

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.

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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.

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

Though busted and cussed, trust the trusts to come back.

On with the spirit of Christmas! Let peace be unconfined!

If you neglected to shop early, why shop late and have it over with.

Remember the cotton crisis and do not set a match to Santa Claus' whiskers.

While waiting we might say that the major league ball season will open April 14.

Cincinnati killed that bank robber just as if he had been a member of the local ball team.

Well, if the war must cause a shortage in anything, what better than a shortage of rags?

The iron cross for distinguished military service, but the Red Cross for humanity's service.

Looks as if Governor Morehead were to perform the next amputation at the Orthopedic hospital.

Those old-fashioned sleighs have a flavor which these new-fangled autos just can't acquire.

The democratic war tax stamp is not as popular as the Red Cross Christmas stamp, but it promises to stay with us longer.

The idea of a "compromise" of the Nebraska federal patronage squabble seems to have taken wings, or perhaps "there never was no such thing."

The peacemakers will have to get busy and work overtime if those predictions about the war being ended before the New Year are to come true.

Those gentlemen who helped to boost Mr. Bryan over the transom that famous day at Grand Island probably realize now that "he laughs best who laughs last."

Great Britain reports fewer idle men in the United Kingdom now than before the war. Yes, but the war has taken away a million men and more, leaving their work to be done by others.

Were it not for the bobbing up of these hoary lawsuits like those Capital National bank cases from time to time folks might forget some of the most interesting incidents of our Nebraska history.

The new \$3,000 city hall smoke consumer is to be installed on a thirty-day guaranty that it will save fuel, increase the power and eliminate smoke. What is it going to do after the thirty days have expired?

That socialist member of the German Diet who enlisted in the French army may have satisfied his conscience, but he will do well not to let the Germans get hold of him while the hostilities are still on.

It forms another chapter in Senator Hitchcock's open, frank effort to deal with the patronage in a public manner.

It must be so because the senator's own personal newspaper organ says so. Unfortunately, the senator fails to say how much his "open, frank" bolt of the democratic caucus has helped him solve this patronage problem.



The weather continued bitterly cold. The maximum attained during the day was one degree below zero about 2 o'clock and the lowest was sixteen below early in the morning.

The Christmas tree on exhibition in the window of Kopp, Dreifus & Co., confectioners, Eleventh and Farnam, was raffled off.

Lizette Evans made a hit at Boyd's as "Chip" in "Fog's Ferry."

Miss Jessie Lawton has returned from a pleasant visit to Dakota.

J. E. House, with his wife and two daughters, left for New Orleans to spend a few weeks at the exposition.

Patrick Desmond of our police force is taking some time off to visit in Des Moines.

The report of the Woman's Christian association thanks donors, among others the Union Pacific Coal company, for furnishing coal at half price, 128 half tons having been already distributed to the poor by the association.

The finder of an odd shoe lost on Farnam street between Seventh and Nineteenth is notified that he can have the other shoe by calling at Polish's Clothing store.

Wanted—A Real Comptroller.

While the demand is general for a reduction in the number of public offices, there is one place where a new office should be created so as to give us a real comptroller to keep independent check on the accounts and finances of the different bodies in this city and county that are spending the taxpayers' money.

Perhaps we should not call this a new office, for it would be but a transfer and consolidation of work now inadequately done, or left undone, by two or three so-called audits made by direction of those who spend the money.

The present situation here is this—that a city comptroller appointed by the city commissioners checks the city bills; a county auditor appointed by the county board checks the county bills; an accountant called in by the Water board once or twice a year verifies the Water board's semi-annual statement, while the school bills are not checked at all except by the board's secretary.

What Douglas county should have from the legislature is the restoration of the office of county comptroller, with full powers over accounts and finances of county, city, water district and school district.

A real comptroller with backbone and authority to call the turn is what the people of Omaha and Douglas county lack, and what they sadly need.

Climate a Factor in War.

The natural configuration of the country has always constituted an important factor in every military campaign and history is full of examples where victory has been won, or defeat suffered, by the intervention of the elements wholly beyond control of the combatants.

Cut Out the Literacy Test.

The literacy test has many honest, well-meaning advocates, but take from its support all the selfishness, prejudice, ignorance and sophistry, and nothing remains to the propaganda.

President Taft knocked it out once and President Wilson deserves commendation for taking a stand against it.

The sole element of consideration must be whether a person's ability to read and write is an adequate test of his fitness to enter this country. The Mafia gangster, the black-hander, usually is able to read and write, sometimes all too well.

Then here comes that big, brawny son of the soil, or the street, illiterate, but with honesty and ambition written in every line of his frank, open face. He seeks simply the chance which his forefathers, our ancestors, sought, of improving his condition in life.

Let us have immigration laws that protect us against the defective, the diseased, the criminal and the dependent, but cut out the literacy test.

Safety First and Last.

According to the executive officers of the Brotherhoods of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, the "surprise" efficiency tests, in behalf of "safety first," exacted by the railroads, are neither efficient nor safe, but decidedly dangerous to life and limb, and unless abolished will cause trouble between the roads and their employees.

"Safety first," says one of the brotherhood officials, "is a good advertisement, but we want a system that will not cause an engine man, suddenly confronted with a red light, to jump when there is no real danger."

Surely the "safety first" system that puts the life of the motorist himself in jeopardy is not much to brag about. The railroads have done a good deal toward insuring the safe transportation of passengers, as well as freight, and they are entitled to the benefit of the doubt up to the point of requiring proof of the charge from the engine men.

One member of the State Water Power commission insists that the report of that body was given premature publication, and that it should have been first recast "to meet the rules of grammar and rhetoric and to make it intelligible." Well, we'll pass up the grammar and the rhetoric if the commission's recommendations can be made to furnish us something really practical.

Senator Quinby makes a mighty strong case in favor of consolidation of Dundee with Omaha by pointing out the benefits already enjoyed by our neighboring suburb not of right, but by mere courtesy. Perhaps it is this very liberality on the part of Omaha to Dundee that makes the opponents of consolidation there believe they can profit still more by holding out.

Report has it that a bunch of eastern water-power magnates want to develop an installation on the Loup river. Well, by all means let them go ahead, as nothing we know of prevents if they have the money to do the business. But we already have built in Nebraska all the power canals on paper that we need.

Neutrality and Exports

From the Outlook.

"Some American merchants have been engaged in supplying the belligerent nations in Europe with munitions of war. Is it right for them to do so? A good many Americans believe that it is not. Measures have been introduced into congress which, if enacted, would forbid the exportation of such commodities. This Representative Bartholdt declares that the supplies should be cut off from this country, hostilities would cease, that by allowing the exportation of supplies for the armies of the United States is not at present maintaining a position of neutrality as outlined in President Wilson's proclamation, and that we cannot maintain neutrality so long as one side is supplied. Rather, the various reasons cannot be taken by the other side, Senator Bartholdt says, 'How inconsistent it seems, then, for our people to be selling arms and munitions of war abroad to be used to kill and maim!'"

"There are three questions involved in these proposals. The first is a question of ethics: Is it right for any one to supply an army with anything that will help it in the work of maiming and killing? No, wicker. Rather, we believe that all war is essentially wicked. War is hell, they say for others. But they business is but legalized murder, those who supply the soldier with food, clothing, or shelter, or with arms or horses or machinery, are accomplices in crime. But is war always wicked? Is every soldier a murderer? We do not think so. We do not count as murderers the fast disappearing veterans of the civil war. Rather, we honor them, because they were sacrificing themselves for others. But they could not have done their duty without shoes and blankets and tents and horses and guns and ammunition. So the men who supplied them were to be honored if they supplied good shoes and good blankets and good guns and ammunition. Only those who are willing to say that the veteran of the Grand Army of the Republic is a legalized murderer can consistently hold that it is always wrong to supply the fighting forces of a nation their needed munitions of war. We do not believe the American people will take this view. If the exportation of arms and army supplies is to be prohibited, it must be on other than purely ethical grounds."

"But may not the prohibition of the export of munitions of war be justified on the ground that this country is a neutral nation? This raises the second question, a question of neutrality: Is it consistent with the neutrality of the United States that an American should sell munitions of war to a foreign belligerent? In time of peace the right of the citizens of one country to sell munitions of war to another country is unquestioned. In time of war this right continues, though such supplies are subject to seizure. The law of contraband should not be confused with the law of neutrality. A neutral nation observes neutrality only as its government treats all belligerents alike. It does not maintain a neutral attitude if it declares by its acts that it intends to starve a belligerent with which it is at peace. But it is stated that, as Germany is excluded from the sea in this war, it has not the same chance of supplying such supplies as its enemies have, and that therefore the United States in fairness should refuse to sell to those enemies of Germany. This means that the United States should take part in the conflict by doing, as far as it can, to the injury of England and France by a commercial operation what England has done by naval operations to the injury of Germany. This is urging, not that the United States be neutral, but that it be unneutral. It is asking the United States to take part in the war on one side without avowing itself as a belligerent. It may be that the rules of that grim game called war are not as good as they might be; but it is not neutrality for a neutral nation to undertake to change those rules while that game is in progress in order to even the odds in favor of one side and against the other. On the ground, therefore, of neutrality, the prohibition of exports cannot be justified."

"There remains, therefore, the third question, a question of permanent policy: Is the prohibition of exporting such supplies as we should regard as friendly and neutral if, the case being reversed, we were at war and wished to purchase supplies from a neutral power? At such a time as this the United States must make its decision, guided not by present sentiment and feeling alone, but by its convictions as to what it regards as the policy of permanent valid under all circumstances. Suppose the United States were at war with Great Britain and the British navy from the sea (a supposition plainly contrary to any conceivable fact), and we were confining our operations to defense along the Canadian border; should we regard it as a friendly and neutral act on the part of Germany and France and Russia and the other European powers if they jointly and severally neutralized the sea in order to cut off the British navy from the sea? It is asking the United States to take part in the war on one side without avowing itself as a belligerent. It may be that the rules of that grim game called war are not as good as they might be; but it is not neutrality for a neutral nation to undertake to change those rules while that game is in progress in order to even the odds in favor of one side and against the other. On the ground, therefore, of neutrality, the prohibition of exports cannot be justified."

"We do not think, therefore, that the prohibition of the export of munitions of war can be justified on the ground of ethics, on the ground of neutrality, or on the ground of a consistent permanent policy."

Twice Told Tales

A Diplomatic Tip. At a time when it was thought Germany wanted to get a foothold in Holland Bismarck and the Dutch ambassador stood watching a review of the German army. As a well set-up body of men marched past the ambassador said: "Fine soldiers, but too short." Then came the Grenadiers, between six and seven feet tall; nevertheless the ambassador's comment was the same as before: "Fine soldiers, but too short."

"What does your excellency mean?" asked Bismarck. "I mean that we can flood Holland eight feet deep," replied the ambassador.—Boston Transcript.

Twins. "I don't like to see warring armies call to persistently on Providence. It savors of arrogance and self-righteousness. Providence may take revenge." The speaker was Bishop Lincoln L. Miles of Duluth. He went on.

"There was once a young couple that expected a visit from the stork. The husband was anxious that the stork bring a girl; the wife was anxious for a boy being very religious, both brought Providence morning, noon and night to grant his or her desire. "And Providence heard. Providence granted both prayers."—Innith Times.

People and Events

Kilkenny cats appear to have taken permanent quarters in Mexico.

Scarborough and Hartlepool are a long, long way from Tipperary, but within easy walking distance of London.

Expert advice from Washington is to the effect that the face of a cold storage is just as innocent of guile as the fresh one of yesterday.

A tip for tourists-to-be comes out of the approaching dry belt of Colorado. The absence of local stimulants will not affect the impressiveness of the scenery if you carry your own bottle.

If it keeps up much longer the shell game may disturb the home grown nerve of John Bull. Tossing rude compliments of the season on the sacred soil of England tends to convince Cousin George that Cezola's Bill doesn't need a nerve tonic.

Police Chief Ed Heller of Terre Haute, Ind., is emphasizing his name just now. The occasion for the "holler" is a sentence of thirty days in jail for refusing to carry out a judgment of the supreme court of the state. The acoustic properties of his quarters is an unknown quantity.



Suggests Street Car Fare. SOUTH OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: It was suggested to the writer the other day that Omaha, Council Bluffs and South Omaha request the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway company to furnish fare cards upon request the same as Chicago, Kansas City, Denver and other cities. The convenience and advisability is obvious. There are at least four deaths every day in the above cities, so it would be a paying proposition for the street car company. J. G. BLESSING.

No Color Line for Santa. OMAHA, Dec. 21.—To the Editor of The Bee: According to Booker T. Washington the appeals for help for these little folks, the cotton crisis will cheat thousands of southern colored children out their Christmas cheer, which reminds me of the provision being made here in Omaha for the poorer colored children as well as the others, whose parents are unable to provide Christmas joys for them. In ample time generous-hearted and wide-awake men and women of their own race began the collection of clothing, food and goodies for these boys and girls, so that they might realize when old Santa comes that he comes for all and that he draws no color line, or lines of distinction between the rich and poor. The idea belongs to John Grant Peck, city inspector of weights and measures, and has been worked out in co-operation with white and colored, the latter, however, carrying the burden of the enterprise. Such efforts deserve commendation and should be known to all because they reflect very creditably upon the character of Omaha's colored people. L. M.

Let Everybody Help. UPLAND, Neb., Dec. 21.—To the Editor of The Bee: There has developed in one town of the state a slight opposition to the governor's idea of a statewide organization for Belgian relief. This is highly to be regretted, though the reason for it is not known. The conditions in our own poor, of course, we should see that no one at home be starving, but if one will only stop to consider the vast amount of difference in the intensity and wide scale of the suffering in Belgium and that at home, the latter will be conceived to be so infinitesimal in comparison, that one should hesitate to make even a suggestion to deny a cause so worthy. Of course we do not know the conditions in Grand Island, but we do know that generally speaking our great state, taken as a whole, had good crops this year, and especially of wheat, and that we are obtaining 90 per cent more for this crop as a result of the war and its distressing results than the price before hostilities were thought of and that in our little village of Upland, at least, we know of no case where charity is needed. Can we not spare some of that 90 per cent increase in prices or a little of that wheat, to put in the mouths of those hungry little children, widows and other helpless invalids of Belgium? And before anyone opposes this move let him realize fully that he is actually taking away the bread out of these mouths by the kind of talk, a very serious thing in its consequences if we have anything in us of the human qualities of charity, compassion and pity for innocent sufferers. If anyone does not feel like giving, let him at least withhold his tongue, because, God knows, there will be enough of us who will not lack in excuses to part with a little of their abundance to help relieve the terrible misery of a worthy, hard-working, industrious and honest people, brought down to starvation and death by no fault of theirs.

With a great many of us it should not be with a few cents that we should conscientiously dismiss this great crisis from our minds or our hearts. Let the dollars rain down on the unfortunates and let there might be those who would feel a pang in parting with it, but let them remember that 45 cents probably going to save a life and what feeling can surpass in happiness and comfort that which is the result of having responded to the full extent of our ability the call of helpless misery? Let us then help the governor with all our might; let us even forestall him by going ahead and organizing committees to solicit funds or wheat or flour or clothing.

In our little village of Upland with less than 400 inhabitants and the community of farmers trading here we raised \$42 in about two days, after the people were appealed to through the local paper, moving picture show and the meeting of the favorably inclined. Our solicitors were generally welcome. They found the people in a receptive mood, generally ready to contribute. The spirit of the west was evident. A few who had been overlooked or missed by our solicitors went to some trouble to take part in the good work. Practically everybody gave something and it was remarkable how quite a few owning nothing but their team, a few cows and chickens, a big heart and a "houseful of kids" were glad of the occasion to give those less fortunate than themselves. A Member of the Belgian Relief Committee of Upland, Neb.

Editorial Shrapnel

Washington Star: Connecticut, having abolished the use of the word "convicts," might go a step further and refer to the prisoners as "guests."

Chicago Herald: The late Sereno Payne, like many another man before him, achieved distinction by the simple but infallible expedient of knowing one thing extremely well.

St. Louis Republic: Events at Scarborough and Hartlepool indicate that the navies do not propose to let the airships get ahead of them in destruction of innocent noncombatants.

Indianapolis News: Mr. Herlick's announcement that it is his intention to work his job as ambassador to France may tend further to make plain citizens hesitate about trying to get into the diplomatic service.

Baltimore American: Little Switzerland is getting extremely belligerent against any intrusion upon her neutrality. Nor is the Helvetian republic to be laughed at, for though she has no navy, she can mobilize a larger trained army than the United States. A frown on the Swiss face means something.

St. Louis Republic: The fortunes of war may not be much affected by the sinking of the old Messudieh, but the British public will gladly hail the exploit as proof that British seamen still know how to die with death at heavy odds for the prize of victory. Submarine honors no longer rest exclusively with the Germans U-S. In B-I-I it finds a splendid rival.

Nebraska Editors

John H. Cabern, former owner of the Ong Visitor, who had been an invalid for the last three years, died last week at Hastings.

E. H. Miller, who has been connected with the Alliance News for several months, has leased the plant from Mrs. Koelst and is now in charge.

H. R. Record, proprietor of the G'etna Breeze, has enlarged his paper to a six-column quarto. He will install a new press and an electric motor for each machine in his plant.

H. D. Leggett, proprietor of the St. Paul Republican, announces an increase in advertising rates effective the first of the year. He says the increase in the cost of labor and materials makes this step necessary.

SNOW-CAPPED SMILES.

"Dinah, did you wash the fish before you baked it?" "Law, ma'am, what's de use ob washin' er fish what's lived all his life in de water?"—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Look here!" said an excited man to a druggist. "You gave me morphine for quinine this morning." "Is that so?" replied the druggist. "Then you owe me 25 cents."—Christian Register.

"That fellow is off his nut." "Then why not turn him over to your crazy old uncle?" "What good could he do him?" "I thought you said your uncle was such a screw."—Baltimore American.

Caller to little miss of 4.—Well, Dorothy, I hear that your grandmamma is coming home today. You'll be very glad, won't you? Dorothy (serious and considerate)—Medium.—Boston Transcript.

"Madam," said the man, when a woman answered the doctor's doorbell. "Could you let me have a pair of the doctor's discarded pants?" "Sir," thundered the woman, "I am the doctor."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Well, my good woman," said the slumber, "I must be going. Is there anything I can do for you?" "Only that," responded the submerged one wearily.—Houston Post.

"First Modern Parent—Aren't your two children something of a problem?" "Second Modern Parent—Yes, indeed."

They go away to school for thirty-eight weeks to camp for ten, and that leaves four whole weeks after when I don't know where to send them. Life.—"Pa, what is the eternal question?" "Just now, my boy, with every married man it is what to buy for his wife."—Detroit Free Press.

Mike Thiel—What's de matter? Gettin' soft? Ed Burglar—Soft, nothing. Them lone helpless women de kind dat half kills ye and then sends ye to jail.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Mrs. Eke—Did the lawyer for the defense submit you to a cross-examination? Mrs. Wye—No, indeed; he was just as pleasant about it as he could be.—Detroit Free Press.

A SIMPLE GIFT. The Merry Christmas time has come again, when with heart and soul aglow, Our thoughts turn outward to our fellow men, And love rules for the moment here below.

A season when alike the rich and poor awaken and more nobly, truly live, Enjoying the receipt of friendly gifts As measured by the knowing how to give.

'Tis not a paltry gift that's bought with gold, Or jewels rare from our Golconda's mine, Or treasures that the sea or earth may hold That satisfies the need at Christmas time.

'Tis not a tie or pair of silken hose, Or many hues, not jet cigars; my store is quite complete. I would have none of those I've loads of them from Christmases of yore.

It is a gift that's richer far than these, More precious than the costliest work of man; A gift that in the future years will please And help to brighten all life's rugged plan.

'Tis but a simple gift from out the heart, That's weighted down with kindly thoughts and love; A word, a smile, a look, which when we part Will seem a message from the realms above.

Then at this blessed season of the year, But this I ask, and nothing more than this— Just whisper softly to my listening ear, "I love you, dear," and seal it with a kiss. Omaha. DAVID

Time and Trial Prove the unequalled value of Beecham's Pills as the best corrective of ailments of the digestive organs so common—and the best preventive of lasting and serious sickness so often resulting from defective or irregular action of the stomach, liver or bowels.

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