

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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NOVEMBER CIRCULATION. 53,716. State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss: Dwigth Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average circulation for the month of November, 1915, was 53,716.

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December 18 Thought for the Day. Selected by Supt. A. H. Yoder.

Even with the most favorable heredity it requires a fortunate combination of circumstances to make a man; enough of prosperity for encouragement, and enough of adversity for strength.—Yoder.

The idea of "policing the world" would have some chance for life if we could show a sample of efficient policing at home.

The head choppers of Borneo have nothing on the axemen of Mexico, who are wading through blood to power and pelf.

All the sentiment the beautiful snow exuded in sleightime days turns into a scream of wrath as autotails rattle the tire chains.

Red Cross seals lend the artistic touch to Christmas letters and packages, and their use sends a message of cheer to the suffering. Do your seal shopping now.

The testimony of a government official on Philippine affairs goes to show that Uncle Sam took over an assortment of difficult problems when Dewey told Gridley, "You can fire when you are ready."

Automobile dealers and manufacturers, ever alive to the main chance, no doubt have already congratulated the railroads on their boost of passenger rates. As boosters of the auto business the railroads crowd good roads for first place.

Maybe if the county attorney would speed up a little it will not be necessary to enlarge the jail in order to accommodate the murderers awaiting trial. Some sign of vigorous prosecution of captured criminals might relieve public apprehension.

While the administration maintains an outward appearance of cheerfulness, the shadow stretching from Miami to Washington is disquieting. Colonel Bryan's failure to lose himself in the art of peace mars the Yuletide joys of the White House.

No, there wasn't a streak of yellow in shifting the democratic convention date beyond the fearsome 13th. Three democratic presidential candidates nominated at St. Louis went down in defeat. One hoodoo may be defied. Two of a kind smacks of a double cross.

If old King Canute was again on the job of demonstrating the impossible, he would find his historic command paralleled in striving to hold back the forces which make Omaha "a market town." These will continue irresistible as long as fertile soil rewards industry and thrift.

After four years of investigation a commerce committee reports that while electrification of railroads in Chicago is practicable, financial considerations render the change impossible. If memory serves this is the first time Chicago admitted its inability to do what New York has done.

A large volume of baseless speculation and plot inventions vanished in the heated air when the crippled steamer Minnesota returned to port. The statement of the federal district attorney of San Francisco shows the vessel's troubles were due to "natural mechanical breakdowns." All the scare stories sent out from Pacific coast points are thus shown to have been manufactured to order.

Marvin Huggitt, general manager of the Northwestern road, and K. C. Morehouse, general freight agent of the Sioux City & Pacific, returned from a trip over the lines in Nebraska and report good crops and that section of the state developing rapidly, many new settlers coming in and filing on government land.

The funeral of Mrs. J. E. Devalon was held at the home, Nineteenth and W. The pallbearers were Miss C. Wilson, W. J. Mount, L. M. Anderson, L. H. Kory, G. W. Sinclair and Gustav Anderson.

According to a statement filed by the authorities with Police Judge Sternberg, there are eight licensed gambling houses in the city.

That the problem of aerial navigation was attracted the attention of army officers is disclosed by an interview with General O. O. Howard, in which he commented on the idea of a Chicago man.

Settling a Silly Rumor.

Senator John Mattes of Otoe county in a public statement gives information that should definitely settle a silly rumor set afloat by a Lincoln paper. It was alleged that the German-American alliance in Nebraska proposed entering the political field with a full set of candidates, in order that it might wreak its vengeance on President Wilson and his adherents. This statement is flatly denied by Senator Mattes, who says: "The State alliance of Nebraska is perfectly non-political and independent in politics."

The cheap effort of the democrats to gain support for their party by alleging lack of loyalty against the German citizenship of Nebraska, is contemptible. The Bee has frequently pointed out that our foreign-born citizens generally are loyal to this government, and staunch in their support of American institutions. Any movement, having for its end the securing of political advantage through raising prejudice against citizens of foreign birth or descent should receive the rebuke it deserves. A cause which requires such support merits only defeat.

Fixing Real Estate Values.

The question of how to fix values of property of various kinds that it may be equally and justly assessed for the purpose of taxation is always before the people. It has just been presented in the concrete form to the convention of county commissioners at Grand Island, through a request from the state board of assessment that the counties arrange to co-operate with the state board in the determination of real estate values. The convention voted down the proposition, which means that the present rather involved and generally unsatisfactory method of valuing lands will be continued.

In principle the Nebraska law is good. In practice it has produced such discrepancies between the several counties as to present a most perplexing problem to the state board, which is required to equalize the assessment rate. Several attempts have been made in recent years to revise the revenue laws that they would operate more exactly in distributing the burdens of taxation. Each of these efforts has ended in legislation that has increased rather than diminished the difficulty of securing the end in view.

It ought not to be impossible to reach a basis for fair and equitable valuation, but as long as the situation is continued in its present form, that long the inequalities will be apparent. No hard and fast rule can be laid down for valuing land anywhere, and least of all in Nebraska, where conditions on which values must rest cover so wide a range. Intelligent co-operation between the taxing authorities of the several divisions of the state, however, should bring about a better arrangement. The county commissioners well could have afforded to devise some plan to this end.

Comfort for the Patriots.

Word comes from Washington that the senator has withdrawn his opposition to the confirmation of a long list of names of Nebraska patriots placed on the pay roll through the activity of the late secretary of state. This action was to some extent anticipated, because of the peculiar position in which the senator finds himself. He has received scant consideration at the hands of the great commoner and his followers, and yet he needs their votes. Consequently, great joy will spread among the pay-roll patriots because the issue has been thus happily determined. The big places have not yet been settled, but it is quite likely that the senator will let the tail go with the hide. Now, when the federal judgeship is disposed of, the factions can face each other at the primaries with knives in their hands.

Saving the Pacific Fleet.

The first act of the American International Corporation was to purchase seven ships of the Pacific Mail fleet and thus preserve on the Pacific ocean a portion, at least, of this transportation line. The Pacific Mail boats were rapidly being disposed of and removed from service on the western ocean, threatening the transportation industry there with virtual extinction. The American International Corporation is organized for the purpose of promoting commerce between North and South America, and in purchasing these steamships it has performed an act of great usefulness to the intercourse it intends to foster. Its example is one that encourages those who have some faith in big business.

Immigration in War Time.

The Department of Labor reports that immigration for the last year fell below any total recorded for longer than a score of years. This is not at all a surprising state of affairs. European countries, from which a great part of our immigration comes, are at present engaged in feeding to the cannons the men who ordinarily would come to this country to engage in industry. The most direct effect of this state of affairs will be to increase the opportunity for employment of those who are here. With more certainty of work and better wages, a reduction in the misery attendant upon unemployment will be noted. Industrial activity in this country at present is such as must reduce the number of unemployed to a very low mark. Thus the falling off in immigration will result in a better distribution of the prosperity attendant upon the war conditions at home.

Keen regret amounting to sobs find expression in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, prompted by the failure of an evangelist to convert the host of democrats quartered in the State house at Jefferson City. The trail was kept open for three weeks beyond the appointed time, to accommodate the State house conversions, but only one jobholder professed a banking for the new life. No doubt the intentions of the evangelist were good, though misdirected. Nothing short of a political landslide could move Missouri's jobholders from a picconter to a sawdust trail. Hunger alone inspires repentance.

It is difficult to understand how any American patriot can oppose adequate preparedness when our warring government defiantly holds up Ambassador Gerard's trousers as contraband of war. Revolutions have sprung from lesser crimes.

Scoffing critics of Nebraska's presidential primary law overlook one strong point in its favor. It fortifies the maternal assurance that the presidency is within reaching grasp of young America.

Absent-Minded Poisoning

Literary Digest.

HOW SHALL we keep the absent-minded from inadvertently swallowing poison? That precautions against such accidents as this should be necessary would seem incredible did we not daily read about people eating and drinking pretty nearly all the fatal substances in the Pharmacopoeia, under the impression that they are consuming something else. Laudanum used to be the favorite with these casual self-poisoners; now it seems to be bichlorid of mercury, otherwise called "corrosive sublimate." Lately much used externally in tablet form as an antiseptic. Plans for stopping this sort of thing usually involve some scheme for reminding persons whose wits have gone wool-gathering that they are handling poisonous peculiar label or some odd-shaped bottle. The writer of an article in Popular Science Monthly and The World's Advance (New York, November), tells of these and other devices that are at once more ingenious and more startling. We read:

"How to prevent people from taking the deadly bichlorid-of-mercury tablets by mistake is a problem which has confronted the authorities of every big city in the country. 'So many cases of accidental poisoning by these tablets have come to light since the unfortunate death of a banker in Georgia by this means that for a while it seemed almost like an epidemic. To prevent the taking of these deadly little pellets by those who do it with suicidal intent is scarcely possible, since 'Where there's a will there's a way,' but it is to protect the innocent—those who take them believing them to be for stomach disorders or headaches—that so much effort has been made.

"Not long ago, Health Commissioner Ernest J. Lederle of New York City asked the co-operation of chemists, doctors and interested laymen in offering suggestions for the best means of putting up these tablets in a form that will insure against accident. In other words, in some form whereby they are not well taken through mistake for some other medicine in tablet form.

"The responses to this request were encouraging, numerically, but many of the ideas offered were amusing, few of them were practical, and some were actually ludicrous. Probably two-thirds of these suggestions had to do with the form of the bottle in which the tablets were put up.

"Several scores simply suggested 'odd-shaped bottles,' and some of these shapes were odd indeed. One of these suggestions were for a bottle tapering to a sharp point at each side, the claim being that the unusual form would warn any person that the contents was dangerous. Another advised using a sort of overgrown vial, a bottle slightly tapering from base to neck, about a foot long and not much larger in circumference than the tablets. 'Put the tablets up in such a bottle, each wrapped in paper, and no one would make a mistake,' was the advice with this suggestion. Something of this nature was tried in Germany last year, but it did not work very well, three children being fatally poisoned thinking the contents was candy. Besides, it is too long and clumsy a bottle for physicians to carry in medicine cases."

Another genius has suggested making these tablets with holes through them, and then stringing them like beads. The writer thinks it doubtful if any one would mistake them in this form, yet some child, thinking them beads, might get hold of a string and put them in his or her mouth. One of the queerest is a non-graspable bottle much like a nettle. It is covered with sharp spikes over its entire surface, excepting the bottom—even the cork being a horned affair. Then, too—

"One inventor devised a plan whereby he was able to demonstrate the safety of his device by taking some of the tablets without the least harm. This was done by covering them with a thin rubber jacket. In the illustration the ordinary tablet is shown at the left. The rubber covering is in two parts as shown. The tablet is inserted in one-half of the rubber jacket as indicated, the other half stretched over it.

"If any one should take one of these rubber-covered tablets by mistake, thinking it a headache tablet, the inventor trusted, it would not harm him. The rubber jacket would keep the juices of the stomach away from it, and it would be thrown off without the least danger, see? and at the word 'see' he calmly swallowed a couple of them. When it was learned the tablets inside were the deadly bichlorid of mercury he was carefully watched, and there was much consternation. But he was right; no harm came of it. The idea is that if one wants a tablet of this poison for any legitimate use, all he need do is to peel off the rubber jacket; whereas if he takes it by mistake it will not harm him.

"Other suggestions included a sort of slot-machine where specially prepared disks of metal were provided and no one could remove a tablet without inserting one of these disks. It was designed to be put up beside the medicine chest.

"Senator Ashurst introduced a bill in congress requiring that bichlorid-of-mercury and other deadly tablets be put up in some standard color, a bright green, for instance. But even this would not prevent a person from mistaking them in the dark. Scores of people have lost their lives by going to the medicine chest at night without a light and swallowing bichlorid-of-mercury by mistake."

People and Events

The glorious golden tales of Virginia City and Gold Hill, and the later stamped stuff of Tonopah and Goldfield, are easily matched by the mining dope now coming out of Nevada City, Nev. Gold has been gathered out of the gutter trenches, and pavers and cement mixers are said to have quit their jobs and turned nugget hunters.

The late lamented new constitution of New York, drafted at a cost of \$200,000 and turned into scraps of paper by the voters, incurred an advertising liability of \$60,000, the aggregate cost of publication in 261 newspapers of the state. Lobbyists are said to be buying the discarded newspaper bills with expectations of inducing the legislature to cash them at face value.

A Standard Oil millionaire has rented an apartment of twenty-five rooms on Fifth avenue, New York City, for \$25,000 a year, while his brother has taken twenty-four rooms with eight baths at \$30,000 a year. These are new attitudes of high life in Gotham and serve to show complaining autotists the character of the joyrides their gasoline money radiates near headquarters.

The Civil Service commission of Chicago has started a searching tour of the local paving ring and private contractors, with the object of discovering the source of wealth of city employees other than their salaries, somehow or other invisible wealth infiltrates itself in quarters of the city capable of reciprocating, and the commission promises to search the crowd from crown to footwear.

A noted graduate of the college of hard knocks passed away in the person of "Abe" Gruber of New York, at the early age of 54. "Abe" was a political "mixer" of power, a shrewd lawyer, a survivor of the politics of "Me, Too" Platt, and a front pew member of the famous "smash corner." About the hottest stuff that came from his political battery was a review of the record of Colonel Roosevelt as governor of New York.



The Bees Letter Box

Lawyer and the Law. OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: Ogalalla for a number of years was out on the frontier, and there were no lawyers and only one term of court a year, and it was very short. I remember on one occasion Judge Gaslin came in on a freight train and held a term of court while the train boys were getting lunch at the restaurant, after opening court.

Judge to Clerk—Read the docket. Clerk—There is only one case, your honor, a divorce case, Jones against Jones.

Judge—Is this woman the plaintiff? Clerk—Yes.

Judge—Any appearance on the other side? Clerk—No appearance, your honor.

Judge—Mrs. Jones, you ask for a divorce? Mrs. Jones—I do.

Judge—Divorce is granted. Court adjourned.

No lawyers in sight. The judge caught the tail-end of caboose as the train pulled out.

Courts and lawyers are a necessity in a civilized country, but you can have too much of a good thing sometimes. In the legislature two years ago, of which I was a member, the lawyers (members of the house) said it was necessary that we have another set of courts, in addition to what we already have. They called it the appellate court and said that the supreme court was a year and a half behind with its cases, and that the litigant had to wait almost two years for his case to be decided. There were some preliminaries which would carry the matter over to another session, but they attempted to lay the foundation for a change in the law at that session, but it lost out. Courts, courts and more courts, and who will pay the bill? The people, the taxpayer, and taxes rising higher and higher as the years roll by.

The workman's compensation law was passed at that session. I voted for the bill because it would remove one fruitful source of litigation, "personal injury cases." No one thought the bill was perfect. With over 1,200 bills to be disposed of, the time was limited, and the wonder of it is that the bill did finally pass, as every lawyer in the house was ferriest the bill. We can now see where the law is wrong. The compensation is too low, too ridiculous, but it can be amended and made right. A mesdium can be arrived at just to both parties, if either side is favored, let it be the man who is injured, the workman. But don't repeal the law; don't take a backward step. Now I don't want to make any kick on the lawyers. They are honorable men, as a class. At least, I have found them so. But you know yourself that sometimes their interests lie in one direction, while ours is in another, and we have to look out for our own interests sometimes.

EDWIN M. SEARLE.

German in Public Schools.

OMAHA, Dec. 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: I observe that since the first of this school year the German language has been taught in the public schools of Omaha on an equal plane with our own national language—English. I understand that German is taught in all grades above the fourth. This was foisted on us so quietly and so thoroughly that we should like to enquire by what means and authority was it done. I wish to make a vigorous protest against the teaching of any foreign language in our public schools at public expense before the ninth and ten grades. And then the language, if foreign, should be left to the choice of the pupil, for not all persons are interested in the German language. If any foreign language is taught to children in America below the ninth and tenth grades it should be done in the private schools or churches, but not with public funds. However, it is cowardly for parents of foreign extraction to try to keep their children from becoming purely and loyally American. There is nothing we need more in our schools than more and better English. This is an English-speaking nation and we need more than we get of it. After children have studied English eight or nine years it is then early enough for them to choose a foreign language, and let it be their own choice, for German is not a universal language. The whole world is learning English. The course of study in our public schools here is arranged so that the pupil must take German or lose the time others devote to it. Then, parents and children are advised that it is better to take the study than lose the time. Very shrewd, is it not? Is our Board of Education responsible for such an arrangement of our course of study? E. L. IRELAND.

Editorial Snapshots

Boston Transcript: Mr. Burleson's rosy figures showing increased postal revenues may be all they seem, and then again, on the other hand, the Post-office department may merely have borrowed Secretary McAdoo's system of bookkeeping.

Pittsburg Dispatch: It is quite characteristic of the buoyant French that while war is raging they send agents to America to spend \$100,000,000 for implements to be used in the arts of peace. In the rebuilding of the region destroyed by war, it's hard to conquer a people of that sort.

Indianapolis News: If the senate orators, Messrs. Smith and Lodge, had added oratorical trimmings to their oratory, they really would have produced orations, as they had all the material therefor—the sob stuff, the spread eagle, the darning of American independence, the chip on the shoulder, etc. But, doubtless, it is lucky for the constant readers of the Congressional Record that they didn't.

New York World: Every nation at war expresses its willingness to consider peace proposals. None has any to offer that give promise of peace in the existing circumstances. The peace terms so far as they are outlined in France, Great Britain and Germany, are for domestic consumption, while to the armies in the field on both sides is committed the business of forcing the enemy to confess defeat.

Chicago Herald: The fact is that American business has largely outgrown "war orders." The goods are very handy for the time, but we are reaching a position where demand for gunstuffs is becoming relatively unimportant. How much of this trade we shall be able to retain when our European competitors return to the ways of peace depends, of course, on the foresight and energy with which we pursue our present opportunity.

Nebraska Editors

The first annual banquet of the Democratic Editorial association of Nebraska will be held at Lincoln January 14.

The Minden Courier will boost its subscription price to \$1.50 a year and its advertising to 15 cents an inch January 1.

Henry Allen Brainerd, who recently sold the Hebron Champion, is now connected with the Western Newspaper union of Lincoln.

Miss Rose Bernay has purchased the Ericson Journal from A. C. Bell. She announces that she will install new type and new machinery.

Lee M. Warner, former publisher of the Homer Independent, died a few days ago in a hospital at Paris, Tex. His home for the past few years has been at Antler, Okl. He was a brother of M. M. Warner of the Lyons Mirror.

Beatrice Express: The bandit who robbed Editor Clark Perkins of the Aurora Republican of Ill. has been captured and has made a confession. His punishment has not as yet been decided on, but as Nebraska's laws do not provide adequate torture for an offense of this kind, he will probably be let off with a more penitentiary sentence.

Eight editors of papers published in Dixon county met at Newcastle last week and organized the Dixon County Press association. R. J. Taylor of the Enterprise, Enterprise was elected president, Henry L. Baiser of the Allen News, vice president, and H. R. Sturtevant of the Dixon County Advocate, secretary-treasurer. One of the propositions considered was the creation of a county co-operative ready print service. The editors were guests at dinner of Editor and Mrs. Kinnaman of the Newcastle Times.

CHEERY CHAFF.

amount of preparedness?" demanded Senator Wombat. "Ain't you for it?" "Privately, yes," stated Congressman Fluhub. "But I expect to trade my objections for an arsenal for my district, or a wireless station, at the very least."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"I see a good many women are taking up law."

"Yes."

"Somehow I never thought of women as being adapted to the study of law."

"Why not? The understand the rules of bridge, and law isn't much more complicated."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

KABIBBLE KABARET. DEAR MR. KABIBBLE IS IT PROPER TO SMOKE A PIPE WHILE VISITING MY FIANCEE? YES, BUT HER OLD MAN WILL BEGIN TO MISS HIS TOBACCO SOONER OR LATER.

"I wish some Christmas cigars for my husband." "Well, madam, what kind?" "Yes, madam, but he smokes a sort of—straight front variety."—Louisville-Courier-Journal.

GUESSING TIME.

Edgar A. Guest, in Detroit Free Press. It's guessing time at our house, every evening after tea. We start guessing what old Santa's going to leave us on our tree. Everyone of us holds secrets that the others try to steal. And that eyes and lips are plainly having trouble to conceal. And a little lip that quivered just a bit the other night. Was a sad and startling warning that I mustn't guess it right.

"Guess what you will get for Christmas," is the cry that starts the fun. And I answer: "Give the letter with which the name's begun." Oh, the eyes that dance around me and the joyous faces there. Keep me nicely guessing, w'dly: Is it something that I can wear? I implore them all to tell me in a frantic sort of way. And pretend that I am puzzled just to keep them feeling gay.

Oh, the wise and knowing glances that across the table fly. And the winks exchanged with mother, that they think I never spy! Oh, the whispered confidences that are poured into her ear. Oh, the laughter that follows when I try my best to hear! Oh, the shouts of glad derision when I bet that it's a cane. And the merry answering chorus: "No, it's not. Just guess again!"

It's guessing time at our house, and the fun is running fast. And I wish somehow this contest of delight could always last. For the love that's in their faces and their laughter ringing clear, is their dad's most precious present when the Christmas time is near. And as soon as it is over, when the tree is bare and plain, I shall start in looking forward to the time to guess again.

To Start Quickly in Cold Weather Use

Red Crown the Gasoline of Quality. At Garages Everywhere. STANDARD OIL COMPANY (NEBRASKA) OMAHA. Includes image of a Red Crown gas can.

Say "CEDAR BROOK, To Be Sure". TO be sure, that's the thing to say if you want to be certain of a high-ball or one "down" that is always right. At all leading Dealers, Clubs, Bars, Restaurants and Hotels, you'll find CEDAR BROOK in the lead. Largest selling brand of high-grade Kentucky whiskey in the world. Because it has maintained the same sure, superior quality since 1847.



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.