

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR. The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor. BEE BUILDING, FARNAM AND SEVENTEENTH.

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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 8th 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.

Cheaper turkey is promised for Christmas. Now you're talking!

The Turks do not seem to give a Smyrna fig whose boats they fire on.

The stamp of the Wilson administration is a war tax stamp in time of peace.

Old General December is likely to put up a tougher fight than most of them.

"Who is to be governor?" demands the New York World. Our guess is Charles S. Whitman.

Captain Hobson considers Mr. Bryan a very ungentlemanly man for refusing to be hugged by a young woman.

As if oppressed by the noxious monotony of peace everywhere, the Kentucky night riders have broken loose again.

Where is that old-fashioned army officer who used to make humorous speeches at dinners given by the Order of the Carabao?

Every now and then some busybody gets the notion that the president would like to have someone knocked into a cocked hat.

The reopening of the parcel post service between this country and Austria is another encouraging sign of readjustment to war conditions.

France doubtless thought she scooped Germany on her "yellow book," but Germany has just reeled off the second edition of its "white paper."

Offering the Kansas City postoffice to former Congressman W. S. Cowherd, "The New Freedom" pays a kindly tribute to the "Old Guard."

Bull moose "leaders" are in a quandary that does not beset the rank and file. Only the "leaders" have professed to believe that both the old parties were too bad for them to return to.

According to the weather man's report, last month in Omaha was the driest November on record. Any wonder, considering the fact that Mr. Bryan came out in that month for national prohibition?

If The Bee printed all the appeals and literature sent us by the different war relief committees we would have space for little else. Any one who wants to help will, however, be gladly accommodated with directions telling how.

Our amiable contemporary, the World-Herald, takes occasion to praise the federal reserve board for abolishing the fee graft of federal bank examiners. Good! But why not come back home, and say a word in approval of our Nebraska supreme court for putting an end to the fee grab and the feed graft in our district clerk's and sheriff's offices?

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wearne were the recipients of a pleasant surprise party in honor of their fifteenth wedding anniversary, which included a bountiful supper, vocal and instrumental music and a merry dance. Among the gifts listed were fruit and sauce dishes from Mr. and Mrs. Lestherland; cut glass service, Mr. and Mrs. Behner; handsome lamp, Mr. and Mrs. Weisshaus; amberine pitcher, Mr. and Mrs. Oxman; tea set, Mr. and Mrs. Toms; vase and pickle dishes, Mrs. and Miss Fenwick; hand-painted plates, Mrs. Hixson; fruit dish and tea set, George Helmsdorf.

Mrs. T. W. T. Richards died at the residence, corner Eighteenth and Farnam streets. She was only 34 years of age and had been prominent in church work. Besides her husband she leaves three children, Margaret, Jesse and Willy.

The new Faxon & Gallagher block is being rapidly brought to completion.

Dr. Richard C. Moore has removed his office to the northwest corner of Twentieth and Burt.

Half dozen very large deer were this morning laid down in front of Branch & Co.'s commission house on Farnam street. One of them was a black tail, a very rare species.

J. N. Morris, recently appointed ticket agent of the Milwaukee road at Omaha, has taken his office.

The ladies of the Temple Israel congregation are organizing for a benefit fair to be held in February, for which they have elected the following officers: President, Julius Meyer; vice president, Mrs. M. Hollander; treasurer, Mrs. Ben Newman; secretary, J. Oberlander.

Mrs. H. K. Burkot is visiting old friends at Creston.

The Governor's Explanations.

Accompanying two appointments, Governor Morehead gives out public explanations, presumably intended to disarm criticism which he must feel his selections are inviting. Regardless of the merits of the governor's choice for these appointive favors, it is interesting to note his declaration in one case that Mr. Bryan's endorsement and request is the controlling factor. Unfortunately, the governor does not go so far as has been proposed by Mr. Bryan himself, namely, that all endorsements and requests for executive preferment be made matters of public record so that the people may know just what wires were pulled to produce the result. The complete list of backers urging the claims of Mr. Bryan's pet applicant would at least satisfy curiosity as to what company Mr. Bryan is associating with in the recommendation, for, as we are all aware, no one has laid so much stress as has Mr. Bryan upon the wickedness of good people joining with bad people in nominating and electing men to office. Now that the governor has taken the first step, we would like to see him go the whole length and give out with each appointment a detailed schedule of all the influences brought to bear upon him or prompting his action.

Pancho and His Christmas Feast.

Having reached the Mexican capital in ample time, Senor Villa may now take that Christmas dinner in the national palace as he promised to do a year ago. True, Senor Huerta has not tarried to greet him, nor yet deigned to emerge from his rose-tinted bower of ease in sunny Spain long enough to bestow on Senor Villa a long-distance merry ha, ha—which he might easily be tempted to do, for if ever a bold senor fell down on his promise, it was Senor Villa on the promise concerning this Christmas feast.

But with his good friend—to date—Provisional President Gutierrez presiding at the table, Villa should enjoy the dinner just as much. Somehow, it has seemed that, while Villa has displayed much native ability on certain occasions, the love of the spectacular in his simply will not down. He talks a lot for a soldier, but being untutored in the fineness of civilized warfare, perhaps, too much should not be expected of him. There are those who look to him to lead Mexico out of the travail of her torture, and maybe he will; maybe, after all, he is "a rough diamond," though never "a flower born to blush unseen." At all events, let Senor Villa enjoy, while he can, the dinner that comes one year behind schedule time.

Justice on Trial in Georgia.

"I seriously doubt if he had due process of law," says Associate Justice Holmes of the United States supreme court commenting on the case of Leo M. Frank, the young Cornell graduate and Atlantic business man under death sentence for the alleged murder of a factory girl. Because of the mob spirit and passion enveloping the trial at Atlanta and the bungling methods employed by imported detectives, together with the fact that many impartial students of the case are convinced of his innocence—because of these things and the young man's excellent character theretofore, his fate has aroused national interest.

Denied a rehearing in the Georgia courts, Frank's lawyers appealed for a writ of error to Associate Justice Lamar of the federal supreme court, who refused to grant it. Then they appealed to Associate Justice Holmes, who finds a "serious doubt" that the doomed man has had "due process of law," and is, therefore, still considering the case. So long as such a doubt exists in the mind of a member of the highest tribunal in our land, a man's life should not be sacrificed. If France after a lapse of years found a way to reopen the Dreyfus case, free America should find a way to reopen this case and meet out an impartial and unprejudiced verdict. Justice, as has been observed, once gave a Missouri sportsman a new trial because "he" was omitted before the words, "City of St. Louis," in the indictment. The plea for Frank rests solely on admitted facts showing the conditions under which he was accused, tried and convicted.

Alfred Thayer Mahan.

With all honor due for his great and distinguished service at sea, Rear Admiral Mahan doubtless will live longer in history as an expert authority on naval subjects. His voluntary retirement before the allotted age, after he had served his country most acceptably, was really no retirement at all, but rather the door opening into a sphere of world-wide and permanent service which he could not have hoped to achieve as an officer in the navy. As fully gifted with the pen as the sword, a deep student of world events, Captain Mahan soon demonstrated his worth, not alone to his own United States, but to the world, as a writer on naval subjects of all sorts. And his works live to serve after him. It is said that his writings inspired the naval agrandisement of Germany under Kaiser Wilhelm, a close reader and ardent admirer of the American seaman-author. If that is true, it must be true to a larger or lesser degree as to the naval prowess of other countries, our own included, although, perhaps, we have not done all that Rear Admiral Mahan would have done had he been in charge of affairs. It is very seldom that a man trained for either military or naval service has developed literary capacity of such peculiarly valuable and lasting character as that of Admiral Mahan, whose fame and work will fill one of the most conspicuous places in the history of his country.

The Honorable "Mike" Lee, now on the water works payroll, rises to remark that the Greater Omaha will be impossible over objection of the suburban towns so long as our city commissioners are all elected at large without giving them any assurance of representation. Perhaps, but how about the Water board, whose members are elected at large and all of whom live in three Omaha wards? Would not the annexed territory have as good claim to representation on the Water board and on the school board as in the city council?

The coroner and the two appointive members of the insanity board hold the only no-limit fee offices left in the court house, unless we class with them the justices of the peace and the constables. The job of reform will not be complete until these fee mills are also abolished or converted into positions with definite salaries.

No German Dismal Swamp

An Unfounded Charge.

The Masurian lake country in which the German and Russian armies are joined in a fierce struggle for mastery has been characterized as Germany's "dismal swamp." Prof. E. H. Babette of Tufts college, who explored the country last year, gives in the Boston Transcript a vastly different picture of the region, its lakes, products and people. In part he writes: "The Masurian lake region comprises about 4,000 square miles, or as much as the state of Connecticut, in the southern part of the province of East Prussia, having Russian territory on the east and south. It is a rolling country, with elevations as high as 800 feet above sea level. It is full of lakes of all sizes, from the insignificant to the largest body of fresh water in Germany, down to any degree of diminutiveness, but every one with a charm of its own, partaking in the general charm of the region, which is not to be exactly matched anywhere else. It is known as the 'land of the thousand lakes.' The gem of the collection is the Masurian lakes, in the stricter sense; a chain nearly 100 miles long, extending from Angerburg to Johannisburg. They are all connected by natural straits or by canals, and lie practically at one level.

Morasses of the Lakes.

The soil is glacial deposit, varying mixtures of sand and clay, the latter apparently predominating. Such a soil is impervious to water when well settled, and the result is that the "morasses" which the newspaper strategists have been talking about lately, probably assuming that they exist in all lake regions, do not exist, so far as my observation goes. The depressions which are not occupied by lakes are generally filled with peat, which is very extensively cut for fuel, notwithstanding the very low price of firewood (as prices go in Germany) due to the abundant forests.

This peat is passable for a pedestrian at ordinary times, though that the clay can get very nasty in a prolonged wet spell. However, there is dry land enough everywhere so that the only real obstacle for an army, even when the ground is not frozen, is the chain of lakes. There is practically a complete barrier, in some cases a double one, of water too wide for pontooning, except at certain places, principally where the railways cross the Letzen and Nikolaiken, at the former is situated a well-constructed fortress, Feste Boyen, with a peace garrison of one battalion of infantry and another made up of cavalry and artillery.

This chain of lakes is the "Angerburg-Johannisburg line" which we see mentioned so often in the war news just now. Apparently the Germans will be obliged to make a very effective stand if, if the Russians attempt to sweep the country with a long north and south battle line, unless the campaign is prolonged into the winter, and the lakes freeze hard enough to bear troops and artillery. My fishing acquaintances told me that the average thickness of the ice which forms in this region in winter is one to one and a half feet.

An Agricultural District.

The country is about as thickly settled as the more prosperous farming districts of New England. The soil varies a good deal in fertility, but in places where the mixture of sand and clay is neither too light nor too heavy, the natural drainage good, and the boulders not too large or too numerous, I saw some very heavy crops. Like all the rest of north Germany, which I traversed in the summer of its entire length, this district is not on the average very fertile, but every rod of land is made the most of for some purpose. About one-third is too poor for cultivation, and is in forest. As everywhere in Germany, these forests are under thorough scientific management, and give employment to many people, and good money to their owners, who in many cases are the state and the municipality.

There are no cities of any great size; 1,500 is the only one over 5,000 or so, and most are mere villages. The people are of thoroughly German traditions and allegiance. East Prussia is the old territory of the Teutonic knights to begin with, and when Frederick the Great took hold of it, cleared up the last of the Polish claims and consolidated the province, he made a thorough job of it. He colonized actively with Germans, established all institutions on the German basis, improved the land and the transportation conditions, and in spite of some Slav blood in the mixture there could be no question of any disaffection such as has been suspected in Posen.

Fairly Prosperous People.

The Masurians seem a fairly prosperous people, notwithstanding their simple living conditions—honest, whole-hearted and sturdy, and by no means unappreciative of the great beauties of their land—regally and intelligently so, and not merely from a business point of view, with reference to prospective tourists. Whatever may be the fate of this region in the war, what follows, its lovers can have the consolation that nothing can destroy its beauties unless it becomes "efficient"—unless it is made hideous by human "enterprise" which shall fill it with factories and proletarians and similar reminders that life is a battle; or perhaps with big hotels and automobiles and servile flunkies and painted women and the other repulsive concomitants of the "leisure class." But there are no cathedrals or other works of man which can never be replaced. The forest might suffer in place from a fiercely fought war, and the population might diminish and their homes be destroyed, but the lakes and the hills will always be there, and nature will restore in a few years all that may have been lost. And even if the Slav shall be the ruler, he is really not such a bad fellow after all, and I suspect that any one who knows his language and comes to him in a friendly way, as I did to my East Prussian, may yet carry away as delightful memories as I did.

People and Events

Little Phyllis May Huff, aged 7, of old Orchard, Me., is dubbed the child whistler of New England. It is said that there is no musical sound she has not been able to imitate with her puckered lips.

The tax commissioners of Cuyahoga county, Ohio, permit in the notice that John D. Rockefeller owes the county \$13,000 back taxes on the property of the notion Mr. Rockefeller absents himself from his beloved Cleveland.

Word comes from over the sea foreshadowing a great migration of feminine members of the British smart set to New York and Washington during the winter. The woefully thinned ranks of male society at home, owing to the war, renders a social visit to this country desirable.

The Ford brand of melon cultivated around Detroit is pronounced a superior article of diet for all seasons of the year. In ten months 2,300 employees, under the profit-sharing plan, have paid \$1,500,000 on homes which they hope to own, have saved an average of \$8.65 each a month and put a lot of money into life insurance.

"Mere man" is not such a "mean thing" as he is pictured in certain quarters. He is all right and on the spot with a helping hand for women when occasion calls. In one of the canyons of New York City during a windy and rainy day four men rushed to the aid of a woman carrying a baby, whose umbrella was wrecked. One man gave her his umbrella, another got a cap for the baby, the third placed a coin in the baby's fingers and the fourth escorted the pair to a car. What a queer world it would be without them—eh, girls!

Twice Told Tales

The Irishman's View.

Burr McIntosh is telling a story of an Irishman in the English army who had fought so bravely in the trenches that he was given promotion on the field of battle. Immediately on hearing the news the Irishman set up the cry, "three cheers for the Kaiser!" He was immediately seized, bound and brought before the colonel. He was sentenced to the loss of his promotion and several months imprisonment. As he was led off the colonel asked the Irishman to explain why he had done such a thing. "Well," said the Irishman, "if it hadn't been for the Kaiser I wouldn't have had a fighting job. If I hadn't a job I couldn't have been promoted."



Why Not Ask Them?

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia., Dec. 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: The letter which you published from Scott's Bluff suggests a similar inquiry, and especially so, as The Bee has repeatedly published "write ups" about the wealth, comfort and "kultur" of the Germans.

Why cannot The Bee procure from the State department an official statement (which would, of course, settle the matter from a historical standpoint) as to whether the German government proposes to let the Belgian civil population have the food and other supplies sent them from this country?

From your own paper there have appeared news items from time to time stating that the food and other supplies have been taken over by the civil government of the country, and if that is the case, why is it not possible for our State department to procure an official statement as to what they (the Germans) propose to do with the civilian population.

WALTER BRENN.

Democrat Tells How to Keep Nebraska in the Democratic Column.

OMAHA, Dec. 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: After having passed through the many varying vicissitudes of life I have come to believe that to the victor belong the spoils. This seems to be the natural law of order in problems of war. That was one of the reasons why Hannibal fought; Caesar was of the same belief; Napoleon followed the same course; Wellington forced it on the defeated French; and ever since, following suit in the Revolutionary, Civil and Spanish wars. The same is true in politics. To the victorious party justly belongs the spoils of office. This is absolutely necessary for the fulfillment of party principles and pledges. When a state elects a certain party to power the people voice, by their votes, their confidence in that party and place the destiny of the state in its keeping. They elect one party to power because the pledges of its platform appeal to them and they expect these promises to be carried out. This can not be unless the heads of the several offices, together with their subordinates, are in complete harmony with party principles.

When the republican party was in control every one not favoring of republicanism had to go. The party stood firm in its belief that certain policies of government was for the best interest of the state, and to get results from its convictions it placed men in office who were in sympathy with its policies.

The trouble with the democratic party has been its placing men in important offices utterly at variance with the great intrinsic principles of the party; men who were antagonistic to its platform pledges. As a result these pledges were oftentimes slow to materialize, and people began to think that the democratic party was a failure.

President Wilson has proven it to be a grand success because he appointed capable democrats to positions of trust.

It behooved the democratic officers-elect to see to it that only capable and efficient democrats are appointed to these offices. If the promises of that party are to count for anything we must have cooperation in every public office from the highest to the lowest and every incumbent and assistant must be imbued and saturated with the glorious spirit and teachings of the democratic party.

If this state is to be kept in the democratic column it can only be done by rewarding the democratic workers, the men who in season and out of season have carried the banners of the party and consistently fought for its principles.

It will not be urged that all of the efficiency and capability for the performance of duty lies in the republican ranks. Therefore it is of vital concern that our democratic state officers-elect appoint men to positions from their own party.

I. CRANE, 134 South Forty-eighth.

Nebraska Editors

The next meeting of the Nebraska Press association will be held in Omaha February 15-17.

A new son arrived at the home of Editor R. Jeff. Taylor of the Emerson Enterprise last week.

A new galley boy made his appearance in infant array at the home of Editor Clark Perkins of the Aurora Republican a few days ago.

H. H. McCoy, who recently bought the Randolph Times, has also acquired the ownership of the Republic Enterprise and will consolidate the two papers. The "ugly mug" of Henry Clay Richmond, accompanied by his platform for speaker, disfigured the pages of many of the county seat weeklies of Nebraska last week.

Lou W. Frasier, proprietor of the Fairmont Chronicle, has purchased a new cylinder press and a fourth electric motor for his plant. He recently installed a linotype machine, and when his new purchases are in place he will have one of the best plants in his section of the state.

Quaint Bits of Life

Mike Demano, Philadelphia beggar, has been discovered to own property valued at \$15,000.

Two British soldiers in the trenches at Landreles played marbles with bullets from sirapnel shells.

The bedouin marriage ceremony consists of the groom killing a sheep and spilling some of the blood in sand on the floor of the house of his prospective father-in-law.

Mrs. Charles Coulter of Vancouver wore a pedometer for one month, at the end of which time she found that she had walked more than 400 miles in doing her household duties.

Johnson M. Camden, a turfman of Kentucky, and a candidate for governor entertained 40,000 guests at a barbecue at his home. There were slaughtered 250 sheep and seventy-five hogs.

That microbes are not essential to life has been shown by an experiment with guinea pigs in France. The little animals supplied with sterilized food and purified air, grew 30 per cent faster than others.

Exactly eleven minutes after a Pennsylvania train moved over a 730-foot three-span steel bridge, weighing 7,000,000 pounds, which was in a temporary position, another train passed over the bridge which had been moved sidewise forty-seven feet to its permanent place. Between the breaking of the rails and re-connecting them ten minutes and seventeen seconds elapsed. The new bridge spans the Muskingum river at Tyndall, O.

Editorial Viewpoint

Pittsburgh Dispatch: British recruiting officers cannot understand why thousands prefer foot ball to fighting. It had been commonly supposed that it was the slugging in foot ball that brought out the crowds. They forget, however, that the slugging is vicarious and the being shot is not.

Brooklyn Eagle: A war tax is now imposed upon coffins. With a tax already on incomes the democratic party has managed to tax us in life and in death. And lucky, indeed, the man who in trying to scrape together the wherewithal to meet the imposts does not imperil his hereafter.

Halfhearted American: Again the big international policeman has been called upon to stop the mischievous little South American nations from playing their neutrality. But with graver things on his mind he will simply admonish them that he will not interfere when the big fellows they are annoying start in to give them a good licking. This policeman is getting too many troubles told to him. He has some of his own.

Springfield Republican: The military lessons of the present war, so far as they have been developed, do not emphasize the insecurity of the United States. It has been pertinently said that every European power now at war will be so exhausted when peace arrives that it will not desire more fighting on a costly scale for years to come. And an invasion of the United States would be one of the most costly of military operations. The problem of our army, from the viewpoint of home defense, remains substantially what it has been for half a century, that is to say, our land forces need not be large in order that our security may be maintained. The navy is another question. But for years the American navy has been developed on a formidable scale.

Little comrades of the sky: Wing to wing we wander by, Going, going, going, going, Softly, as a sigh.

Mark—the moving shapes confer, Globe of dew and gossamer, Fading and ephemeral spirits in the dusk astir.

Moth and blossom, blade and bee, Worlds must go, as well as we, In the long procession joining Mount, and star, and sea.

Toward the shadowy brink we climb, Where the round year rolls sublime, Reels and drops and falls forever: In the vast of time.

Like a plummet plunging deep Fast the utmost reach of sleep Till remembrance has no longer Care to laugh or weep.

JOLLIES FROM JUDGE.

City Man—Are the Van Alden's rich? Suburbanite—So rich that they have no neighbors.

Howard—How old can Miss Jones be? Victor—Old enough to call college men "college boys."

Brother Hagg—How come de judge to turn Brodner Bogus loose? Brother Slack—Oh, his white lawyer proved an albino.

Dancing Master—You must mind your feet carefully if you want to learn the new dances. Student—Ever mind the feet, professor. What I want to get is the holds.—Judge.

NATURE'S RECESSIONAL.

Charles G. D. Roberts. Now along the solemn heights Fade the autumn's altar lights: Down the great earth's shimmering channel Glide the days and nights.

Little kindred of the grass, Like a shadow in a glass, Falls the dark and falls the stillness: We must rise and pass.

We must rise and follow, wending Where the nights and days have ending— Pass in order pale and slow Unto sleep extending.

Little brothers of the cloud, Soul of fire and seed of sod, We must fare and face the silence At the knees of God.

Little comrades of the sky, Wing to wing we wander by, Going, going, going, going, Softly, as a sigh.

Mark—the moving shapes confer, Globe of dew and gossamer, Fading and ephemeral spirits in the dusk astir.

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