

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE
FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.
The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.
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NOVEMBER CIRCULATION.
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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.

Now for the last grand rush of the belated early shoppers.

Now, little folks, sleep with both eyes tight shut and he will surely come.

And make it a merry Christmas—for the other fellow as well as yourself.

Whatever one may think about the war, Goe Bernard Shaw differs with you.

That raise in rates was a handsome Christmas present for the eastern railroads.

Yet there were some idle I. W. W. boys before the fall of war times fell upon us.

Get your fireplace cleared out, and make sure there are no obstacles in the chimney.

Perhaps the quickest way to start the Missouri river barge line would be to build iceboats.

The underlying difficulty in this jury problem is to get 5 men to serve as jurors at \$3 a day.

Note that both Mr. Kitchin and Mr. Garrett aspire to the floor leadership of the democratic household.

The electric light user does not care half so much how the rate comes down, nor why, as that it comes down.

"Safety first" should also warn people not to load the Christmas tree with too many strings of dry popcorn.

And while cutting out the needless jobs, Senator Dodge, don't overlook those insanity commissioners and their graft.

It turns out that "the Christmas ship" was mighty well timed to reach the war orphans of Europe, and no time to spare.

Harry Thaw sends the friendly gatekeeper at Matthewan \$500 for Christmas, showing that the lawyers have not yet got it all.

Our thanks to many friends for numerous handsome and useful calendars that will not let us forget how time flies in 1915.

Several national Santa Clauses over in Europe are snooping around to see just how hot a bunch they can stick in the other fellow's stocking.

It will be a white Christmas for Omaha out in the residence districts and suburbs, but not in the smoke-begrimed, soot-covered, central part of the city.

Incidentally, keeping two separate heating plants going for city hall and court house, where one would easily do the business, also keeps two sets of boiler-room employes on the payroll.

The exchange editor smiles a merry Christmas smile as those empty mail pouches are brought in, showing that as usual at rush times, Uncle Sam sidetracks the second class matter.

The Nebraska delegation in the house has divided on the prohibition amendment exactly as they are divided on party lines, and it is a cinch that the two Nebraska senators would divide the same way.

Prohibition Remains a Local Issue.
The failure of the Hobson amendment to secure the required constitutional majority in the house must be taken as meaning that the question of regulating or suppressing the liquor traffic is, and must continue to be for the present, a local issue. That will, of course, not stop the effort to bring it out again in the next congress or to make it a national issue by forcing it into the next presidential campaign.

The whole question of prohibition is inseparably bound up with the territorial unit by which the decision is to be made. On this point there has been no consistency in the attitude of either side; the prohibitionists clamor for county, city, or even ward option or state-wide prohibition, according as they believe it would produce more dry territory, and their demand for a national prohibition amendment merely aims to accomplish by one stroke what they have been seeking to do piecemeal by state or local prohibition.

It is noteworthy, too, that the vote in the house fails to disclose a division on strict party lines, but rather cuts across party lines, members of all parties answering the roll both "Yes" and "No." The fact, however, that the majority of the votes are recorded favorably to submission will naturally encourage a return to the fray and stimulate the prohibition activity within the several states.

Time to Get Over the Scare.
From a banking standpoint the country never was as rich as it is today, says Secretary Lane of the Department of the Interior. The banks, so we are told, are bulging with the savings of the people, so are the safe deposit vaults, where millions of dollars are piled up at a time when they ought to be in circulation. And there is more agricultural wealth in the country than there ever was before. Our 1914 crops were in many cases record breaking, notably wheat, foreign exports of which are likely to set a few precedents.

Yet, surrounded on all sides with the most amazing resources and products of wealth, we count our unemployed by the thousands, while free soup houses are multiplying. Public and private philanthropy is on the firing line in response to the plea for food and clothing.

As The Bee has more than once observed the serious defect arises from lack of confidence, lack of confidence in ourselves, and lack of confidence in those with whom we do business as tradesmen and as customers, as employers and employes. This impairment of confidence may be explained by a lot of things, among which the war is only one, but the restoration of confidence alone will set all the wheels again moving in co-ordination.

At this time when our country is feeling its share of the effect of the European war, let us not ignore the other primal causes of our domestic lethargy. The fault is partly our own as well as Europe's, and when we set our own machinery straight and turn on our confidence valves, the European war scare will lose most of its disturbing effect.

The Honorable Japanese.
Unofficial, though strong, objection to the allies calling in Japanese reinforcements has been voiced by a former French cabinet member, who says that though Japan sent only 250,000 soldiers—a corporal's guard in this day of "modern" warfare—it would never cease to claim the credit in the event of victory.

If such objection should take official form in France it might easily have the effect of barring Japanese troops, for even England would hardly care to press a point likely to create friction within the allied ranks.

The objection, however, recalls Germany's original alarm, sounded in the behalf of European interests, against a prospective invasion under the provisions of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. Possibly the force of that objection may have been weakened by the introduction of other "Aryan brown" and tropical troops from India, Egypt and Africa, and by the enlistment of the Turks behind the German standards, and yet from whatever angle we view it, it may be hoped that the honorable Japanese will remain in their own country, while the erring brothers over the sea fight out their deplorable struggle.

Where the Clergy May Help.
Rev. Samuel J. Nicolls of St. Louis, one of the foremost Protestant preachers in the country, confessed to his congregation from the pulpit, his grave mistake in marrying two persons of royal titles a few days before, who had come fresh from the divorce court to the altar.

"I was utterly unacquainted with either party and knew nothing of their previous history or condition," he said. "Had I known then what I know now, I would not have married them. I do not blame them. I blame myself for not having made a more diligent inquiry into the matter."

The minister's frank confession is commendable and besides "an honest confession is good for the soul," but the episode calls attention to a prevailing fault among too many of our clergymen. Dr. Nicolls, as he realizes, should have inquired about these strangers who came to him to be married, just as every clergyman should do with reference to every couple seeking matrimony. Such precaution might not prevent the marriage, nor the subsequent divorces, but it would have the right tendency. It would also lend more consistency to the popular clamor for eugenic marriages, based on prerequisite certificates of sound physical condition. With all the great results promised for this latter device, there is much to be done by the clergy and others vested with authority to perform marriage ceremonies along purely moral lines. Where the clergy becomes careless or indifferent, not to say avaricious, as a few are on the subject, what shall be said of the attendant evils? No consideration should keep a minister of the gospel or an officer of the court from making due inquiry into the relations and conditions of every couple presented for marriage.

While modern industry gives preference to the man below 50, modern war is willing to take him even a year or two above that deadline.

"Night Before Christmas"

Origin of Famous Christmas Poem
In thousands of homes and by hundreds of thousands of children and elders these words are being repeated:
'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

Nothing, not even excepting Dickens' favorite "Christmas Carol," has ever been written on the subject of Christmas for children has enjoyed greater popularity than this poem, given to the world ninety-two years ago under the well-known title, "A Visit From St. Nicholas."

The author, Dr. Clement Clarke Moore, was a theologian of note and a linguist who compiled in 1899 the first Hebrew-Greek lexicon published in America. He had written several small poems, but all have been forgotten save "A Visit From St. Nicholas."

Dr. Moore had children of his own, and it was his custom every Christmas season to arrange some entertainment for his little ones and their friends. In 1822 he wrote his poem which formed the chief part of the big entertainment on the "night before Christmas." He never dreamed that it would become famous, or that the world would remember this classic childhood verse and forget his laborious work in compiling the huge Hebrew-Greek lexicon.

Dr. Moore died in Newport in 1862. The New York Historical society has a copy of the celebrated Christmas poem written by Dr. Moore at the request of one of the officers in 1822, and with it a list of the names of the officers in 1822, and with it a list of the circumstances under which the poem was written.

The Poem Unabridged.
'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,

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The Bee's Letter Box

Feeding Prisoners Germany's Burden
SUPERIOR, Neb., Dec. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: Have just received a letter from my brother-in-law, Mr. Carl Sierke, Homeburg, Germany, stating they have in their village (which is about the same size as Superior) 2,000 English marines and 500 English infantry prisoners, who are allowed the privileges of visitors and are treated as such, and not like some papers stated, at hard labor and not enough to eat. However, this works a hardship on Germany, feeding 300,000 prisoners of foreign countries, and the imports cut off. I cannot understand the principle of the Prince of Peace, if he has any principle, opposing the bills of such noble men like Hitchcock and Loebbeck. I would like to have the views of your readers for or against the bills now before the United States senate and congress.

Military and Industrial Warfare.
YORK, Neb., Dec. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: Some people seem to have their views crossed, as indicated by what we hear at the street forum and read in the papers. If we are to believe all we hear, it must be a crime to be good. Unless certain ones get all the benefit, there is a poor going over the counter against the gift, the giver, even against the spirit in which it is given.

Philadelphia Record: "In the event of war," said Admiral Pike in his testimony before the house naval committee recently, "our policy would have to be to endeavor to get control of the sea." All the experts say the same thing, but they ought to tell us how this control is to be obtained. No nation has persisted in its endeavor to command the sea longer and more strenuously than the British, and yet this nation has not control even of the waters that wash its coasts.

Philadelphia Ledger: The chief reason for exercising great caution in reopening the security markets was the fear that Europe might flood the American market with American securities which foreign people own. But it appears now that while war may naturally impel Europe to sell our securities, the disaster of war might also induce private investors to prefer to keep their money at work in the United States.

They say, "Boas, are we not as efficient as honest, as worthy of a chance to earn our living as they?" But all he can say is, "I have no option in the matter. I am told who and how many I can hire, so there. Now don't tell me this is not the gist of this war, as I have been up against both sides of this thing. Then if you will turn to your old papers of last spring you will find the excuse for the strike very different from what is given now. They confessed then that wages and conditions were O. K., but were striking for the recognition of the union. Now they add living conditions as part of the charge, among which is having to trade at company stores. I find no fault with that complaint, for I am against that myself, and I am consistent in that as it is a part of my freedom for which I am now contending. While I am granting others their rights I don't want to be compelled to surrender my own."

When I ask for work I don't say it is my work-fellow a Jew or an Irishman, an Odd Fellow or a common fellow, but I ought to have an interest in him and his work and he should be given no strings with which to tie or lash me with.

Political Pointers
Innovations in political methods, as in other things, swell the cost of government. The last primary election in Oregon cost the taxpayers \$300,000.

Without the aid or consent of Missouri's two senators the president has named a postmaster for Kansas City and a marshal for the western district of Missouri.

Ohio modestly announces that it has four republicans of presidential size—Herrick, Burton, Willis and Harding. Buckeyes will back any one of them to the finish in 1916.

The Citizens' union of New York City thinks the metropolis would be more efficiently managed and much happier with fewer aldermen, and proposes to ask the legislature for a reduction of the number of chairwarmers.

Taxpayers in New York City are wailing. They have discovered that rural lawmakers have piled on the cities an unjust proportion of the state's burdens, and they propose to equalize the coming legislature for a buttonholing of the load. Then the fun will begin.

Back in Massachusetts bull mooseers have launched the "Order of the Bee Hive," for the purpose of drawing into closer comradeship, all persons desirous of perpetuating the principles of the progressive party. Membership is open to both sexes, with an initiation fee of \$1 for men, 50 cents for women, half rates for minors. Among other reforms projected within the party is the elimination of "angels," especially those flapping bird-like wings.

Here and There
St. Louis Republic: The most important part played by the United States in the war thus far has been the saving of one devastated nation from starvation, and every food ship sent across the water is worth more for the cause of peace than any battleship ever built.

The distinction by W. E. Chaffee of Washington, of having shaken hands with nineteen presidents of the United States, has a certain element of novelty, but is deficient in the thrilling zest, which Nebraska democrats show in striving to reach the hand at the federal pie counter.

The masculine fashion oracle of Salt Lake City, notes with some astonishment that "the return of the whiskers is perhaps the big sensation of the men's fashion situation." Apart from the value of whiskers as a symbol of manhood, the Salt Lake City innovation bespeaks the tribute modern prophets pay to their ancient sire.

Editorial Viewpoint

Boston Transcript: Praised by the president, Mr. Herrick well might say with the playwright Kemble, "Perhaps it was right to disassemble your love, but why did you kick me down stairs?"

Pittsburgh Dispatch: They are fine days for Italy. If it feels itself wronged in any way, all it has to do is demand apologies, and the big powers will see that it gets them. Italy has rather too many men to be allowed to get into the war on the other side.

New York World: It is hard to see how Belgium can pay a war tax of \$70,000,000 to Germany in addition to the war levies exacted from various Belgian cities. A people that is destitute and starving and whose cities have been laid waste and fields ravaged by war has enough to do to keep soul and body together without contributing enormous sums to the war chest of a hostile army of occupation.

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CHEERY CHAFF.

"Home is the dearest place on earth," cooed Mrs. Jones.
"It is," replied Jones, who had just received the Christmas bills.—Houston Post.

She—Didn't you think the people at Mrs. Gander's reception were all extremely dull?
Yes, but you know it was authors' day.—Life.

"That horn doesn't blow, sir," said the friendly salesman.
"Wrap it up," said Uncle Tobias, thinking of his sweet little nephew. "That's the kind of a horn I want."—Woman's Home Companion.

"If they persist in teaching the boys in the schools military tactics, I don't believe our Willie would go in for it. Do you mean he's too chicken hearted?"
No, he's too pigeon toed.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

CHRISTMAS EVE.
Chester Firkins in the Atlantic
Tonight is all the year to me.
When out of all the ripened days,
Sorrow is sifted, Beauty stars—
The winnowed grain of Memory.

Here all the months their emblems strewn:
For April, there is Youth's delight;
For May, there are these blossoms
For all Spring's love-time, there is Youth
The Yule-tide flame snaps blithe below;
Bright holly berries burn above;
And Fancy builds a dream thereof—
A dream of summer—mid the snow.

For Autumn, there is harvest hoard
Of all the toiling world's good will;
For Winter, there's the wondrous thrill
Of laughter round the laden board.

Methinks tonight, my happy heart,
Rides, like the Wise Men, from afar,
Back through the ages, with a star
For certain guide and errand chart.—
Back through the ages, unto Them
Who in the lowly manger lay,
Where stolid kine soft watched by day
Above the Babe of Bethlehem.

And all the hope—the joy—that He
Gave to all Christmas-tides of Time
Lifts here a pinnacle sublime,
Tonight is all of Life to me!



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Nebraska Headquarters, 675 Brandeis Theater Building
MRS. J. K. R. EDHOLM, State Agent
Telephone Douglas 2058 Order Early

Thirty Years Ago
This Day in Omaha
The day was again one of the coldest experienced in the city, and suffering from cold intense. The thermometer started out at 13 degrees below zero. At 2 o'clock it had gotten up to 11 degrees below zero, and at 6 o'clock in the evening was 9 degrees below, while at midnight it had fallen down again to 15 degrees below zero.

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