

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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CORRESPONDENCE. Address communications relating to news and editorial matter to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department. SEPTUAGINT CIRCULATION. 56,519

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss. Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the average daily circulation for the month of September, 1914, was 56,519.

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

It beats the Dutch how some countries disregard neutrality treaties.

Now watch Governor Morehead hop to his Thanksgiving proclamation.

King George doubtless feels himself much cheered by the revolt in South Africa.

Getting closer to the windup of the oratory, and the opening of the voting booths.

The street corner meetings at least save the campaign funds from drafts to pay hall rent.

Only a few days now till some of these voters wake up and find where they are "at."

No doubt the telegraph editors of the country would be glad if Europe doubled its staff of censors.

Despite the spunky fight the egg trust is putting up, it doubtless has a good deal of yellow in it.

Just because Bourbon county, Kentucky, has gone dry is no reason for supposing that Marsa Henry has given up the fight.

First district voters who want to be represented at Washington next time by a live one, will see to it that his name is Reavis.

It remains to be seen how the Knockers' Brigade takes to the appointment of Sir Claude Mallet as British minister to Panama.

If the people really want it, the short ballot can be had with or without a constitutional convention, and with or without the help of the law-makers.

In these days of independent and individual judgment, the "swallow-it-whole" and "vote-or-straight" talk does not have the same appeal as formerly.

The way to make sure of stopping the jail feeding graft is to take the job of feeding the prisoners away from the grafters by electing another sheriff.

Why dispute over the question whether suffrage carries jury service with it. If suffrage is a right, so must also be jury service. If not, both must be merely matters of expediency.

Really, it's a shame that this school board rumpus should create such a disturbance between democratic brethren who used to pat one another on the back on every occasion.

Another place where President Wilson shows a long head is in issuing his Thanksgiving day proclamation in advance of the election, and taking no chances on what the returns may disclose.

Our good fellow citizen who thinks it necessary to have a blazing sign designating to the travelers entering the city that this is Omaha, seems to us to be unnecessarily agitated. Never worry about Omaha, the Gate City, being known to every one who enters it.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

Compiled from Bee files

The Ladies' Musical society of Omaha and Council Bluffs opened its second season in Max Meyer's hall. After the concert these officers were elected: President, Miss Claire Huston; vice president, Miss Julia Officer; secretary, Miss Julia Knight; treasurer, Mrs. Metcalf of Omaha and Miss Baird of Council Bluffs.

Announcement was made by General Manager Callaway of Mr. S. T. Smith as general superintendent of the U. P. system. Mr. Smith was formerly superintendent of the Kansas division.

The new clearing house opened for business yesterday, and the clearings amounted to \$226,244.24 for the six national banks that are members.

Mrs. Manderson is entertaining Miss Margie Hurford of Oakland and her cousin, Miss Lizzie Hurford.

Mr. A. E. Meigs, formerly night editor of The Bee, left with his wife for Detroit, Mich., their future home, where he will be manager of the branch office for the Western Newspaper union.

The Metropolitan club gave its second party combining an entertainment program and dancing. Miss Sophia Cain recited "Charlie McCreo." Mrs. M. Michaels sang, Miss Minnie Rothchild gave a piano solo, and Messrs. Julius Meyer, S. Hoffman and Martin Cain rendered a flute and violin and piano trio.

Mrs. C. F. Spooner has returned from a three-weeks' visit with her parents in Illinois. Mrs. Alvin Raskers is back from a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Harrison, at Helena, Mont.

A Greater University of Nebraska. The position of The Bee favoring the upbuilding by Nebraska of a great state university, consolidating its energies, resources and activities instead of keeping them divided as at present between the downtown campus and the suburban agricultural college, was clearly defined when the subject was before the legislature. It appeared to us that from every point of view—efficiency, economy, clean surroundings, room to grow and harmonious and adequate housing—the one course conducive to real and lasting progress was to give up the downtown campus in favor of the agricultural college location. This is conceding that the university is to stay forever in Lincoln, being transplanted merely from a corner in an undesirable district of wholesale houses and railroad yards to the center of an attractive residence suburb just as much a part of Lincoln.

Had the legislature taken it upon itself to decide, consolidation would have been decreed. But instead, under pressure of interested real estate speculators eager to sell land adjoining the present campus at fancy prices, the browbeaten law-makers levied the necessary tax to pay the cost, and left it to be decided by popular vote whether the money should be spent to build up and develop one greater and consolidated university or to maintain and enlarge the two present institutions separated by a distance of a few miles.

The noisy and lavish campaign waged by the anti-consolidationists has brought out nothing, so far as we have observed, to counteract the arguments and reasons for consolidation, but, on the contrary, has strengthened them by showing that only sordid considerations call for keeping a part of the university down town. The promoters of the campaign on behalf of the real estate owners and boarding house keepers have overcome their job in its effect upon unbiased and thinking people, whatever may have been the influence upon those who jump at merely superficial conclusions.

After providing \$2,500,000 for the creation of a great state university that would put Nebraska in the forefront of higher education, even among its wide awake neighbors, it would be a pity to sacrifice the opportunity just to help somebody sell a few lots, and hold the students under the shadow of the big stores and pleasure resorts seeking to profit on their patronage.

A Glimpse More Reassuring.

Overwhelmed as we of the United States have been with the awful picture of misery and distress abroad as the result of the war, it is gratifying to learn from dispatches that there are places in the war zone where the lot of non-combatants is almost normal; where business is proceeding and good spirits prevail. It is also gratifying to know, as the Great Eastern Railway Magazine of London discloses, of the aid given by large corporations to their soldier employees and their families. This railway posted a "Notice to Staff" at the outset of the war, beginning thus:

It has been decided that the wives and families of men volunteering for service in the army and navy, as well as those who are called up for service either as reservists or territorials, shall be given such allowances by the company, supplemented by the personal contributions of the directors, officers and staff, as will, with government pay, be sufficient for their maintenance during the time such men are with the colors.

On their return—those who survive the war—the employees will be reinstated in their old positions or others as near equivalent as possible. No doubt similar policies are being pursued by other large concerns in England and in the other countries at war, by which the miseries entailed will be mitigated as much as possible. In Germany, which is said to be feeling the effect of the war at home less than any country, old age pensions are universal, so that dependent war victims may be certain of at least a substantial measure of care and relief. This, of course, will figure vitally in meeting subsequent issues.

Foster for Police Judge.

Three years ago The Bee proposed and recommended the candidacy of Charles E. Foster for police judge. On the record he has made he has been renominated on the republican ticket for another term, and we are glad to renew our recommendation to the voters to mark their ballots for Foster for police judge. In that trying position, nobody can suit everybody, and nobody has complained of anything in Judge Foster's administration of his office that goes further than a difference of opinion. The charge of absenteeism is trumped up for merely political effect. The one thing that stands out is that, as police magistrate, Judge Foster has made good and is entitled to endorsement at the polls.

Frod Paving Contractors.

City commissioners are quoted as explaining that the reason for so much delay in street paving this autumn is failure of contractors to proceed with the work under the specifications calling for high-grade material. The contractors, they say, of course do not come right out and admit their real reasons, but beat about the bush so as to effect delay, which has the same result. Further, the commissioners affirm that certain contractors hope by staving off the work long enough they may be able to pull a bigger profit out of it.

Without passing on the validity of the commissioners' claims, this seems plain enough, that the city authorities must have the power to compel action by the paving contractors. Let them either be made to do the work they bargained to do or forfeit the bonds put up for that purpose. Why should property owners, who want their streets paved, be made to bear the brunt of the situation? Nobody will deny that paving contractors often resort to devious methods to advance their own selfish schemes, but after all the taxpayers and public must deal with the city commissioners and not the paving contractors.

The Third Nebraska district is enjoying a genuine surprise in the vigorous congressional campaign that is being made by O. S. Spillman, the republican nominee, who is making it decidedly interesting for his democratic opponent. The Third district has an opportunity to get back on the map by electing Spillman, which it should not pass up.

Side Lights on the War.

Companionship of Soldiers. W. T. Crocker, writing in "American Notes in Munich," has this to say of the comradeship of the battlefield: "The Hitt Einem Kameraden! We have heard this sort of motto lately. Perhaps no song is more popular among the soldiers—as they march through the streets. We remember particularly the stirring of our emotions as the words 'in die Heimat, in die Heimat' ring out."

"The comrade on the battlefield is the link between the soldier and the citizen. The comrade and the citizen, the other may return home. The stern necessities of war, and the personal ties of friendship and home affection, are graphically depicted in the strophes of Unland."

"We picture the German army as a mighty, forceful impersonal machine, sending its soldiers to the charge almost as an automatic machine in a sweeping. Yet in the midst of all this machine-like movement the touch of the friend's hand, the home tie, is not lost."

"In one of the severe battles of the last week of August friends were fighting side by side. All the previous night they had lain on their arms fearing another attack. At 2:30 the action began and lasted throughout the day. Sudden one of the three was shot through the breast and arm. I had always thought that the tide of battle in such an event would sweep over the fallen soldier, leaving him of necessity on the battlefield."

"Not so in this case. The two friends picked up the fallen comrade and brought him to the field hospital. Then they sought to regain their own regiment, but it had gone on. They could only join some other regiment and in time work back to their own men while being reported as 'vermist.'"

"This is friendship on the battlefield. But it went further and brought a letter from one comrade to the parents of the wounded soldier. The latter, himself a writer, wrote a letter home, in crumpled handwriting, saying nothing about his accident, with simply a reference to those 'wounded for the Fatherland.' Not till afterwards could the parents read between the lines and realize the son's solicitude for their feelings."

"After all, friendship and home are the real power behind the guns."

Famous War Prisoners. Everybody who has read "Monte Cristo" or seen it acted will remember the Chateau d'If, the fearsome prison from which Dumas' sailor hero, Edmond Dantès, escaped in a sack after having taken the place therein of his fellow prisoner and friend, the Abbé Faria. Lovers of the story may be interested to hear that the famous chateau, which stands on an island in Marseilles harbor and was a fortress before it became a prison, is, owing to the war, once more in use as a place of detention after having been for many years a show place.

"I have just steered around it," writes a correspondent at Marseilles, "and espied several melancholy black figures in French uniforms on the battlements. They are guarding German prisoners. Outside the door of the central fort were three monks, and along the winding path to the landing stage was a thick dark coil of prisoners. In the office was a red French flag, which the captives held up as prisoners from a small boat for conveyance to Algiers. It was a silent, gloomy picture, but no one could tell me whether the famous old dungeons are still being used."

Lessons in Geography. Within the last several days much has been written of Dixmude and of Nieuport, which can hardly be found on the maps, and are not so insistent as to attract the attention of great cyclopedists even to the extent of minute paragraphs. The former is on the Yser river, a creek which one could almost snuff with a jump; yet it is said to "divide the contending forces." Dixmude is a town of less than 4,000 population whose only distinction is that it has a church. It is about twelve miles north of Ypres, where also there has been fierce fighting for many days.

Nieuport (Flemish Nieuwpoort) is a dozen miles northwest of Dixmude and ten miles southwest of Dunkirk at the mouth of the little river Yperlee, and having a bit of harbor on the North Sea. It may be counted by the Germans a way station on the road to invasion of England from some point on the channel, but it is worthless for any military purpose, it would be said, until the invaders are sure of Dunkirk.

Nieuport is a fishing village of about 3,000 population. Boats for fishing fleets are built there, as they are at all of the channel towns and cities, but it is lacking in all the means of defense and offense, and must simply be thought one more of the many little towns in West Flanders to be sacrificed on the horrid altar of war.

It has an interesting history, like all of the towns and cities of Flanders, which dates back hundreds of years before West and East Flanders were finally hewn from ancient Flanders to become almost the fairest provinces of modern Belgium. Cordage and rope and nettles are made at Nieuport for the fishermen. A notable cloth mill dates from 1388, and a lightning bolt, which was finished in 1381, it was here moreover, that the famous "Battle of the Dunes" was fought in July, 1568, when Maurice of Nassau defeated the Spaniards.

Grimmest Army Corps.

In all the world there is only one army—the German—that carries its war preparations to such a state of completeness as to have a special corps of grave diggers, who accompany the army in the field for this grim task alone. They were formed for the Franco-German war of 1870, and their appearance was a source of amazement to the older generation of soldiers of Europe, who could not understand such "specialization."

Another feature of the German military system is the requirement that all soldiers should wear around their necks labels with their names, regiment and rank. In the event of death these are useful for purposes of identification, and in case of injury they serve as a form on which the surgeons attached to the field hospital put down details of the patient's injuries, and any special guidance of the surgeons at the base hospital.

Tom Edison vigorously boasts the "Made in America" slogan. "We have become too much a nation of assemblers," he says. "It has been too easy for us to import our materials. This European war came along to teach us to depend on ourselves. Get into Nature's entrenchments and make her give up."

Among the recent arrivals in New York are 1,500 pieces of tourist baggage, the latest batch from the war zone of Europe. This makes in round numbers a total of 25,000 trunks and other pieces recovered abroad and brought to this country, constituting a notable tribute to American efficiency in baggage rustling.

A Virginia doctor who went to St. Louis and had his appendix removed astonished the surgeons by saying that he had no prospect of getting it, because the death rate is shockingly low. Unless sanitary conditions collapse during the winter, the cure was bold, undertaken may be obliged to apply for relief to the charity organizations. An amazing story of affairs, surely, but the people are not worrying.

In his plea against paying his divorced wife the pety sum of \$8 a week alimony, a New York undertaker solemnly assured the court that he hasn't the money and no prospect of getting it, because the death rate is shockingly low. Unless sanitary conditions collapse during the winter, the cure was bold, undertaken may be obliged to apply for relief to the charity organizations. An amazing story of affairs, surely, but the people are not worrying.

The Bee's Letter Box

The Tax Amendment. OMAHA, Oct. 29.—To the Editor of The Bee: "The League of Taxpayers" is printing paid advertisements against the proposed constitutional amendment No. 1. This organization is also issuing statements declaring that this amendment is a disguised attempt to tax church property, put all the taxes on the farmers and to establish the single tax, all at one fell swoop.

This inherent bunch of contradictory charges is too puerile to deserve notice were it not for the fact that special interests are attempting by this method to deceive the voters on the eve of election. No change can be made in the present taxation laws, under which tax dodging has become more common than burglary, without amending the constitution. All tax dodgers are opposed to amendment No. 1. Well informed citizens who favor reform in taxation will vote "yes" on this amendment.

C. G. CUNNINGHAM, President Omaha Economic League. L. B. TUCKERMAN, JR., President Lincoln Economic League.

Separate Legislative Districts. OMAHA, Oct. 29.—To the Editor of The Bee: In campaigning through the county I encountered considerable criticism over the fact that under present conditions the county districts are unable to secure representation in the legislature.

To secure justice in representation for the outlying districts I believe the next legislature ought to create senatorial and representative districts on the present apportionment basis. By this means every section of the county would have representation upon a fair and equitable basis. This would also be a move in the direction of the short ballot, which you are advocating, and which all progressives are demanding. For by this method each voter would have to choose but one senator and one of two representatives, instead of, as now, five senators and twelve representatives. L. J. QUINBY.

Still More About Sugar. OMAHA, Oct. 29.—To the Editor of The Bee: I seldom reply to critics, giving the truth as I see it and accepting the judgment of the public, favorable or unfavorable. Mr. Snyder, however, so ridiculously misrepresents me I feel I ought to expose him. I did not say or intimate that boll-wool destroys sugar cane, as he intimates, but I did say boll-wool, insects, rust, drouth, etc., had been so overworked to bull the market that the public no longer paid much attention to such arguments. I meant to show that Mr. Dickinson's adverse conditions were of this character, and so Bee readers understood me—all except Mr. Snyder.

I did not say that Germany is the only country producing sugar in Europe. I know other countries produce it, but mostly for home consumption, while Germany almost controlled the world market. This is the reason I alluded solely to that country. I did not say that cane and beet sugar differ chemically or physically, but I did say cane sugar is better than beet sugar, because nearly all housewives tell me so and because it is always about 50 cents per hundred dearer than beet sugar.

I said cane sugar can be produced better and cheaper than beet sugar, and I say so still. Four tons of beets to the acre are considered a good crop in Wisconsin, but I am safe in saying the crop never exceeds five tons per acre, which at \$1 per ton would amount to \$500 per acre. This same land produces from fifty to seventy bushels of corn per acre, worth 50 cents per bushel—say \$35 per acre, with much less cost in cultivation. Is it any wonder farmers refuse to raise sugar beets?

The average crop of sugar cane per acre is fifteen tons, see Encyclopedia Britannica. The amount of sugar per ton does not differ greatly from that of beets, and hence the cane crop, without cultivation for years, is worth three times as much per acre as the best crop. As a matter of fact, best sugar never has and never can compete with cane sugar. It never would have been made but for a heavy bounty in Europe and a heavy tariff in the United States. Fighting nature is a costly business. When cane sugar is admitted free into the United States the production of beet sugar will cease, unless the government subsidizes the industry. Under the Dingley tariff \$30 per hundred, refined sugar was often retailed at 5 cents per pound right here in Omaha. Now we must pay the tariff—12-18 cents—from 5 cents and you can sell sugar at 31-36 cents with as much profit as you could under the Dingley tariff at 5 cents.

It is, therefore, nothing to make fun of, but a reasonable anticipation, that sugar can be retailed at 4 cents a pound after 1918. D. C. JOHN.

Letters from a Political Heavener.

SOMEWHERE, Oct. 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: My last two letters were sent to your paper within twenty-four hours of each other with the dates blank to be filled in by the editor, as is my custom. They were published in an inverted order from that intended by the writer. This explanation is due to your readers.

This letter finishes all I have to say on Mexico, for the present, at least. There appears to be movement on foot to attempt the Protestant evangelization of Mexico. Witness the last assembly and unification of Protestant missionaries in the United States, on leave of absence from Mexico prolonged unpleasantly. Doubtless the present secretary of state is friendly to such a movement. But it will never succeed. Religion is racial and doctrinal. In Europe Protestantism never thrived below the Alps and Pyrenees; and it never will. The Latin is either a ritualist or rationalist.

The only formidable rival Catholicism can have in Mexico is Mormonism. The Mormon claims that Christ made a second appearance in the western hemisphere after his ascension in the eastern hemisphere; and the identification of Quetzacoatl, the Aztec god of the air, with the Nazarene appeals to the imagination of the credulous Mexican.

Carranza does not object to the Catholic priests as such, but wishes to abolish the confessionals. He does not strike at auricular confession, but at the confessional itself. That is tantamount to abolishing the church itself. The reason given by the Mexican statesman (sic) is that the priests advised their penitents to support Huerta. This followed their master, The Nazarene, advised paying tribute to Huerta; and Paul counseled obedience to Nero. "Thou shalt not curse the ruler of thy people." "Render to

Caesar the things that are Caesar's." "The powers that be are ordained of God." These are all Protestant texts literally quoted. But I can not help laughing in my sleeve at the Macedonian cry for religious toleration in Mexico that has gone up from Catholic throats. When the Catholic church was dominant in Mexico nobody else got a look-in. Huerta spoke with understanding of his countrymen when he said that Mexico was unfitted for a democratic republic. We can afford to wait and see. DER HEIDE.

LINES TO A SMILE.

—I see the new fashions for women are to be short and full. —That is where you have the advantage. Men can't be short and full at the same time.—Indianapolis News.

"Papa, what is an ecstascheon?" "Why?" "This story says there was a blot on his ecstascheon." "Oh, yes! An ecstascheon is a light-colored vest. He had probably been carrying a fountain pen."—Houston Post.

"Why don't you write to this paper for what you want to know?" The editor says his column gives a few wrin'-les on every matter. "Not for mine. I want to know how to keep my complexion youthful."—Baltimore American.

Mr. Wellman—That is poor Mr. Feebles over there. He has been on a strike. Little Rodney—Does he write at the crossings, pa?—Kansas City Star.

"Did you hear the joke on old Mrs. Flutter? She's just captured that silly

Mr. Gibbs and this morning I was told he had lost all his money. What do you think of that?" "I should say the capture had no strategic value."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

EXPERT TESTIMONY. A great Power is in evidence in Nature's glorious world: The morning mist a-lifting Reveals the grass dew-pearled; The yellow leaves all silently Are dropping one by one; And morning glories bravely lift Bright faces to the sun.

Great Thrift is in evidence In Nature's wide domain; The squirrels hide away sweet nuts Into blankets warm and cozy; The little crinkled leaves are swept Into blankets warm and cozy; Each precious little prey.

Great Wisdom is in evidence Among God's creatures all: The birds go flying to the south In some mysterious call; The mistle thrush has his place—(I wonder how he knows)— To hide, when blustering from the north Old Winter brings his snow.

A great Love is in evidence In Nature's world, God's care, Steadfastly His small creatures About us everywhere, Sport in Life's changing seasons Our flagging spirits cheer, Teaching, what'er befallen, That Love is ever near.

—BAYOLL NE TRELE

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