

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.

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

The steady uplift in Omaha real estate outstrips the prophecy of the founders.

A few large sections of the country sorely need adequate preparedness against floods.

William Grant Webster upholds the traditions of the family. His name is unbridged.

Floods in California and Arkansas. Wonder if we are due for a real June rise of the Big Muddy this year?

The ice crop is the biggest and best ever—but that is no sign that the price of ice in Omaha will undergo any downward revision.

It's a cinch that another water rate reduction will soon be forthcoming; for is not another water board election on the boards for this year?

Still, why should the school board sell bonds and make the taxpayers pay interest on them for six months to a year before the money can be used?

The independence which the Filipinos are now promised has so many strings tied to it that they may prefer, when the time comes, not to get entangled in them.

Governor Morehead's advice to farmers on the selection of good seed corn is timely. Intelligent care in seed selection constitutes the basis of successful farming.

Sonorous talk of squaring democratic acts with the Baltimore platform lends a touch of gaiety to a dreary winter. Especially since the axe is ready for the one-term plank.

Next in order will be an arbitration commission to decide the equities between the different favorite sons, and their right to keep outsiders from poaching on one another's preserves.

Occasional contributions to the conscience fund of the national treasury indicates a chastened spirit in spots. It takes the lengthening shadows of autumn years to lift the spirit to the financial stool of repentance.

It is worth while noting as time slips along that a poverty of material for the governorship forces the democracy into an attitude of friendliness for conscription. Fear of a pie counter famine provokes resort to desperate expedients.

A blanket of snow in the north Pacific coast, ranging from four feet on the level to unknown depths in the Cascade mountains, insures the largest job ever tackled by native Chinook winds. In the circumstance, living up to its reputation as a dry belt is a back-breaking task.

It is not beyond the possibility of doubt that Postmaster Wharton will also be a holdover after the expiration of his commission. But, then, it is better to have the salary go to a good republican than to have the money altogether kept out of circulation, as in the case of that federal judgeship vacancy so long kept vacant.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

Paving bids, opened by the Board of Public Works, showed these prices per square yard on concrete base: Phoenix Falls granite, \$3.25; Colorado sandstone, \$3.15; cedar block, \$2.85; asphalt, \$2.55.

A branch house of the West Davenport Furniture company of Davenport, Ia., has been opened in this city at 218 South Fourteenth street.

An interview with Superintendent Goodrich of the waterworks contains information that some of the mains have been frozen yet, and but very few of the side pipes, and that the city's daily consumption of water at the present time is between 3,500,000 and 4,000,000 gallons.

Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Morgan and daughter, who are back from St. Louis, where their daughter, Miss Mary Morgan, took the veil last week, are leaving again for St. Paul on a week's visit.

Mr. A. Rothery, a crayon and pastel artist, has an exhibition at the Horpe art store a splendid crayon portrait of Colonel Pratt, which is pronounced a perfect likeness.

Keenan & Hancock, one of the strongest live stock commission firms of Chicago, have established an office at the stock yards at South Omaha, with Mr. D. Smith in charge.

W. H. Long of the Republican has gone to St. Paul to see the carnival and somebody else.

A party was held at the residence of Mr. Kline on West Cuming street in honor of the engagement of his daughter, Miss Dora Kline, and Mr. Levi.

Charles H. Brown is back from Washington, where he has been viewing the administration.

William Peters Hepburn. With the death of "Pete" Hepburn another of the landmarks of Iowa politics has disappeared, as well as a national figure of no insignificant proportions. His service in congress covers a period when Iowa wielded more genuine influence in the national lawmaking body than any other western state, and took rank with the foremost. He was a member of that historic group, made up of such men as William Boyd Allison, "Dave" Henderson, John Henry Gear, J. A. T. Hull, Isaac Struble, "Bob" Cousins, and John F. Lacey, who gave the Hawkeye state impressive standing in national affairs. These men were active in shaping the laws that ensured the progress of the country through a wonderful period of development, and have left enduring monuments to their activity in the prosperity of the whole people. Mr. Hepburn came into greatest notice as the author of the Hepburn law, which stopped the issuing of interstate free passes by the railroads, and cured one of the greatest evils of the transportation industry. He also took an active part in the enactment of laws for the protection of the dairy industry, and was in many ways of service to his constituents and to the country. The evening of his life was spent in quiet retirement, but he was not, nor will he soon be, forgotten.

Conservation on Right Track. The Department of Commerce is taking up the matter of conservation of the lumber supply along lines that ought to bring serviceable results. An endeavor is being made to see if something cannot be done to utilize the immense waste now practiced in logging and lumbering. Inquiry has developed the fact that only 320 feet of each 1,000 feet of standing timber is utilized. This means that 68 per cent of the potential service of a tree is wasted in the process of reducing it to merchantable stuff. This figure will not surprise any who have visited a modern sawmill and looked with sadness at the never-dying fires, in which blaze millions of feet of good lumber, because it is cheaper to burn it than to dispose of it in some useful way. Various reasons are set up for this, but the chief one is the railroad rates. A Nebraska man must almost weep when watching a Washington sawyer send to the waste fire boards that would be useful in this state for fencing, corners, barn building and other purposes, but which can not now be shipped and sold at a profit, because the rate is fixed on the best grade of lumber, and knows nothing of the cheaper kind. Plans for utilizing sawdust, stumps and all that sort of present day refuse of the lumber industry are well enough in their way, but a more practical saving will be to bring to market some of the lumber that is now being burned because it does not touch the top-notch in grading.

Poles Must Pay for Innocence. The reply of Sir Edward Grey to the appeal from the American Polish relief committee, that the blockade be raised to permit the sending of food supplies from America to Poland, brings forward one of the most abhorrent features of modern warfare. It is the suffering that must fall upon helpless noncombatants. Caught between the lines of war in which they have no voice, and no part except as helpless victims, the people of Poland are to be compelled to endure the sufferings of exposure and starvation. Great Britain will not permit the passage of relief supplies, for the reason that such action might be to the advantage of Germany.

This action seems heartless, but it is war. Germany has been not less hard in dealing with Belgium. While the Americans have been feeding the inhabitants of occupied territory, the Germans have been collecting taxes from them. The present instance serves only to multiply proof that war is all that has ever been said of it. Stern business at its best, it is being conducted in a stern manner, and its horrors will grow as time goes on, till the very end. The futility of our sympathy and the failure of our efforts to assist the Poles in their misery should in no way tend to lessen endeavors to be of help to the unfortunate victims of the unreasoning conflict. In time we will have to do even more for those who can not do for themselves. But for the present, the Poles must pay the price of their weakness and innocence.

Thorne's Fight on Brandeis. Clifford Thorne, the Boonargues of the Iowa railroad commission, is proceeding to Washington to oppose the confirmation of Louis D. Brandeis, nominated by the president for the vacancy on the federal supreme court bench. This presents a novel spectacle of the senate publicly trying the president's selection on the charge of being a radical, while Thorne has a grievance against him for being a conservative. The Hawkeye terror of transportation has a personal grievance against Brandeis, alleging that he favored the railroads and meat packers in the recent great hearing on rates, in which Thorne's contentions were set aside by the Interstate Commerce commission.

At the same time, the representatives of the railroads and packers, and allied interests, will gladly join with Mr. Thorne in his efforts to prevent confirmation, for the Brandeis nomination does not please them particularly. It is just the kind of a fight calculated to force the confirmation of the man whose course has been so direct as to arouse the opposition of extremists on both sides.

The supreme court of Nebraska has upheld the law providing for the teaching of any modern language in the public schools whenever demanded by petition by fifty patrons of the school. In other words, the legislature has the right to pass such a law, regardless of the wisdom or unwisdom. The strictly home rule way of doing it, however, would have been to put the question up to all the patrons of the school and let the majority decide. Perhaps it would be better to amend the law in this direction.

Henry Ford announces he has only started in his quest for peace at home and abroad. The next peace mission to Europe will be numerically greater than the first, and contain fewer highbrows and a higher percentage of common people. The new plan has the advantage of greater obedience and less sustained vocal power.

The Fine Art of Skating

George H. Browne in the Independent. Life is short, art is long; and few arts are longer than the beautiful modern art of skating. But expensive skating equipment and professional instructions will not alone, or very quickly, make artistic skaters, no matter how about the "crass" for dancing on the ice. Any couple may have great fun in waiting and in two-stopping with the aprawl and the chatter of the old American "beecomfort" figures. Instead of the quiet, rhythmic, gliding forms; and in the sunny winter out of doors, this vigorous exertion on skates may be as exhilarating and health-giving as any sport on the calendar; but it is not "skating," according to the standards of the latest developments of the art.

These require patience, persistence and esthetic sensibilities—not so much exceptional strength, as skill in the expenditure of moderate force—not so much expensive skates and costumes, as the intelligent appreciation of the problems to be solved. The solution is within the power of nearly everybody, old and young; but it is not to be bought. It is to be won only by intelligent study, consistent practice and some hard work; yet the struggle with the difficulties is the most fascinating in the whole realm of combined physical and intellectual effort, and the accomplishment is worth all the effort it costs. For of one thing, at least, we may be sure: all that is claimed for physical self-expression in its most artistic form, esthetic dancing, may be claimed with greater force for artistic skating, for the simple reason that in skating, the gliding motion is continuous—there are not the unavoidable pauses that turn the graceful poses, even for a moment, into a rigid pose. This superiority of skating as a means of physical self-expression is ample justification for the effort needed to overcome the technical handicap of skates; a handicap, however, which in these days of improved tools and instruction is reduced to a minimum. Balance on the skate-edge once acquired, however, the freedom of action in skating, quite as complete as in swimming, is nearer than in dancing to the perfect freedom of flying; which, alas, is not yet attainable by man. The possibility of physical self-expression, therefore, through the freedom of skating, is practically unlimited.

The recent revelation of these possibilities by the European professionalists, expatriated by the war, strikes the American public as something new. There is, however, nothing new about the skating they represent except its simple system. The elements of all figure-skating have been reduced to two, the curve and the turn (on one foot). Combinations of these outside and inside edges and turns, forward and backward, together with loops, pirouettes and jumps, make up all the figures skatable. The fine art of the new skating in the international style, however, is chiefly in the manner of execution, or of good form—and less slightly best, and all members of the body contributing to an artistically beautiful performance on the ice, which by the grace and charm of its harmonious movements, may satisfy the aesthetic sense of both performers and spectators. Experience has proved that for the execution of every figure, there is usually one position and movement that is easiest and most conducive to success. These positions often strike the beginner as unnatural, but the fine balance required by the more difficult figures makes it economical for the beginner to learn the correct positions at the start, even if they seem at first like artificial poses. To make these positions and movements easy and natural is the challenge and the charm of the art. Grace is the perfect responsive obedience of a moving person's body to his will, the perfectly adequate expression of that will in his positions and movements. Not, however, until the positions and movements required by the new skating can be assumed unconsciously and automatically, can the skater be graceful. No physical attribute is more to be desired than rhythmic grace. Some can never acquire it. None can acquire it more quickly or more effectively than in modern artistic skating. Modern artistic skating, therefore, is the finest of physical arts.

Some of the beauties of this fine art are being daily revealed by professional skaters, chiefly from Berlin. Their evolutions, however, savor too much of the very kind of skating that fifty years ago Jackson Haines revolted from in the New York Skating club. He carried to Europe in 1865 no great repository of figures—rocking turns had hardly been discovered—and he died (1875) before the first bracket was skated; but he was a skating master by profession, and though he "always skated alone," he introduced into Vienna, and, spreading over the Alps and down the Danube, a style which the dance-loving Viennese soon developed into pair-skating. The Jackson Haines American style and the Jackson Haines two-station, round-toed skates immediately spread all over Europe.

The British, meanwhile, had brought their big, flat curved, stiff, combined skating to a high state of perfection. During the "we the continental style" as expounded by the Viennese school, was modified by the addition of the new rocking turns on big (English) circles; so that when the International Skating Union was formed in the early '90s, a new style of skating was proposed for standardization in the various European and world's championship competitions that the union began to hold. The holding of the world's championship for 1898 in London opened the eyes of the British to the resources of the continental style, and the National Skating association adopted it in 1900. In that year I published, in my Handbook of Figure Skating, an exposition of the continental style, from the official documents and from correspondence with European skaters; and in the winter of 1903-4 I saw it for the first time. On my return, I published a full exposition of the international style (1904) and began to demonstrate it on a party of Jackson Haines skates which Salchow, the world's champion, sent me from Stockholm. My crude efforts undoubtedly deserved the ridicule I endured (I was 46 years old); but I stuck to it, and now the laugh is on my side. Irving Brokaw, who won the United States championship in 1906, took up the international style the next year, and in February, 1908, with Karl Zenger (champion of Germany in 1906), gave on Greater Boston rinks the first exhibition of pair-skating in the international style in this country. He is today our most accomplished skater in this style.

No European or world's champion has ever come to the United States; but, thanks to the generous efforts of Mr. Brokaw, the Skating Union of America held the first competition in the international style at New Haven in March, 1914, in which Norman Scott of the Winter club of Montreal won the men's championship, Miss Theresa Weld of the Skating club of Boston the ladies' championship, Mr. Scott and Miss Chevallier of Montreal the pair-skating championship and Mr. Nat W. Niles and Miss Weld of Boston the waltzing championship. Last year there was no international competition either here or abroad; but the New England association held a competition in Boston, in which the men's championship was won by William P. Chase.

The sensations of these exhilarating big curves and spirals in graceful form, the accurate striking and gliding, partners coming together and separating in perfect rhythm with each other and with the beat of the music, the limitless combination of figures, control of which challenges the intellectual and physical skill and ingenuity of young and old alike—provide a variety of physical and esthetic pleasures and a free opportunity for self-expression, such as no other out-of-door sport provides; for skating of this kind is sport and art in one, and can be acquired earlier and pursued later in life than any other.

Even Then. "I've been reading a lot of Assyrian history in my 'Library of the World's Knowledge in Sixteen Volumes,'" says the man who is devoting one hour each evening to acquiring information and culture. "What especially interests me is the fact that almost all the pictures of the walls have big carvings of bulls on them. Seems to me as if the ancient Assyrians couldn't look in any direction without seeing a bull. Wonder why they had them."

"Oh," yawns the man who knows everything. "They served the same purpose as the political posters we paste on our walls. Same old bull, you know."—Judge.

The Bee's Letter Box

A Pastor on Religious Liberty.

MAGNOLIA, Ia., Feb. 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: "Religious Liberty," a timely discussion of which has begun in the columns of Omaha papers, "Religious Liberty" was what thrilled Luther so that he did not falter to appear before the embassy of Rome at the Diet of Worms in 1521; religious liberty is what encouraged the pilgrim fathers to seek a new home in America, but religious liberty was also embodied into the constitution of these United States of America, thus guaranteeing religious liberty to every American. This guaranty of religious liberty is not a liberty to believe in one's heart or mind what one feels like, because for this there can be no legislation, but for an expression or confession before others of that which we believe. A person having religion in his heart cannot refrain from showing or expressing whatsoever fills his heart. The unbeliever says "I am not ashamed of my unbelief," the Christian says, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation; to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Rom. 1:16. Comm. says Metcalfe and wishes to tell us to be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, to refrain from using the privilege given us by the constitution.

Speaking of your religion to another whose religion differs with yours is criticism and this cannot and should not be forbidden, as Editor Pontius correctly says. The writer endorses everything he says germane to religious discussion. We need more of it. The Lutheran church invites the freest and fullest discussion and criticism of its teachings based upon the word of God, as we have it in the Bible. I would be ashamed of my affiliation with the Lutheran church or any other, for that matter, if it depressed publicly, criticized a church or other charitable institution, whose existence is dependent from the public or that bids for public tolerance or recognition, or appears before the public and then whines and kicks and frets and pouts because the public before whom it parades gapes upon it and passes a few harmless remarks in not worthy the name of criticism, nor does it deserve public patronage, yes, does not deserve public patronage.

H. W. SAEBER, Evangelical Lutheran Pastor.

Platforms and Candidates. NORTH LOUP, Neb., Feb. 6.—To the Editor of The Bee: There must of necessity be a great number of candidates for office in the state and county organizations. The persons in Nebraska and other states who are to become candidates for election for the many and various official positions, on the republican ticket, would stand a much better chance of election if the Chicago convention nominated an actual progressive having a real record of progressiveness to show just what that candidate is. The age of platforms has passed, if we are to take the democratic pledges for an example. Candidates have long been in the habit of getting before the people on party platforms which were written for the purpose of getting votes. We must insist, as we should have insisted long ago, that platforms should contain nothing except what the candidate, is known by his record to stand for. While we have been making a hallooish noise over platforms, the Wall street end of the game has been naming the men to live up to the platforms. They always fail. We must quit the business of platform-making which includes everything from soup to nuts, as my democratic friends from Council Bluffs would say, and tap man on the shoulder and propose such, with the admonition, "Old man, that is too much pepper." A little forethought on this matter of nominating a strong progressive for president may save the hides and tallow of a multitude of other candidates in the general election.

Editorial Snapshots

Philadelphia Ledger: "Poetry makes a little money nowadays," says a publisher. If prosperity has reached even the poets, it is universal indeed.

Brooklyn Eagle: The Colossus of Roads is the \$25,000,000 appropriation bill passed by a porcine house of representatives. A country boy could tell that without a trace of classical education.

Boston Transcript: We gather from the enthusiastic remarks of our prohibition friends that the Demon Rum is almost as near the point of complete extinction as he was thirty-five or forty years ago.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: If one might suggest in all modesty another geographical change, now that geographical changes are so popular in foreign regions, Kut-A-Amara would look more appropriate to English eyes if spelled Kut-and-Rum.

Baltimore American: An Indian chief in the streets of Boston the other day tomahawked a boy in a crowd that had been annoying him. And probably the first civilized regret over the occurrence will be that there was not a moving-picture camera to produce such a realistic picture of the old frontier days.

Brooklyn Eagle: A law to imprison misbringers of goods, except for export, is pending in congress. The exception is a delight to cynics. To tell the world that we will not swindle one another, but will swindle foreigners, if we can, is, from the ethical viewpoint, absurd, and from the practical viewpoint most inadvisable.

New York World: Possibly General Wood is right when he says the United States navy would not last sixty days in a fight with a first-class power, but there were eminent critics of that establishment in the spring of 1898 who gave it even less time in a conflict with Spain. Other nations learned something from the American navy of that period, and perhaps with reasonable preparedness we may be able to teach them again.

New York World: During fourteen months of operation the Washington government has taken over risk insurance on ships took in \$1,244,614 in premiums and paid out \$26,984 for losses. This leaves a profit of \$1,217,630, whose percentage of total receipts will put any other war business in the shade for richness. And it will be recalled that this was a business which was taken up by the government simply because private insurers would have nothing to do with it except at prohibitive rates.

Tips on Home Topics

Boston Transcript: It's going to be pretty hard for a prohibitionist to explain a campaign contribution to a man named Swig.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: Reading some of the colonel's remarks these days raises the suspicion that he, too, has changed his mind since the time he used to belabor the muck-rakers.

Chicago Herald: A Chicago man charges that he was sent to the lunatic asylum because an employer wanted to keep his wife as a cook. Housekeepers will generally agree that no crime is unwarranted when the retention of a good cook is at stake.

Springfield Republican: It will surprise a good many people to know that the Grand canyon of the Colorado is not a national park or in one. More than 194,000 see-America-first tourists visited it in 1915. It surely ought to belong to the nation and be under its protection.

Philadelphia Ledger: Mr. Hamlin Garland shows a painful lack of familiarity with the history of the Pilgrim Fathers when he says that if they "had spent more time going fishing and less in hymn singing, they wouldn't have died off so fast." The Pilgrim Fathers were a sturdy lot, members of the Church Militant, who never let their religious obligations interfere with fishing, hunting, fighting and drinking strong liquors. Even Colonel Roosevelt, who once mixed them up with the Puritans, could not describe them as mollycoddles.

SMILING REMARKS.

"Why does that Finkum girl make up her face so strikingly?" asked Maude. "She interposes when she walks," replied Mymie. "She has to make up her face to draw attention from her feet."—Washington Star.

"Why do you oppose a reasonable amount of preparedness?" demanded Senator Wombat. "Ain't you for it?" "Privately, yes," stated Congressman Flubdub. "But I expect to trade my objections for an arsenal for my district, or wireless station at the very least."—Kansas City Journal.

DEAR MR. KABIBBLE, I'M WORTH A MILLION, AND I'M CALLING ON A GIRL WORTH A MILLION—SHOULD I MARRY HER? YES—THAT'S A BETTER RATE OF INTEREST THAN THE BANK COULD GIVE YOU ON YOUR MONEY!

Little Pitchers—Mrs. Fussy, let me see your old hen. Neighbor—What old hen, boy? Little Pitchers—Why, pa asked me this morning when you sent over to borrow some flour and lard if she was sending more chicken feet to the old hen next door.—Baltimore American.

Son—Is the ink that papa writes with indelible, mother? Mother—No. "I'm glad of that, because I just spilled it all over the carpet.—Philadelphia Ledger.

"What have you there?" "An automobile catalogue." "Why do you read so many automobile catalogues?" You haven't the price of a car. "Well, you gotta keep posted on automobile matters in order to understand the jokes."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Low Fares to Florida and Gulf Coast. CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN RY. Via CHICAGO. Jacksonville, Fla., \$50.68. Jacksonville via Washington, \$61.00. Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla., \$62.28. Palm Beach, Fla., \$69.18. St. Augustine, Fla., \$52.98. Ormond, Fla., \$57.08. Kissimmee, Fla., \$59.68. Miami, Fla., \$72.78. Key West, Fla., \$83.78. Augusta, Ga., \$49.78. Charleston, S.C., \$50.68. New Orleans-Pass Christian, \$41.18. Havana, Cuba, \$87.18. And Many Other Points. 7-Daily Trains to Chicago-7. Double track and automatic electric safety signals all the way. Tickets, reservations and full information may be obtained from J. MILLEN, G. A., 1401-03 Farnam St. Omaha, Neb. Phone Douglas 2740.

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.