

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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DECEMBER CIRCULATION. 53,534

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

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 14th day of January, 1916. ROBERT S. GUNTER, Notary Public.

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

Any other aspiring favorite sons in leash? Now is the time to trot out.

The injunction is to temper justice with mercy, but sometimes it's mighty hard to do it.

The prospects for law and order in Mexico seem to improve only as the area of desolation expands.

Congress would materially improve the national temper by reducing the output of talk and speeding up on work.

In view of the rising cost of veal, the project of substituting a June wedding for a feast of fatted calf lines up with the economical needs of the times.

Whenever the king of Greece thinks of what happened to his neighbors of Serbia and Montenegro, his admiration for the man holding down the Grecian lid mounts several notches.

Peace missionaries report peace sentiment everywhere in their travels. Everybody wants it. The trouble is that those who need it most have too many strings to their wishes.

When a state presents a favorite son for president and one also for vice president, another difficulty looms up, for the constitution in providing for the machinery of the election, prohibits a member of the electoral college voting for two from his own state.

Makers of feminine shoes manifest uneasiness regarding the color schemes for next summer's wear. They appear peeved because dress-makers decline to lengthen the garments and threaten to put out hand-painted boots that will make a gown merely a matt for a scenic picture.

Talk about miracles! Here is Mr. Bryan's Commoner exploiting ex-Senator Joe Bailey just because he is opposing the president's preparedness plans. Presumably Roger Sullivan, or even Thomas Fortune Ryan, could get a boost in the Commoner now by openly siding with Bryan.

Mayor Mitchell cheers New York taxpayers with the information that if they will bear the present load patiently for fifteen more years relief can then be effected. It is understood, of course, that the mayor will not be responsible for fulfillment of the promise unless he is continued on the job.

On one essential at least our inland congressmen are a unit. A river and harbor bill carrying \$40,000,000 has been whipped into shape by the committee and appears certain of touching the treasury before the preparedness program emerges from the talking stage. First come, first served.

The Wall street syndicate undertaking to place the Frisco railroad system on its feet naively informs the Missouri Railroad commission that it will accept as compensation for the service such sum as may be determined by the presidents of three New York trust companies. Missourians regard the family arrangement as a unique version of the inspired exclamation: "Wouldn't that jar you?"



Omaha is to have a Battle of Gettysburg panorama, a company for that purpose with \$30,000 capital being in process with these incorporators: D. H. Wheeler, E. Pierpont, D. F. Hamon, A. Montemurro, W. J. Templeton, H. W. Sickle, C. Varney, Harry Olney, James Casey, A. L. Straug, M. H. Gobie, J. K. Marfil, O. O. Howard, O. C. Campbell, Hugh U. Clark and William Maguire.

Acting Assistant Surgeon A. W. Barber, at the army headquarters, has been ordered to report at Fort D. A. Russell.

A concert was given at the opera house by the Milan Italian Opera company. The second part of the program consisted of an act from Faust, in which the roles were taken by Miles Rogin, L. Morse, Pardo, Signor Tardieri and Signor Bologna.

The local assembly of Knight of Labor published resolutions adopted in memory of Omaha's late mayor, P. F. Murphy.

Dr. E. W. Lee is seeking the return of a neck box containing rubber piping and a silver plated air pump, lost near the bridge near Saunders street.

Mrs. E. W. Waskley, Nineteenth and California streets, wants a competent girl to cook, wash and iron, German preferred.

George Kay has satisfactorily recovered from a sprained arm to return to his post of business.

Letting Our Light Shine. Slowly, yet impressively, the attitude of Americans in relation to the world war is coming to be understood by themselves, and in time it will be appreciated by those whose interest just now leads them to harshly criticize us. We have been told we are making bad friends abroad, and that Americans are coming to be generally hated. This is easily explained as arising from the fact that we have so far properly declined to become involved on either side of the controversy, but have resolutely held aloof from any action that might reasonably be construed as showing favor to one or the other of the combatants. Yet our participation in the war has been notable and of incalculable value to all the countries whose normal activities have been suspended by the conflict.

For fifteen months we have been feeding the destitute behind and between the battle lines. Governments of Europe are too intent on destruction to heed the suffering of the helpless, and to these Americans have come with food and clothing and other aid, that their lot may be made the less precarious and their misery in this degree lessened. Along the battle line American doctors and nurses, volunteers supported by American funds, have ministered to the human wreckage of war. Science and skill and sympathy have done all that can be done to ameliorate the desolation and destitution the older governments abandoned to the care of Providence that they might press on to further devastating effort.

Along with this philanthropic work has gone something of the spirit that has prompted it. Beneficiaries of such generosity do not soon forget it, and while the innocent victims of the terrible war may not waste time in analysis of the altruistic impulse that has brought them aid from the land beyond their dreams, they will call down a present blessing on those who have provided for them, and cherish the memory of that help always. We may be making conquests of new commercial greatness, may be extending the sphere of influence of our cultural life and may be advancing in every attribute of human good. That remains to be seen. What is certain is that we have conquered a wonderful kingdom of humble hearts through the light of human sympathy we have spread in darkened Europe.

Von Papen's Private Correspondence.

Some interesting but not at all alarming disclosures of personal opinion are furnished by the publication of letters from the private correspondents of Lieutenant von Papen, late German naval attaché at Washington. These captured letters are serviceable to the Allies only as they may be used to foment anti-German feeling in the United States. Outside of that purpose, they have no value whatever. The language quoted from them is not startling, nor does it differ greatly from expressions publicly made. Lieutenant von Papen was the personal appointee of the Kaiser, and naturally was in close touch with friends of Germany, and particularly with representatives of the German government in America. It is quite in keeping with usual course of events that these persons should hold and express sentiments friendly to the German cause, and that they wrote these sentiments to Von Papen is not a cause for special wonder. The United States insisted on the recall of Von Papen because of his alleged connection with war intrigues in this country. The information just sent us from London may serve to support the action taken by our government, but aside from that is not of serious importance.

Life Insurance Farm Loans.

The largest single golden stream capitalizing farm development in the United States has its source in the swollen treasuries of life insurance companies. In ten years their aggregate investments in real estate mortgages increased two and one-half times, ranking next to bonds, in the opinion of the managers, as safe and profitable securities. The total mortgage loans of 148 companies on December 31, 1914, amounted to \$1,700,000,000, of which 39 per cent was farm security and 61 per cent other real property.

The importance of this vast supply of working capital to the newer sections of the west is shown in a report by Robert Lynn Cox, counsel and manager of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents. The most striking fact revealed in the report is the commanding lead of the Mississippi and Missouri valley sections in the favor of the companies, both in amounts loaned and low rates of interest. In the northwestern group of states—Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Wyoming and Montana—the farm loans of the companies total \$284,118,000, or 64.5 per cent of the farm mortgages reported by the 1910 census in these states. The average interest charge ranges from 5.16 per cent in Illinois to 8.53 per cent in Idaho. Iowa leads in total of farm loans, \$139,511,000, at an average interest charge of 5.32 per cent, and Nebraska second, with \$62,390,000, at 5.34 per cent. Mr. Cox points out that the interest rate is determined by land values, not by demand and supply, as is too commonly the case. He neglects to state, however, whether the moderate interest charge includes the commission cost of placing loans, which usually swells the cost to the borrower.

The figures emphasize the magnitude of the task of formulating a rural credit system which will cut the cost of farm loans and at the same time supply the billions of dollars required to take the place of private capital.

"Why not prosecute usurers?" asks Mr. Bryan in his Commoner. Well, why not? The prosecuting machinery is all in the hands of a democratic administration, with which Mr. Bryan was officially associated for nearly three years. Furthermore the laws against usury in Nebraska are quite drastic, and we have a valiant and vociferous democratic attorney general.

The dawn of a bright leap year for man is assured. Neckties wrought in the designs of rare porcelains or bearing hand-painted replicas of the masters are coming out for spring and summer wear, affording sufficient decorative effect to render the tribe skeptical of proposals unaccompanied by a checking account.

Getting Together

The Open Door. Kansas City Star (prog.): The republicans have invited the progressives to "come back through the open door." The progressives have decided to go back far enough to keep the door open. If the republicans accept the progressive platform and name a progressive candidate, the progressives will go back through the open door. If the republicans dodge, it is in the purpose of the Bull Moose merely to hold the door open for other progressives to come out.

Let Bygones Be Bygones.

St. Louis Globe Democrat (rep.). In short, the colonel's message reveals nothing of a political nature, commits neither him nor the committee to any course of political action and is entirely free from offense to any one who, in his judgement, ought not to be offended. It is another indication that he is disposed to let bygones be bygones, and to center his energies upon an issue raised by the circumstances of the present war, which can be made a party question only in the extent of its application. Whether this issue, which he declares should be above all party considerations, and we may hope, above all personal considerations, will take him into the republican party, remains for circumstances, or himself, to reveal. It is significant, however, that the date and place selected for the progressive convention will make the self-extinction of the remnant of the progressive party easy and painless.

What the Colonel Wants.

New York World (dem.): The colonel wants war because President Wilson is trying to maintain peace, and the colonel's only chance of getting the republican nomination lies in his opposition to the president. If some mischance should plunge the country into war before the national conventions are held, the colonel would be for the peace at any price, especially if he failed in his ambition to go to the front as commanding general of the horse marines.

Conditional Union.

New York Journal of Commerce (ind.). The chances of the national organization of the republicans resuming something like its normal strength will depend upon the position taken by its own leaders and not upon surrendering to the dictation of those who threaten to defeat it if it does not submit to their leadership. What the progressives at the present time seem most likely to accomplish, or help to accomplish, is what they profess most to dread, the continuance of "the Wilson administration," which they say "has repudiated the faith of our forefathers."

Chinizing the Country.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican (rep.): Colonel Roosevelt's letter to the progressive national committee hardly had the encouragement for the grand new party which the brethren might have desired. "Purely partisan considerations" are naturally rather to the fore in the committee's immediate interest. But what does the colonel mean by insisting "that every man who is within our borders shall be an American and nothing else"? It sounds rather like a change of heart in favor of "Chinification." Such a policy indeed would be going China several better.

A Leap Year Proposal.

Chicago Herald (ind.): The progressive party has just made a leap year proposal to the republican party in the form of the declaration of principles given out by the executive committee on Tuesday. The party promises, if not to be "thine forever," at least agree to a temporary or trial marriage under conditions substantially expressed in the following extracts: "The surest way to secure for our country the required leadership will be by having, if possible, both the progressive and republican parties choose the same standard bearer and the same principles. We pledge ourselves to approach the consideration of the issues involved in such an effort without any desire to revive partisan bitterness."

Twice Told Tales

She Came Back. Backward and forward he paced, his eyes wild and rolling, his face haggard. As the minutes passed his agitation increased.

"Will she never come? Will she never come? He wailed wildly. "Already it is fifteen minutes past the appointed time, and yet she is not here!"

He pressed his hands to his fevered brow, and gazed. He tried to sit in vain, and still waited. He waited sadly through the window, and went on waiting.

At last! Ah! The sounds of little foot-steps on the stairs. He turned to the door, eager, excited. Yes, it was she!

"You have come, then?" he gasped, dizzy with delight, as he grabbed her hat.

Yes, the stenographer had come back, and it was now his turn to go out to lunch.—New York Times.

A Prayer in Time of Battle.

One of the oddest prayers ever made was that of an old Virginia soldier at Antietam. He was lying flat on the battlefield and, to quote his own words, "the shot and shell were going over me so thick that the whole firmament above me was lead color. I felt just then that I was six feet long and pretty tight four feet thick, and that the chances for me were only two feet better lying down than they were standing up. I made up my mind that my only safety lay in praying. 'Oh, Lord, good Lord, I prayed, 'please stretch me out as this as a shooting, with the pointed end towards the enemy.'"

Chinching Arguments.

A northern attorney, after acquiring a large South Carolina estate, formed the Eureka Debating society to encourage free speech among the negroes of the neighborhood. On his next trip south he was confronted by a proud winner of the society's prize.

"Now, what was the subject of the debate, Sam?" asked the attorney.

"De subject were, 'What is de moa' benefit to mankind, sah, de sun or de moon?" answered the negro.

"And which side did you uphold?"

"De moon, sah. I jes' argued dat de sun shines by day, when we doan't need de light, but de moon sh'ines by night, when dat light certainly am needed. Ah! day couldn't answer dat, sah!—Everybody's Magazine.

People and Events

Only one 12th Friday in 1916. The one hoodoo day is Friday, October 13, but the hoodoo will not apply to leap year proposals made on that day.



The Whys of the Wises.

SCOTIA, Neb., Jan. 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: I read with some interest the letter of one Stephen Bittick in The Bee advising German sympathizers to go to Germany. Well, why not English sympathizers go to England? During the Japanese-Russian war, almost the unanimous sympathy of the people of the United States was with Japan, as against Russia. Now, in this crisis, much of the sympathy is with Russia, against Germany. This, according to geometrical conclusion places Japan in advance of our German citizenship.

My father was an American citizen. I was born in this country, being thus a natural born citizen of United States. I can understand the German language, and speak it some. I have never lived in any country except this. But it gets "my goat" to hear these fellows call German sympathizers hyphenated Americans. Why not call those sympathizing with allies hyphenated Americans?

We hear much about Kaiserism and German militarism. Why don't these fellows speak of Anglicism and British navalism. Does not Great Britain today rule the sea?

If Bittick and I were to travel on our highway, meet a man carrying United States mail and roll him off his mail sack, would he be the result? We would both go to the pen, and surely we ought to. But the allies have repeatedly taken American vessels, carrying United States mail off the high seas though bound for neutral ports, taken what they wanted of it, and the result was the usual, "We shall protest." Bittick forgot this.

Bittick says, "Why don't these German sympathizers go to Germany and fight for that country?" Well, why don't these English sympathizers go to their adopted country and fight. Be honest with the public at least and tote fair.

A Memorial to a Pioneering Family.

OMAHA, Jan. 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: People who are interested in the breathing spots of the city are hoping that another and much-needed one may be added to the number, by municipal purchase of the Caldwell and Hamilton grounds.

"A park" was one of the first objects suggested for the ultimate destiny of these combined properties. Nothing could be more desirable for that quarter of town, or a more ideal use for the grounds themselves, which would lend themselves to it so perfectly and with so little comparative expense, their beautiful slopes already so well laid out and cultivated for many years. For any other purpose, such as the municipal buildings that have been mentioned, so much changing of grade would be required, and such great cost to the city, that it should hardly be thought of at all, if expense is any consideration.

Parks are health-spots as well as beauty-spots, and in both senses they are the agents of public welfare. There is no park anywhere in the vicinity of the Caldwell property. Every large city has its downtown or central park; this city has only Jefferson park, which is but a remote and shabby apology for one, though it serves its peculiar purpose well enough. It would be an immense pity to lose this splendid chance of giving the city another improvement of the kind most beneficial to its residents and most valuable to its own appearance.

It would be still more a pity to sacrifice such a beauty-spot as this might be to the purposes of a police station or even an emergency hospital. Think of that fine air space for the region, handed over to the smoke producers that already poison our atmosphere almost beyond endurance! (In passing, it might be said that the municipal officers, welfare boards and all others concerned, would do the city more good by enforcing its smoke ordinances than by any new projects that they can invent.) A library has been mentioned in connection with a police station and a hospital. Startling idea! Would the patrons of a library—women and children largely—be expected to enjoy encounters with ambulances and patrol wagons loaded with their sad freight and all the incidentals to the program of those two necessary but grewsome establishments? To one who loves to make use of a library, the idea is not tolerable. And it is not to be supposed that Omaha people will relish this novel "civic center" proposition.

It would seem that their views should be asked before such a plan is soberly discussed.

If the city planning board has any influence at all, now is a good time to make use of it. And if they have that sense of the "fitness of things," as regards city development, which we expect in such a board, they will realize that a park is the one and only true end for the beautiful Caldwell property, and work accordingly. "Caldwell park" or "Hamilton park"—either one an splendid name, and a memorial to a great pioneer family of the city.

Any words from people who believe in parks as a factor in city improvement, may help in that direction, and such people are urged not to withhold them.

Colored Man with a War Record.

OMAHA, Jan. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: The state of Nebraska and city of Omaha can boast of one aged colored man that did good service in the employment of Uncle Sam years ago, namely, J. W. S. Banks, or Joe Banks, as commonly known here. He served many years as a valet at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., for the following named officers: Captain Mitchell, Major General Phillip Reade, Colonel J. W. Pope, and as such went with General Miles to the front to catch Sitting Bull after the Custer massacre. But when Joe Banks returned he went back to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and was employed as valet for Captain C. S. Halsey. Old Joe Banks is now 83 years of age.

Lincoln Convention to Primary.

LINCOLN, Jan. 11.—To the Editor of The Bee: I want to say that I am heartily in accord with the views quoted in The Bee under a Lincoln date line regarding the abolishment of the present primary.

I am irrevocably "ferminal" the primary system, have always been and always will be, for by its use the most illiterate and unscrupulous can have equal privileges with the most enlightened and may be elected where he is unknown against a man perfectly qualified and worthy of the office, and who under the old convention system could not reach half way to first base.

Under the convention system a candidate had to come out in the open and his qualifications were well known, but under the primary system it appears to be different and most any sort of an individual can win whether he has the qualifications or not.

SUNNY GEMS.

"Are you sure the world is happier and better?" "Absolutely." Look at the people who used to make themselves miserable on bicycles and who are now riding in motor cars!—Washington Star.

Bill—I see some parts of the south are still giving us trouble. Jill—How so? Bill—Why, I see that Baldwin county, Ala., has shipped 103 cars of cucumbers.—Yonkers Statesman.

"Willis," said the teacher of the juvenile class, "what is the term 'Go' used for?" "It is used to make people believe that we know a lot more than we really do," replied the bright youngster.—Chicago News.

Minister—I made seven hearts happy today. Parishoner—How was that? Minister—Married three couples. Parishoner—That only makes six. Minister—Well, you don't think I did it for nothing?—Albany Argus.

"My son," said the father impressively, "suppose I had been taken away suddenly, what would become of you?" "Why," said the son, irreverently, "I'd stay here; the question is what would become of you?"—The Boy Builder.

WHY DO YOU WORRY?

New York Mail. O, why do you worry and why do you fret? It's dollars to doughnuts that things might be "worse." Pray what in the world are you hoping to gain. When, by day and by night, you simply complain? A laugh is worth more than a river of tears: An ounce of bright hope than a ton of dark fears; A cheer beats a groan by a hundred to one. And growing's a capital habit to shun. To double your trouble and add to your care, Keep railing about them, yea, no matter where; But would you get rid of your burdens of grief? Forget that you have them, you'll soon find relief. If nobody had any trouble but you, do you know what I think to you we would do? We'd encase you in glass and write "Here's a man since mortals began." If we never had storms, no rainbows we'd see, And a very great loss that surely would be; Take heart, and take hope then, and seek to live so That to others the right way to live you may show.

ROME wasn't built in a day. Neither was anything else worth while. It takes mo' than two years to "build" a tin of VELVET. Velvet Joe. IT takes that long for the choicest Kentucky Burley tobacco to be thoroughly matured into VELVET, the Smoothest Smoking Tobacco. Lippitt & Myers Tobacco Co.

Winter Office Comfort. Extremes of weather are the real test of an office building. It is then that the little things count. This building has not only a vacuum heating system, but is metal weather stripped. The court provides wonderful ventilation. The building is always practically full, because of its popularity, but occasional changes offer opportunities to get choice offices. While the list below is all we have to offer today, there may be something which will just suit you. If not, let us know your requirements and we will watch for an opportunity to take care of you when the first change occurs. THE BEE BUILDING "The building that is always new" Room 222—Choice office suite, north light, very desirable for two doctors or dentists; waiting room and two private offices; 530 square feet. \$45.00 Room 619—On the beautiful court of the building; size 185 square feet. \$10.00 Room 636—Only vacant room on the 17th street side of the building. Faces directly on Seventeenth street. Partition for private office and waiting room. Size 187 square feet. \$18.00 Room 105—At the head of the stairs, on the floor opposite The Bee business office. Size 370 square feet. Would be specially useful for a real estate firm. \$30.00 Apply to Building Superintendent, Room 103.

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