basis of three to a name screwed up to 74,126.

General Manager Callaway of the Union Pacific has gone to New York.

Major General Carsham of Indianapolis, who is the grand head of the uniformed rank Knights of Pythias of the world, is in the city to confer with the Knights of Pythias brethren here.

F. C. Fuller, the well-known railroad conductor, accompanied by his charming wife, left on a vacation trip to Florida.

John Jenkins, newly appointed city boiler inspector, has resigned his position in the mechanical draughting department of the Union Pacific, and received from his fellow-employees a handsome gold watch charm inscribed with a testimonial of their esteem.

Captain Ledderman, the well-known steamboat man of St. Louis, is expected in Omaha in a few days, for the purpose of making arrangements to furnish this city with a steamer for the coming summer season.



Mutually Appreciated. OMAHA, Feb. 4.—To the Editor of The Bee: Kindly accept thanks from season and people of Third Presbyterian church for the space given in your paper to our pastor's sermon of January 30. ALEXANDER GRAY, Clerk of Session.

Where "Net" Draws the Line. OMAHA, Feb. 4.—To the Editor of The Bee: Your correspondent, Mr. Bradshaw of North Platte, seems to labor under the impression that I am not in favor of free speech simply because I have advised against the public discussion by one man of another man's religion.

I would hardly say those who are familiar with my writings that I am in favor of a free press and general discussion among men with respect to all questions of public interest. The columns of my paper are open to every one for comment upon every subject—except religion.

In my opinion it is an entire waste of capable effort and valuable space for one man to hammer away at another's religion. It only serves to wound the person whose religion is assailed. No one is drawn from that religion by attacks upon it. When we stir the attention of the discussion of these things their prejudices are so aroused that they have little time or inclination for the discussion and denunciation of the real evils which fill this old world of ours.

I do not question the right of any one to engage in this pastime. I only think it is a waste of time and I would like to see Nebraska take the lead in the creation of the sentiment that the religious belief of a man is his own affair and a subject upon which friendship and co-operation for the general good are not to be interfered with.

RICHARD L. METCALFE.

The South to Harmonize Republicans.

SOUTH SIDE, Feb. 4.—To the Editor of The Bee: Like W. S. Hedges, "me, too," yesterday's Bee, I do, however, believe the republican committee made another blunder for the party when it says the field is open for all accept T. R. He is no "dead one." I want to tell you, and he can again elect Wilson if he chooses to do so. But I believe he is too great a man and too patriotic a citizen to again "show" the republican party. I believe like Mr. Hedges, that Judge Hughes is the man that can harmonize the party, and if he chooses to be the next president of the United States, and as I wrote him, he owes all he got to the republican party, and should be willing (at this time) to serve the party. Mr. Root and others are great and broad enough to be president, but cannot be elected on account of opposition. J. G. BLESSING.

Oil-Electricity-Water Power.

NORTH LOUP, Neb., Feb. 4.—To the Editor of The Bee: It would seem that manufacturers of gas engines and automobiles might realize the supreme importance of developing the water-power sites of the country by the most substantial process—namely, by government ownership. The exceedingly large output of gas engines is consuming very rapidly the products of the great oil and gas fields. Lubricating oils must come from petroleum, and the present uses of the heavier oils for fuel purposes should be strictly prohibited. If the policy may affect the present oil companies that matter may be adjusted. But the present policy of speculation and exploitation must very soon consume the products of the oil fields and we will be possessed of a few millionaires and the experience and history of some politicians who do not know enough to pound sand.

The prices of oils are now far below what the prices must be if the present exploitation is not quickly prohibited. When the prices of oils reach a certain limit the output of gas engines must accordingly be governed. We are now told that electric current is being made at Panama for one-eleventh of 1 cent per kilowatt hour. At that price, which may be reduced still farther, a manufactured fuel for the gas engine may be made at a continuous low level of prices. Too much of the policy is now practiced of living from hand-to-mouth and forgetting the future.

The development of water-power should be pursued immediately, with the policy of strictly conserving the oil fields for future purposes. Except a new exploitation be allowed in the oil fields, 25 cents per gallon for gasoline within five years will look like a low price. Hence other power must be developed. Why not write your congressman and senator and say: "Wake up, snakes!" WALTER JOHNSON.

Fire Fighting Apparatus.

OMAHA, Feb. 3.—To the Editor of The Bee: When motor trucks first made their appearance, the manufacturers of horse driven wagons, and hose carts, commenced the manufacture of motor hose trucks; built very heavy, and built like a battleship. The first apparatus was purchased by Omaha for about \$5,000 for each piece. These were built according to specifications furnished by the city and were higher in price on this account. Later on, about two years ago, Dundee purchased a piece of stock apparatus and paid \$5,000 therefor. (Note the reformers of Dundee paid \$500 more than Omaha).

A few days ago the city of New York purchased twenty-two Ford fire chief cars for its department for about \$500 each.

Davenport, Ia., which has some heavy expensive motor apparatus, has also purchased several pieces like Omaha and paid about the same price therefor, or perhaps a little less (\$5,000), all kinds of automobile cars, trucks, etc., have gone off fully 60 per cent in the last two or three years.

Davenport recently bought a number of two-ton chassis trucks from a well advertised manufacturer and has had a home wagon maker place a body on the chassis, the entire two-ton capacity truck costing \$250 for each piece of fire fighting apparatus to convey the hose, men and two chemical tanks and a small ladder.

Suppose Omaha should go into the business of getting something more expensive and get a two-ton truck, something like the Federal, Buick, Paige, Hudson, Hupmobile or any other manufacturer and place a step on the rear, a platform on the side, and couple of short ladders, lights, etc., and the entire fire fighting machinery will cost about \$1,500 for each piece, and give full and complete satisfaction. Why not experiment for \$1,500 and try it out in Omaha. Then in ten years from today conveyances of hose will perhaps only cost about \$1,500 from the manufacturer. Can anyone give a reason why at this time a heavy truck will cost only about one-third as much as a fire hose truck? It's the

sales profit for the manufacturer of apparatus which makes the cost. Will some enterprising Farnam street automobile maker throw a few hundred feet of hose in a truck, strap on a couple of chemicals in a rough way and give a practical demonstration? This will be the convincing proof. Where is the first enterprising dealer to try it out? The firm doing it deserves a big advertisement from the newspapers and Commercial club. Now boys, hop to it and see what kind of advertising stuff you are made out of. Show the people of Omaha what you can and are willing to do. P. S.—Many cities are doing this. Write to Davenport.

National Defense

Washington Post: Every consideration of prudence, based upon the teachings of the past, sustains the republican leader of the house in asking his colleagues to prepare the country for defense while there is peace and opportunity.

New York World: If the republicans of the house and senate measure up to the standard of patriotism defined by Mr. Mann, the preparedness bills will be enacted into law and the necessary money appropriated to carry out the army and navy program.

Chicago Herald: It is the part of elementary prudence to be prepared for eventualities. "We can better afford," as Mr. Mann said, "to spend hundreds of millions of dollars, or a few billions, in ample preparation for trouble, and thus avoid it, than we can to wait for trouble, and then spend untold billions before we are finally victors"—in getting out of the trouble. Had Great Britain been as well prepared on land as at sea, who believes that it would now be spending billions?

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Better millions now than billions later." Of phrase making there is no end. But few phrases carrying an stern lesson to the American people as that used by Minority Leader Mann in the house of representatives on Tuesday have found their way into political annals. The Illinois man is a politician at times, with vision bounded by the party fence. At other times he takes a statesman's breadth of view. It is Mann the statesman, not Mann the politician, who is ready to throw the strength of his militant minority into the balance in favor of reasonable national preparedness.

Chicago Tribune: The republican leader in the house sees the condition of the world, and he does not shut his eyes upon it because it may not meet his approval. He sees the situation in which our country finds itself, and he does not shirk its implications and possibilities. This is the business of the statesman, and Representative Mann has done himself honor and his countrymen a greatly needed service by speaking out with force, uncompromising sound sense, and patriotic foresight. No man in congress has stated the fundamentals of a defense policy with such simplicity and clarity as Representative Mann. Against his essential assertions even the position of Secretary Garrison appears as an inexcusable tampering with vital measures.

Tips on Home Topics

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: There could be no realising the Hughes boom if the judge should shave.

Baltimore American: With President Wilson speaking for preparedness and William Jennings Bryan against it, the shippers and the arms and ammunition factories should hold a jubilee.

Washington Post: If you want to arrive at the real inwardness of the white man's burden listen to an impassioned

argument on the subject by a chap whose wife takes in sewing. Indianapolis News: Not is it surprising to learn from the President that he gets more aspirator outside of Washington than he does in that ultra-official city, where inspiration devotes itself almost wholly to partisan politics. Kansas City Star: The coin of kingly courtesy used to be the sword with jeweled hilts or some such expensive trifle; that of senatorial courtesy is principally jobs. If one senator wants to appoint a poor and distant relative third assistant doorkeeper the others vote for him. Opportunity to repay the courtesy will come to the gratified member later when some other senator wants to push his son-in-law along in the army or get the post-mastership at home for some brisk young man of his acquaintance.

LAUGHING GAS.

"Your parrot uses some of the worst language I ever listened to." "Yes, I had a quarrel with a man and there are a few things I think ought to be said to him. When the parrot learns a little more I'm going to send the bird around to him as an anonymous gift."—Washington Star.

"What is it, doctor?" "Your tumblers—do you sterilize them thoroughly?" "Oh, yes." "And your oysters—do you serve them on sanitary seltzer?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

DEAR MR. KABBRE, WHEN CALLING ON MY FIANCEE, SHOULD I ALWAYS WEAR MY FULL DRESS SUIT?

YES—BUT YOU'LL SWEEL GOING TO THE DELICATESSEN STORE WHEN THEY SEND YOU FOR THE LUNCH!

"Her social position is fully assured, isn't it?" "Dear me, yes. She told me the other day confidentially that she had now gotten to the point where she could snub her best friends without injury."—Judge.

"Do you know what bank I could borrow from to get funds for my new airplane?" "I don't know of any more suitable one than a bank of clouds."—Baltimore American.

Knicker—What happens when you go on a vacation? "Bocker—Your firm goes over your books and your wife goes over everything else."—New York Sun.

"Jack, I wish you'd come to see me occasionally." "Why, Y'annessa, I thought you were engaged to Algernon Fitzwhistle?" "No; but I think I could be a little brisk competition."—Buffalo Courier.

BE A BOOSTER. Do you know there's lots o' people Settin' round in every town, A-fussin' like a broody chicken, 'Knockin' every good thing down? Don't you be that kind o' cattle, Cause they ain't no use on earth, You just be a booster rooster, Crow and boost for all you're worth.

If your town needs boostin' boost 'em. Don't hold back and wait and see if some other fellow's willin'—Send 'em in, this country's free.

No man's got a mortgage on it, It's yours as much as his, If your town is shy on boosters You get in the boostin' biz.

If things don't just seem to suit you, And the world seems kinder wrong, What's the matter with a boostin' Just to help the thing along.

'Cause if things should stop again? We'd be in a sorry plight, You just keep that horn a blowin'—Boost 'er up with all your might.

If you know some feller's fallin's Just forget 'em, 'cause you know That same feller's got some good points, Them's the one's you want to show.

'Cast your leaves out on the waters, They'll come back with a sayin' true, Mebbe they'll come back "battered," When some feller boosts for you.

Omaha. C. L. OLIVER.



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