

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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CORRESPONDENCE. Address communications relating to news and editorial matter to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

OCTOBER CIRCULATION. 55,104. 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 October, 1914, was 55,104.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 24th day of November, 1914. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

None without something to be thankful for today.

Be thankful you live in peaceful United States.

Yes, and be sure to save some for the turkey hash postscript.

General Funston got out of it for once without having to swim any rivers.

Well, now that the gringos are out of Mexico, Mexico, of course, will recover.

That job of secretary of the State Board of Assessment must be a regular hoodoo.

It is understood that the warriors are not being paid time and a half for overtime.

Applying the name "holy war," makes it nonetheless what Sherman said it was.

But so long as "watchful waiting" keeps the peace honorably we will let it go at that.

Nebraska's hungry democratic brigade could be much more thankful with slight provocation.

As the Psalmist said, "Let us come before His presence (especially this day) with thanksgiving."

Portugal is going to join the allies "when needed." Those Portuguese will do well to stick to their knitting.

Not to be outwitted at good excuses by European war lords, Carranza describes his retreat as "a strategic maneuver."

It's a real Thanksgiving we'll wager for the returned American soldiers and marines who have been exiled in Vera Cruz for over six months.

George W. Perkins has issued a call to meet "us" in Chicago December 3 to discuss the future of the bull-moose party. Stop your sneaking, there.

Department of Agriculture experts forecast the greatest wheat area in the world's history for the 1915 harvest. Just count on Nebraska to furnish its share and then some.

In his magazine story, Richard Harding Davis may bewail all he will his fate, "To Be Treated as a Spy," but he would not have had the story if he could not figure out that they had treated him that way.

Three contests filed for legislative seats, and one contest for police judgeship, all alleging fraud or misconduct, notwithstanding our new election commissioner law, which was to have made election contests impossible.

If 100,000 United States citizens have volunteered to enlist in Canada for service in the European war, no one need be apprehensive about lack of volunteers in case Uncle Sam called for them on his own account.

Mayor Dahman agrees with The Bee that the electric signboard arch disfiguring the beautiful court house approaches should be transplanted. Let us remind the mayor that for this purpose this is as good a transplanting season as any.

The marriage of Thomas A. Dillon and Miss Edie A. Reilly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reilly, took place at Holy Family church, Father Schaeppel officiating. Miss Jennie Dellone was bridesmaid and Mr. Farrell of Chicago, the best man. A reception followed at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Reilly on Cass street.

Charles Fisher was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Wittford by Judge Becka.

John Miller has been initiated as a member of the police force.

Peyke Bros. commission house is exhibiting a Rocky Mountain sheep with horns four inches thick at the base.

Will H. Daniels of roller skating notoriety, is again in Omaha.

Mrs. D. G. Hull left to visit in Birmingham, New York.

Robert J. Taylor died at his residence, northwest corner of Seventeenth and Douglas, aged 40 years.

By the number of turkeys in the market it would seem that they had not been roosting very high this year. The wholesale price quotation for dressed turkey is 12 to 13 cents a pound.

Thanksgiving. Americans as a whole evidently have come up to this Thanksgiving imbued with the belief that they have never had more peculiar cause for thanksgiving than now. The spirit of the nation is reflected in these key words of the president's annual message:

It has been vouchsafed to us to remain at peace with honor and in some part to succor the suffering and supply the needs of those in want. We have been privileged by our own peace and self-control in some degree to study counsels and shape the hopes and purposes of a day of fear and distress. Never before have the people of the United States been so situated for their own advantage or the advantage of their neighbors or so equipped to serve themselves and mankind.

And never has mankind needed the service of all nations can render more than it needs it now. If tomorrow we should be drawn into this maelstrom of war, we would realize this even more than we do at present. But it is not the peculiarity of our blessing that gives the cause for thanksgiving, except as it moves and enables us to extend our beneficent acts as far as possible to our neighbors in distress. We should put a very cheap price on our present isolation from active war to view it from the low level of the vaunting Pharisee, who stood up and thanked God that he was not as other men.

"Freely ye have received, freely give," is our thought. "It has been vouchsafed to us to remain at peace" that we might pass on the fruits of our peace to our kinsmen beyond the seas.

A vain thanksgiving, indeed, it would be for Americans smugly to rejoice that they were still among the living, still permitted to enjoy the inalienable right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, still surrounded by peace and plenty and friend and family, while others groaned in the agony of war, unless we did what in our might we could for their relief and the world's belief in the folly and fatuity of war. But their great works of mercy and philanthropy show that Americans have caught the force of this thanksgiving, and are therefore feeling the full effect of their citizenship. For no one ever feels the full power of a noble relation unless he is true to it.

Now, looking off to the end of the war, another phase of this picture of national altruism looms up in the coming of thousands from these troubled lands, as their fathers before them have come, to claim for themselves these inalienable rights inherent in American citizenship. How shall we receive them? Will we then, the war clouds dispelled, still feel this same throbbing impulse of sympathy and welcome them in the name of the common brotherhood of man? That will be our greatest opportunity.

Ours is, indeed, a precious heritage, but we have no monopoly on it.

Looking to Sources of Food Supply. The government's experts forecast the largest world area of wheat in history for next year. American farmers and farmers everywhere are striving as a result of the European war to increase their acreage to the utmost. Even the warring countries, which normally produce half the world's wheat crop, are straining every effort in this direction. They are drafting every available labor resource; old men or others exempt from military service, refugees, prisoners of war and women and children are in the field wherever possible. It is a reminder that the business of keeping open every possible channel of production is a vital factor in the conduct of war, more so in the present titanic struggle than ever before. That nation whose food supply holds out longest will have the upper hand in the fight.

But come what may, the odds are against Europe getting in anything like a normal acreage of wheat, which means nothing less than that the United States will next year, as now, have to be depended on for a large portion of breadstuffs needed for the nations now at war. Of course, although fall sowing is said to be behind at present in all the European countries, the late mild season in parts of France and Italy—which next to Russia is the biggest European wheat country—will permit a good deal of work in the field yet.

Tuberculosis Sunday. Next Sunday the pupil and press and other mediums of public communication will be expected to come down with one hard, united blow on the old enemy known as the "white plague," for it will be "Tuberculosis Sunday." It is most incongruous to call it that when it marks the annual celebration of the progress achieved thus far in the propaganda of stamping out this dread malady, but then there is nothing in a name. The fact is it is a good thing to join at least once a year in a concerted emphasis of this magnificent fight we are making.

The biggest victory of this crusade has been won, though the battle is only begun. That victory was accomplished at the outset in beating down stubborn barriers of ignorance and indifference and getting the people to see that, after all, the most powerful remedy lies in the natural elements of sunshine and air, thus making prevention instead of cure the prime treatment for this scourge so long believed invincible.

Not So Easy as it Looks. One of the proposals which is to be put up to the legislature by local civic organizations calls for a change in the revenue laws so that property in Nebraska shall be assessed for taxation at full valuation instead of, as now, 20 per cent of the full value. The object in view is wholly praiseworthy, being designed to do away with the confusing computation, and more particularly to strengthen our credit, and make salable our bonds which have suffered because of the apparent, but not real, excessive percentage of indebtedness to tax valuation.

But to make this change is not so easy as it looks, because numerous laws gauge the tax levy on a 20 per cent assessment. For example, we have a 1-mill university levy fixed by law, which would produce the equivalent of a 5-mill levy under a full-value assessment, and likewise with the limits for the levies for all the various state and county funds. If we retain the 20 per cent basis for state assessment and make the change apply only to the city assessment, we will have to guard against unwittingly increasing the school levy.

This feature of our tax assessment can and should be satisfactorily worked out, but only the exercise of scrupulous care will avoid making a bad matter worse.

Nearly every state in the union sees a coming president in its latest elected governor.

Thanksgiving Day

Origin and Continuity. President Washington instituted Thanksgiving day as a national festival on the last Thursday in November, 115 years ago. President Lincoln gave it continuity on the same month and day, in the crucial year of 1863.

Between the terms of the two great presidents the date set by proclamation varied greatly. Even Washington departed from the original month and day, and in 1789 chose February 2. President Adams' favorite months were April and May. Officially the observance lapsed in President Jefferson's term, no proclamations having been issued, but it was revived at the request of congress by President Madison, who first chose the third Thursday of August, 1813, as a day for invoking divine favor on the arms of the United States then engaged in war with Great Britain. Next year Madison changed to the second Thursday of September. No Thanksgiving day was appointed for 1814, but the following year Madison issued two proclamations, both at the instance of congress, one naming January 12, 1815, as a day for "public humiliation, fasting and prayer," due to the continuation of the war; the second named the second Thursday in April, 1815, as a day of thanksgiving for the close of the war. This was the last Thanksgiving proclaimed by a president until 1863, when the civil war broke by a counter to a realization of the gravity of the crisis in the life of the nation.

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This proclamation was the first to use the now familiar reference to the fact that "the year now drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies," a sentence which appeared in but slightly modified form in many other subsequent Thanksgiving proclamations.

Originals on File. In the files of the State department may be seen today the original manuscript from which the first national Thanksgiving proclamation was drafted. It is dated by George Washington in October, 1789, six months after he took the oath of office as first president of the United States. The manuscript in the State department, however, is not in Washington's handwriting, and neither are the numerous corrections in his hand. Thus Washington began the custom, which has been more or less observed since his time, of letting some minor official, usually some one in the department of State, draft Thanksgiving proclamations.

Since President Lincoln made Thanksgiving day an annual affair the proclamations of the presidents have lost some of their special significance. The writing of them has been largely delegated to officials of the State department, and the references to national events and international relations have not been so marked as in the early days. There have been exceptions, however, as in the case of President McKinley, who based his Thanksgiving proclamation of 1898 on the conclusion of the war with Spain. Mr. McKinley wrote one or two of his own Thanksgiving proclamations, and President Roosevelt wrote almost all of his. On one occasion President Roosevelt preached a sermon to the people of the country, taking as his text the parable of the talents.

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People and Events. The searching wintry blasts of the North Sea are likely to be altered materially by the "hot fire of the enemy."

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Does Kansas admire Major General Fred Funston? Listen to the joyous scream of William Allen White's Emporia Gazette: "There he stands, five feet six, a fine, round figure of a man, major general of the United States army, and twenty-five years ago he was swinging off the ends of Santa Fe trains in Emporia as train auditor. His promotion does not come too late; he still has fifteen years of good fighting, and in that time he can whip the world, and all Kansas will join the United States in helping him."

Twice Told Tales. Somewhat Flustered. A very pretty girl from a western town was the latest arrival at a select boarding school in Massachusetts. Being pretty and well dressed, she became very popular.

She was elected to be an usher for the monthly musicale, and, being painfully shy, she was much wrought up over it. She never could do it—no, never! But the election was positive—there was no drawing out. The evening found her a perfect flutter of pink frills, awaiting to receive the early comers. Each of the other young women who were sitting in this capacity bore forward an imposing auditor, and Elsie found herself inquiring of a very old and elegant gentleman, in a voice scarcely audible:

"Sir, shall I show you to a seat?"

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The Bee's Letter Box

Owning an Auto Make a Difference. BRUNING, Nov. 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: In your issue of the 24th you have an item as follows:

A state with 60,000 automobiles does not need to worry about a few horses going out of the state.

If the writer of this item were the owner of an automobile he might think differently. He would then know that one team in the hands of our foe (automobile owner) makes it impossible for 60,000 automobiles to get over. You, who make this assertion, may not own an automobile, and your interest may be with those who want to buy the horses, but who is it that gets the horses? Our friends? I should think not. Where did they stand from 1860 to 1867? Something must have changed their minds. And about that Pacific fellow, where does he stand? And Mr. Omaha Bee, where do you stand? J. DUTS.

Flour for Belgium Relief. LINCOLN, Nov. 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: I would suggest that each and every subscriber of your paper give one sack of high patent flour (11 1/2 high patent) to the best flour mill in your neighborhood across the water.

Our grocery men will without doubt sell and deliver the flour to any central point in the city for actual cost of handling. We feel the transportation companies are doing their part by seeing that their food and clothing are carried free of charge to Belgium; so it is up to us to help push the good work along by sending our neighbors something to eat and wear.

If the people in the United States were in the same plight as the Belgians are today they would not be a nation at war among themselves at the present time but what would send us aid.

I will kindly ask the Nebraska newspapers to take up the important question of what is the best way to get this flour and clothing to our needy friends. I will know there is power in printers' ink, if properly used. There are very few people in this world but what have a streak of charity in their make-up, if they can be shown they are not being imposed upon. E. H. BATTY.

Wants Kennedy for Senator. OMAHA, Nov. 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: John L. Kennedy would make a great senator. In my judgment he would more completely fill this high place than any other who may aspire to this office from Nebraska.

He came to the United States when a boy from Scotland in the steerage, and he has fought his way up through life, aided by the fortune of birth or social caste. He has made a success in his profession and in his business, and more than that he has made a success in just being a man. He is strong, rugged and faithful in standing by what he believes to be right—yet he is kind, forgiving and considerate. He has reached the full maturity of his mental and physical powers, and he is fortified with a life record that is worthy of the emulation of any man. No person, clique, class or creed controls his conduct or thought. He is in his own master and as such would represent our state in the senate.

I have seen him refuse honor because it was tainted. I have seen him cast aside power because it was wrong. I have seen him decline to bow his knee to a selfish interest. He thereby stood the acid test of real manhood—not for glory, but just for right. I have seen him give freely to the poor, sick and distressed. I have seen him stand and fight for causes that he thought just and noble.

I have long watched his life in his profession, business, politics, church and home, and it has appealed to me as being almost a perfect life—one that has a lustre that will live on and make the world better for having possessed it.

Therefore, I nominate him for the republican nominee for United States senator from Nebraska in 1916. FRANKLIN A. SHOTWELL.

Thaw and His Money. OMAHA, Nov. 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: To turn your readers aside for a moment from the war and woman's suffrage, I send you this item of news. Harry K. Thaw has taken up his residence for the winter in the city of Manchester, N. H. Two Saturdays ago he attended the Hanover Street Congregational church and put \$20 in the contribution box, which shows that the lawyers have not yet got all of his money and is proof positive that he is much too respectable to be confined in an insane asylum. M.

Philadelphia Record. If Russia has become sober in a day it will be one of the miracles of the world. We must await the return of peace to see whether the Demon Rum has really been banished for all time from the czar's domains.

Springfield Republican: An experiment in nation-wide prohibition that actually prohibits appears to be one of the incidental subject lessons which is to come from the war. It is declared in Petrograd that not a drop of strong liquor is to be obtained anywhere in Russia.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: Of the effects of vodka drinking, being almost pure alcohol, the world is more or less familiar. That its prohibition would wonderful changes in Russia cannot be doubted, but that absolute prohibition of strong liquor of any kind can or will be enforced permanently in Russia remains to be demonstrated.

Chicago Tribune: Petrograd is the only capital in Christian civilization where alcohol is not sold. The state first renounced the huge revenue it received from the sale of intoxicants and then denounced the liquor traffic. Russian soldiers go to this war sober. That has been commented on as significant. They did not go sober against the Japanese.

Indianapolis News: The introduction of absolute prohibition in the Russian empire means that henceforth the use of liquor is forbidden to 150,000,000 people, living in a region comprising one-sixth of the habitable part of the earth. Construct this as they may, liquor interests the world over must be impressed. The new order of things in Russia is of importance not easily exaggerated. In Russia the government has had a virtual monopoly of the liquor traffic. From the sale and distribution of vodka it obtained an annual revenue of \$500,000,000, which means that to produce this sum vodka to the value of \$1,000,000,000 had to be sold. Even among 150,000,000 people, the consumption of \$1,000,000,000 worth of alcoholic drinks in a single year means an appalling degree of drunkenness.

Nebraska Editors

W. H. Thomas has sold the Naper News to Hans A. Peterson.

Ray P. Burch has purchased the Creation Statesman of Mrs. Anna Roberts, who has been conducting the paper for some time.

The Loup Valley Press association will hold its next meeting at Palmer in January.

Karl L. Spence of Franklin has added the Napone Herald to his string of papers. Mr. Spence is also owner of the Franklin County News and the Up-land Eagle.

Horace M. Davis, editor of the Ord Weekly Journal, has declined the office of deputy state auditor. He says he cannot afford to leave his own business to work for the state.

SUNNY GEMS. "Here's a story of an advanced woman who was not allowed in a barber shop when she tried to go there to have a hair cut." "She might have known that barber shops are only for the males. That's why they're postmarked."—Baltimore American.

"What do you think of a man with a rip in his coat and only three buttons on his vest?" "He should either get married or get a divorce."—Chicago News.

"My boy has had luck all through college." "How's that?" "He never gets over his home ball injuries even enough to make the football team."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Teacher—Now, if I paid one man \$2 a day for seven days, another \$3.50 for ten days and another \$4.75 for six days—Buddy Backrow (whose father belongs

to the union)—You'd have the dumbest strike on your hands you ever saw, teacher.—Pack.

Grateful Patient—Doctor, how can I ever repay you for your kindness to me? Doctor—Doesn't matter, old man. Check, money order or cash.—New York Times.

Writer—What will it be, sir? Sauterkraut or pate de foie gras? "Is Ham and eggs. I'm neutral"—Harvard Lampoon.

Wife—Don't you think you might manage to keep house alone for a week while I go on a visit? Husband—I guess so, yes, of course. "But won't you be lonely and miserable?" "Not a bit!" "Huh! Then I won't go."—New York Weekly.

THANKSGIVING. Joel Benton in Leslie's. Another year of sun and rain. Of singing birds and summer flowers. Brings us this hallowed day again. With joy that life's great gift is ours.

April, clate with slices of blue, And scurrying clouds, and budding trees, Has held her rosiest promise true. The trembling, pale anemone's

Fraud cup, and all the pomp of May, With June's transcendent cavalcade, Brought us this heritage today. For this boundless year was made;

For this there came the bobolink's strain, And the song-sparrow's dulcet thrill— The opulent crops renewed again, That crown each autumn vale and hill.

The chestnuts that the frost unlock, Our orchards of Hesperides, And all the fields of growing flocks Conspired in generous league with these.

Yet this sure globe goes not alone, Through any force fortuitous; The hand upon Creation's Throne Profers unmeasured wealth to us.

So, for the rich Thanksgiving feast, Let gratitude today arise, For joy and good once more increased, And love descending from the skies!