

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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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 November, 1914, was 52,531.

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Shopped early? Prospects fine thus far for a white Christmas. No doubt Wizard Edison could if he would invent a fireproof building.

And the early shopper, like the bird, gets the pick of the holiday wares. Presumably, Britain's next unwelcome visitors will swoop down from the sky.

Perhaps some of that charity was intended for the danseuse's judgment creditor. France and England may not deny, however, that Africans and Indians make excellent buffers.

Captain Hobson's call for reinforcements before the house naval committee falls on deaf ears at Oyster Bay. Louisiana will have none of the president's sweet talk now, after what he handed them with his sugar tariff.

Look at the side money that could be raised if the combatants could only arrange box office facilities for their war drama. Be a "good fellow!" Be a "big brother!" Be a generous hearted Samaritan! In a word, be as charitable as your resources permit.

Yes, of course, the long ballot had to be stretched out to its present unwholesome first to make the people realize the need of the short ballot. I have learned in whatever state I am," said Paul, "therewith to be content." And in almost 2,000 years how few of us have learned as much.

Here is one of our state senators who was hot for a Greater Omaha by consolidation two years ago now talking loudly against it. What's the answer? Russians and Turks Win in the Same Battle—Headline. At least that is the way the opposing news censors see it.

If our Congressman Loback is not careful, he will lose his reputation as a man of silence on the floor of the house, and then no one can tell what may happen to him. Why should the Swiss children expect Christmas ship offerings from America? So far as any one knows, there are no war orphans in Switzerland as the result of the present conflict.

The zeal of other cities going after the next national letter carriers' convention location ought to make Omaha wake up to the importance of the privilege of entertaining the 1915 meeting. The postmaster general recommends raising the limit of individual postal savings deposits from \$500 to \$2,000. But why should there be any dead line at all? If people are willing to save their money and let the postoffice be the treasure keeper, why should they be stopped at any turn of the road?

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha. A compromise agreement has been reached between the city and county over the disputed title to the old court house site by which the county is to yield to the city in consideration of the payment of \$20,000, and as much more as may be realized by the sale by the city of its two lots, the one at Sixteenth and Farnam and the other at Howard and Ninth.

G. H. Haeremans, one of the leaders of the German residents of Omaha, and proprietor of the Omaha Vinegar works, died at his residence, 139 Jones street, an enjoyable leap year party was given at Germania hall last night, which made the young men sorry the new year was so close. The committee in charge of the affair were: Arrangements, the Misses Anna Krug, Tina Richards, Tony Metz; floor, the Misses Annie Richards, Tillie Krug, Arba Karbach; reception, the Misses Anna Marchner, Nellie Lanz; mistress of ceremonies, Miss Anna Krug.

W. H. Kent, for a number of years connected with the newspapers of this city, left for Alaska. He has a wonderful scheme under his hat for building a railroad across Behring straits. James Powers, who was called to the bedside of his sick mother in Indianapolis, has returned.

The Water Power Report.

The commission specially created for that purpose by the last legislature has turned in and made public a report of its investigations and recommendations with reference to conserving and developing water power in Nebraska, the gist of which is that the state should lease such water powers as private parties are willing to harness on terms of strict regulation, forfeiture and reversion, and presumably itself develop and operate such sites as fail to tempt private capital.

On the theory that freely multimillionaire corporations are lying in wait to snatch up Nebraska's valuable water rights, the limitations recommended seem to protect the public at every exposed point. The commission would have no lease run for a term exceeding fifty years, nor be held for speculation without forfeiture, nor be partially developed to less than its fullest possible capacity, nor the lessees to exact excessive rates, nor to discriminate between patrons, nor to sell Nebraska current outside our own state, nor to fail to make monthly reports with all particulars as to output, nor to capitalize on an inflated stock and bond basis, nor to sublet to accomplish prohibited ends by indirection.

But are the premises of the commission correct? Is it true that big capitalists with unlimited resources are fighting for the chance to develop our Nebraska water power sites? Some of these water power rights must look better than others, but to date not a single power installation on a large scale has been had for the reason that the promises of financial returns have not been regarded as attractive enough to warrant the necessary investment.

If the capital is not available to build the power plants under the existing free and easy laws, is it to be more readily attracted by putting up all these legislative high-board fences? The engineering possibilities of certain Nebraska streams are not seriously disputed. No one denies that a lot of good water power is running to waste in Nebraska, yet to date no one with real money to risk has been able to figure out how to make it pay under existing conditions of supply and consumption. These conditions may change—in fact, must be changing all the time—but whether the proposed legislation would stimulate water power development rather than retard it, may well be open to discussion.

Why a Coroner?

The Bee welcomes the agreement of the World-Herald with our pronouncement that the position of coroner is a useless one that should be abolished and we hope our amiable democratic contemporary will in time join us in a vigorous demand for its expungement. The coroner's office may once have filled a proper function, but it has come to be not only useless, but a veritable graft. It is the only office left in the court house free to absorb without limit all the fees it can extract, while the farce of impeding a coroner's jury to explain that the corpse is dead through no one's fault, would be a ghastly joke except for its seriousness. Before we get through with this subject, The Bee will give the taxpayers some eye-opening facts from the records that will leave the lawmakers no valid excuse for keeping the coroner's office from being interred in the political cemetery.

Sure, That's Us.

The esteemed Kansas City Journal, in recognizing Nebraska's football supremacy and deprecating the home criticism of a "lack of college spirit" as the chief cause of the Kansas defeat, observes: Not fewer than a thousand rooters went from Kansas to Lincoln to boost the Kansas team, and their support was magnificent. But the Kansas team could not have won if every citizen of Kansas had been in the bleachers and all had been yelling themselves hoarse. The Nebraska players were about seven feet high, each weighed a ton and they ran the field like locomotives. Sure, that's us. Because height, weight and speed count as the main factors in football, Nebraska has them. If it were something else, Nebraska would have that. It is just naturally the Nebraska way of having the combination needed to win. The Journal is dead right in saying that "Kansas could not be expected to win one game out of a thousand against the Nebraska team." Such a tribute ought to deepen Nebraskans' appreciation of the football supremacy their state university has achieved.

But the Journal gets down to a more serious side of the discussion in pointing out, for Kansas' sake, some of the underlying reasons for the relative standings in the football ball world of the two universities: For anything like football Nebraska university has and always will have a great advantage over Kansas. At Lincoln are united all the state schools, which in Kansas are located at Lawrence, Manhattan, Emporia, Pittsburg, Hays City, and perhaps other towns. In other words, the Nebraska managers have an enormous supply of very powerful men from which to select players.

Granting this detracts nothing from the Nebraska genius for supremacy, which in football ball as other spheres of activity, must always be, if you are going in at all, go in to win. Incidentally, while the centralization policy has worked well for football ball, it has made for even larger and better success in the more serious purposes of the university. And by the same token we may be sure that the more compact centralization, the more complete the victory. If for nothing else but football ball, we shall strive to maintain the cohesion between the agricultural school and the down-town campus.

The auditor's office estimates revenues from all sources at something over \$11,000,000 for the coming biennium, of which more than one-third is taken in as licenses, fees, special taxes, etc. At that, the estimate omits a whole lot of little side-line grafts such as charges for examining dentists, doctors, oculists, veterinarians, for inspecting hotels and rooming houses, etc., that are eaten up by the examiners or inspectors. Nebraska taxpayers would save a lot of money if we had a real revenue system on the budget basis.

President Wilson lets it be known that he is going to stand firmly behind recess appointments made to New York, Missouri and New Jersey, against which the senators from those states have protested. That does not look like a surrender, even though disguised as "a compromise," to the anti-administration senator from Nebraska.

Moving an Army Over Sea.

A Simple Distasteful. Few people who imagine an armed invasion of the United States is a possibility rarely stop to consider and measure the immensity of such an undertaking. That it would be a mighty job is well demonstrated by the recent transport of 2,500 Canadian troops from Quebec to Devonport, England. Thirty-two ships were required to carry 2,500 troops and complete equipment besides a convoy of British cruisers. Multiply that number by ten, twenty, with a convoy proportionately large, moving through hostile waters to hostile shores, and the hugeness of the task will appear to the average mind.

One of the Red Cross liner Florio, one of the transport ships which recently sailed from New York on the return voyage, gave a correspondent of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch some interesting details of the trip. The vessels required ten days for the voyage, following the short northern steamship lane. The ships moved in close formation in three lines with intervals of about 600 yards between them. Their wireless was muffled, all signaling being done with flags and hydrographs by day and with Morse lamps at night. At night the ships were dark except for a lamp at the stern of each to guide the vessel behind it. A large convoy of battleships, continually on the alert, lined the transports in a moving bulwark of steel.

Ships met on the voyage were kept under surveillance, with guns trained on them, and any divergence from the usual routine of the convoy at night was the signal for the nearest escort cruiser to switch on its searchlight. The voyage was performed under perfect weather conditions, and not even the rear admiral in command, who showed his pennant on the cruiser Charlybld, knew the destination of the fleet under his charge until they were off the Eddystone Light in the English channel.

An Imposing Spectacle.

It was one of the most remarkable sights you could think of," said Captain W. J. Martin of the Florio. "Seven miles of ships in three columns, with the warships ahead, on each flank and astern. The flagship Charlybld led the middle column, and there were two other cruisers with it, one leading each of the other columns. The battleship Princeps was on our flank to the south, and the battle cruiser Princess Royal guarded our flank to the north. Behind the transports following the middle column, was the cruiser Talbot that we called the 'sleeping beauty' because it was what you might call the colic of the convoy. Whenever one of the transports dropped behind the Talbot would steam up to find out what was the matter, and it was always there whipping in the largards, keeping the fleet up to the mark.

We had ideal weather for the crossing, but, of course, the speed of the fleet was the speed of the slowest steamer in the middle column, and that was a trouble through going at our maximum rate of nine knots. Their engines, which weren't built for that kind of thing, kept getting hot, and they would have to drop back, which meant that presently the whole convoy was going slower, as we had had and fast orders not to separate. Every day the flagship would wig-wag or helligraph the special orders of the day down the line of the fleet. As each vessel got the orders, it would repeat them to the ship astern. Each morning, too, the flagship received a wireless bulletin in code giving the war news, and it would wig-wag that to us. We received word of the fall of Antwerp that way.

Cautious Movements.

We were off Devonport, October 15 ten days after joining the convoy; but darkness set in before all the ships could come into port and all British ports are closed at nightfall, some closed at daylight in the Florio, were obliged to remain outside, under guard, all night. We came in at 5 o'clock the next morning. "You know to get to the naval dockyard at Devonport you have to go up the river, which is very narrow, and the shores were crowded with people to see cheer, and then raise the cry they have 'Are we down-hearted?' And the men on the ships would answer, 'No!' They roar it out, beginning very low and rising higher in key until it is like thunder at the end. "The railroads out of Devonport weren't equal to the task of handling such a big body of men, animals and equipment, though, and it was not until the afternoon of Thursday, October 20, that we got rid of our troops."

"Did you worry much over the trip?" Captain Martin was asked. "Well, it was like having a shipload of passengers in a fog," he answered. "Yes, I was a bit anxious, but not nervous. What worried me most was the question of water, for, of course, our ship was never intended to care for as many men as we had on board. Then there was also the question of what would happen in case of disaster, for we did not carry lifeboats for anything like our company. I never left the bridge during the whole voyage across."

Obstacles to Be Overcome.

"When it comes to figuring upon an invasion of the United States," comments the Post-Dispatch, "it would be absurd to consider an armed force of less than 50,000 men. A positive expedition, to seize a port, for instance, as we seized Vera Cruz, might be much smaller, but it would accomplish nothing of any consequence. Norman Angell, author of 'The Great Illusion,' says that even a hostile army of a million men would be swallowed up in the vastness of the American continent. For the purpose of argument, however, take 600,000 men as the minimum. Then you have to multiply Britain's armada by twenty times—a task of such tremendous magnitude that it could not be undertaken by any power in the world today. "To transport an army of twenty times the number of the Canadians would require more than twenty times the number of ships, for not only would the equipment and supplies increase proportionately, but it would be necessary for the invaders to carry along with them stores and food for a long campaign, whereas the Canadians found these things already awaiting them in Europe. "To sweep the sea of American warships, if it could be done, would be a task that would require many months before the invading ships could even be started on their hazardous journey. It may be fairly well conceded that by the time the enemy succeeded in landing his flotilla on the American shore, about twice their number of husky sons of your Uncle Samuel would be waiting on the beach to receive them."

Politics in Nebraska

Hovell's Journal: Just a pointer to our lawmakers. Nebraska does not need any more legal holidays. We have so many now that no one short of a banker can afford to observe them all. Plattsmouth Journal: The proper man for district attorney is Judge Oldham of Kearney, one of the greatest lawyers in the state, and a genuine democrat. If the position calls for an able attorney, Judge Oldham can fill the bill. Norfolk Press: A north Nebraska editor suggests Quinby for governor and why not? Omaha wants to send one of its men to the chair and the entire state will be glad to let it if it puts forth a man of the Quinby caliber. Bridgeport News Blade: It now appears that the Republicans of Nebraska made a mistake when they selected Dr. A. O. Thomas of Kearney as their candidate for state superintendent instead of for governor. Dr. Thomas polled the largest vote of any candidate on the republican state ticket, a fact which the republicans will do well to remember. Neligh Leader: Members of the legislature who have visited Lincoln one and all proclaim themselves in favor of holding down appropriations, and also curtailing the number of employees of the legislature. It is the same song that has been sung year after year, but here is hoping they really mean it this time, and will be strong enough to stand out against the pressure that will be brought to bear against them. West Point Republican: Lieutenant Governor William P. O'Neill of Indiana, Homer L. Cook, speaker of the house of the 1913 legislature, who recently took office as secretary of state, and other officers and members of the patronage committees of the 1913 legislature were indicted Monday night by the Mason county grand jury. The indictments charge that the officials signed warrants for pay for employees in excess of the amount able to be provided for by the Nebraska statutes should definitely fix the kind and number of legislative employees and, in that way, the responsibility for grafting. We would not seriously miss a few cost and hat hangers.

Traffic in Arms

New York Times: Our manufacturers of arms may lawfully sell and export them, subject to the risk of capture, to the allies; they sell and export them to Germany and Austria. We have no concern with the fact that chiefly because of Great Britain's command of the sea the allies have put themselves in the position of being able to prevent the importation of arms by Germany and Austria. We will sell freely to Germany or to Austria. It is their concern, not ours, that shipments would run the greatest risk of capture by British cruisers. Philadelphia Record: A bill has been introduced in the house of representatives making it a criminal offense to export arms, ammunition and other munitions of war for use against any nation with which the United States is at peace. There does seem to be an inconsistency in our neutrality law which forbids the construction and fitting out merely of warships for use by one belligerent against another, this government being friendly with both. Why should we forbid the supply to belligerents of the instrumentalities of naval warfare and permit the trade in materials for war on land to go on unhindered? Chicago Herald: Senator Works has introduced a bill prohibiting the export of food, clothing or any commodity which would in the slightest degree serve to prolong the European war. That is, because Europe sees fit to go to war, it is the business of this country to deal its own industries a blow in the hope that Europe may thus be brought to see the folly of its proceedings. Because other nations want to fight, it is our duty to cut down the income of the farmer, to render the work of the American laborer precarious, to impose on industry a burden as great as that which the war itself has already imposed. We must crucify ourselves for the sins of others! We must starve ourselves in the hope of starving others into leaving off their quarrel! We must be willing to reproduce a part of the wreck of war in our country in the interests of peace elsewhere! There is nothing to sustain the contention in justice, morals or international law.

Editorial Shrapnel

Indianapolis News: Now that Mr. Edison has had a \$7,000,000 fine, maybe he will devote his genius to devising a fire-proof construction that will really deliver the goods. Baltimore American: The one thing peculiar about this war is, no matter how completely armies are wiped out, they are out and it again as soon as they get their second wind. St. Louis Globe Democrat: Instead of abolishing the assistant postmasters, congress might abolish the postmasters and let the assistants enjoy the honor and emoluments as well as perform the work. St. Louis Republic: Those who felt sorry for Ambassador Myron T. Herrick because his stay in Paris was not still further prolonged beyond the expiration of the usual term may change their minds upon learning that it cost him \$60,000 to fill the place as he believed it should be filled. Philadelphia Record: General Villa seems to be deceiving as a humorist no less than as a soldier. When he says that Mexico is "keeping pace with the rest of the civilized world" and that his war on Carranza "will resemble some of the fighting that has been going on in Europe" he makes a very palpable hit. It is pleasing to know that we are to have so near an imitation of European civilization.

People and Events

At the age of 90 a man in Georgia is going to celebrate Christmas by marrying for the seventh time. Score another for force of habit. The man who put Saratoga on the sporting map and lifted art to a high plane in New York, is no more. Richard Catleby is dead. A few years ago the name of this gambler was notorious, and his reports drew rolls of lucre from devotees of the game. Saratoga has been reformed, New York partly so, and Catleby goes the way of all flesh at 90. The esteemed Mexican exile, Victoriano Huerta, falls from Barcelona, Spain, to the Philadelphia Ledger contradicting the report that he offered his "fortune and sword to Villa." The report is absurd and the author "a villainous liar." Regarding the warring leaders in Mexico he says Carranza is a four-flusher, Zapata, a highwayman, and Villa a jailbird. One hundred and fifty students have been expelled from the high school of Eau Claire, Wis., and 110 from the Stuyvesant High school of New York City. In both instances the students defied authority and organized "strikes" against the teachers. Expulsion became necessary as a last resort to reaffirm the principle that the school board, not the pupils, control the schools. George Hershey is roaming around Pennsylvania towns seeking the girl he loved and lost long years ago. As an incentive to sympathy George is putting over the story that he has his "thirty years' savings," more than \$20,000, locked up in a trunk which he has hidden around Europe last summer and was interned in Paris. The touching power of the double misfortune enables George to travel in state and get around three square meals a day.

SUNNY GEMS.

Lady—The set of teeth you made for me is too big. Dentist—That's easily remedied, madam. Get into the chair and I'll stretch your mouth a bit.—Boston Transcript. Maggie—Artie, where are we going on our honeymoon? Artie—Around the world, darling. They are going to let it in even weeks at the corner picture show.—New York Globe. "Does we won't have much base ball next year?" "Why not?" "Too many players jumping. And they're all going to be enjoined." "Well, we can hear the injunction suits argued in court."—Louisville Courier-Journal. "My girl's father says I can't carry her until I pay my debts," mused Blinky. "And I can't pay my debts until I marry her." "That's the axiom of the irrepressible and the immovable."—Philadelphia Ledger. "Wild-eyed Customer—I want a quarter's worth of carbolic acid." "Clerk—This is a hardware store, but we have—a fine line of ropes, revolvers and razors.—Yale Record. "We've been married eight years and have never had an argument." "Then you've never tried to dance any of the modern dances with your wife."—Detroit Free Press. "You say all this is the temperance zone?" said Uncle Billy Bottletop, as he examined his nephew's geography. "Yes." "The whole of it?" "Well! Well! These local option ideas are gaining ground quite some, aren't they?"—Baltimore American. Gabe—That is something that always puzzled me. "Steve—What is?" "Gabe—Why is it that when you are riding in a street car the uniformed man in a street car at a speed of about four miles an hour and that when you are driving a car he tries to speed it up to forty miles an hour?"—Cincinnati Enquirer. "What's that?" asked Mr. Cumrox, as he looked at the notes from which his dancing partner was trying to play the piano. "That's music." "You may think it's music, daughter, dear, but if you could hear how it sounds you'd realize that it's some kind of an optical illusion."—Washington Star. "Hiram," said Mrs. Cortese, of the

dimmer part, "the table decorations were beautiful, weren't they?" "Yes, I'm glad they were," replied her husband, as he pushed his finger bowl away. "There's only one little thing they forgot." "What's that?" "They didn't put any goldfish in the little aquariums.—Washington Star. CASTLES IN SPAIN. How delicious it is on a cold winter morning. Snuggly tucked up in my own little bed. Awaiting the sound of the alarm clock's shrill warning. With the warm quilts drawn tightly up round my head. To follow the windings and intricate lacings of the wonderful work of Jack Frost on the pane. And lose myself in the marvelous tracings. And dream of my beautiful Castle in Spain. There's a glittering ship with its sails all of silver. To carry me safely o'er wide, foamy seas. Tied with white cords to a glittering poplar. Which gracefully bends as though blown by the breeze. In fancy I follow the path round the borders by fields of grasses and grain. All sparkling with dew from heavenly fountains. That leads to my beautiful Castle in Spain. My heart swells with pride and I gaze with emotion At the lovely, enchanted Elysian fields. With all the surroundings, which fall to my portion. And the pleasure and riches that own-ership entails. Before the grand grille I stop just a moment in anticipation, and I look once again toward the glittering summit where proudly and stately Invitably stands my own Castle in Spain. But, lo! as I look, comes a glorious splendor. It brightens and glows and quite dazzles my eyes. With the air of a lord, I reach my hand upward To lift up the latch, but what's my air? To find it is fading just as I grasp it. And all that I now can see on the pane Are a few drops of water, swift seeking their level. The castle has destroyed my castle in Spain. Omaha. DAVID.

No Christmas Dinner will be complete without Italian Swiss Colony Golden State California Champagne. Awarded the "Grand Prix" at Turin, Italy, October, 1911, and at Ghent, Belgium, July, 1913. At all Grocers, Clubs, Cafes and Wine Dealers.



Make it a KODAK Christmas. The outdoor jollity, all the good things that weigh down the Christmas table, the jovial faces, the surprise of the youngsters—may be enjoyed over and over again—if there is a Kodak in the family on Christmas Day. Kodaks, \$6.00 to \$74.00. Brownies, \$1.00 to \$12.00. Watch our Windows for Kodak Christmas Suggestions. THE ROBERT DEMPSTER CO. EASTMAN KODAK CO. 1813 Farnam St.—378 South 15th St. Open Evenings Until Christmas.

GULF COAST. "June temperature all winter." PASS CHRISTIAN SPRINGS BILOXI GULFPORT OCEAN SPRINGS BAY ST. LOUIS PENSACOLA NEW ORLEANS MOBILE. No better or more interesting locality can be found in which to spend a winter vacation. There are many good hotels where accommodations can be found to meet all requirements; rates are reasonable. Golfing, Boating, Bathing, Shooting and Fishing. Magnificent beaches. Throughout the winter flowers bloom in the temperature of June. Low round trip fares. Unexcelled train service from St. Louis via Louisville & Nashville Railroad. Illustrated descriptive literature, rates, schedules, etc., cheerfully furnished by GEO. E. HERRING, D. P. A. 312 N. 8th St. ST. LOUIS, MO.