

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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APRIL CIRCULATION, 53,406. State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss: Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average circulation for the month of April, 1915, was 53,406.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 1st day of May, 1915. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

Thought for the Day. Selected by Mrs. C. T. Morris.

"We who pass down life's hours so carelessly, might make the dusty road a path of flowers, if we would try. Then every gentle deed we've done, or kind word given, brought into gold, would make us wondrous rich in heaven."

The price of flour is no longer skyrocketing, but how about the size of the loaf?

But when the pie counter is bare, the job-hunters will not be so numerous there.

Whatever happens, let our Italian-Americans carefully abstain from over-excitement.

For variety of performance, the merry month of May is putting it over 'em all.

The hole-in-the-bottom-of-the-sea song is about due to come back into popular favor.

The time to wake up to the importance of Greater Omaha is now, before the consolidation election, not after it.

Stock market gaming must be growing less desperate—not a rumor of President Wilson's death for over a week.

The uplift goes forward by leaps and bounds. Those who doubt should follow the dental discussion on the higher cultivation of schers.

Down in Lincoln the superintendent of the municipal water works for twenty years has been supplanted as a result of the new deal commission plan government. Ouch!

State pride irons out the wrinkles of the belt as it observes Governor Morehead in training for the good roads and overalls act. The fitness of the man behind the shovel is yet to be shown.

School board investigators declare police court appeals merely pretext to get away from paying fines or forfeiting bonds. Well, how do they suppose those police court lawyers make a living, anyway?

A workhouse for Omaha can be made a profitable investment or an unprofitable one, according as it is built, and run as a business proposition or as a get-rich-quick scheme like that county jail-feeding graft.

The development and application of a fake fortune involves more pain than pen can describe. The pictured dream of millions yesterday; turned into poverty today is a poignant change, but the acute distress evolves from a fat lien without a prop to lean on.

Among other factors in the high cost of living must be reckoned a per capita fire cost of \$6 a year. This includes the cost of property burned up and the maintenance of fire departments in the United States. The tax is collected by various indirect means, but reaches the pocket nerve just the same.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha.

The deadlock over nominations between the mayor and council continues with the naming of W. B. Shoemaker for city attorney, James Carter for city physician and James Donnelly for inspector of weights and measures, all referred to committees.

A brilliant wedding at St. Philomena's on Sunday, P. J. Carroll and Miss Katie Casey, the ceremony being performed by Father O'Connor, and followed in the evening by a ball at Cunningham hall attended by 300 friends.

The Omaha Light guards opened their new armory in Williams block with a reception and dance. Secretary of War Endicott and party, including General Drum and Colonel Barr, came in, and were lavishly entertained. The dinner in the evening at the Paxton was attended in addition to the guests by Senator Manderson, Judge Savage, Herman Kountze, George W. E. Dwyer, Colonel Stanton, J. M. Woolworth, Henry W. Yates, General O. O. Howard, Mayor Boyd and W. V. Lewis.

Principal Homer P. Lewis of the high school is back from his trip south.

Dr. Amelia Bourchett has returned from New York City, bringing with her her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, who may make Omaha their future home.

Miss Lizzie Confield and Miss Lizzie Ransom, who have been visiting in West Point, are home again.

Not a Time for Bargaining.

Out of the many reports that come from the capitals of the world since the Wilson note was sent to Germany is one that may be worthy of some consideration. It is to the effect that Ambassador Bernadotte has suggested that Germany will be willing to suspend its submarine campaign if the United States will require the Allies to lift their blockade of the German ports. This would be merely proposing a bargain hardly in place at this time.

The United States has already made vigorous protest to Great Britain concerning its naval interference with neutral shipping. That incident is not yet closed. The British government's latest representation to the United States is far from satisfactory, and does not meet at any point the contention that in certain important particular neutral rights have been violated or ignored by the British. However, this is a different case from that between the United States and Germany, in which the rights of all neutrals are involved, and so far the demands of the United States have been made in the name of all neutrals without special consideration of American claims.

It is not for the United States, even constructively, to show preference as between the combatants. "Shirt sleeve" diplomacy may herein be vindicated, because of the directness with which it has approached the point at issue.

Our Police Court Problem.

The report on police court fines and forfeitures made to the School board by Members Wakely and Woodland for the judiciary committee should help to an understanding of the problem, even though it may not furnish the complete solution. The conclusion is reached that thousands of dollars have been lost to the school fund by the ease with which appeals could be taken at nominal expense and with scarcely a risk of forfeiting the appeal bond. There is no doubt that a certain class of police court lawyers and professional bondsmen make a living by in this way intercepting the money that would otherwise be paid as police court fines, and that all that is needed to stop abuse of the practice is a little care and discrimination on the part of the judge and prosecuting authorities.

Yet it must not be imagined that every case appealed from the police court and later dismissed represents a loss to the school fund. Many such cases are not tried because conviction by a jury is highly improbable, and in many others conviction would not mean payment of a fine, but a jail sentence—an expense and not a revenue to the taxpayers.

While police court machinery should be in good working order all the time, the main thing to be kept in mind, according to our way of thinking, is that the object is not to swell the school fund except incidentally to the enforcement of the laws and ordinances for upholding orderliness and good behavior. We would gladly forego all revenue from police court fines and forfeitures if we knew of some more effective means of prevention and repression to use on the offenders.

Man and Meteorology.

How little man is able to really foresee and forecast weather conditions is evinced by the remarkable temperature drop that is just now giving truck gardeners, fruit growers and flower raisers so much trouble. It is not at all uncommon to have frost in May, the records support this assertion, and the Oldest Inhabitant can tell from the recesses of his all-embracing memory many precedents.

It is not the recurrence of a late cold spell that causes worry, but its uncertainty. If only it could be foretold with reasonable accuracy, and its severity and duration could be determined in advance, spring farming would be reduced to an exact science. But, until we are able to wrest from nature some definite information as to whence the wind cometh and whither it goeth, meteorology, especially in the vernal season, will be more or less of a speculation, and gardening something of a gamble.

Nebraska's Flying Squadron.

At last, Nebraska has a veritable flying squadron; not one so called by reason of its extreme mobility, but one that actually flies. Adjutant General Hall has just announced that the Nebraska National Guard is owner of some serviceable aeroplanes, and has on its roster several expert aviators, who are ready to do vaillant stunts above the earth, should occasion require their services.

This will be joyful tidings to the worn and weary veterans of Frank E. Moore's navy, who have so long mounted guard over the borders of Nebraska, ready to repel any hostile fleet or foreign army that might threaten our peaceful state. It is also a welcome addition to that list of citizens who are classified under the heading of "sailors," and who have heretofore been mostly of the "cornfield" variety. The sailors of the air may not outnumber the others yet, but give them time.

A great field of peaceful service is also open to them. They may be of much real use to some of our inspired statesmen, who now and then go so high in the air they cannot be followed by the naked eye. In any event, the presence of an aviation corps is most convincing proof that our guardians are keeping strictly up to date in the art and science of warfare.

An instructive illustration of the economies effected by consolidation of interests is noted in the case of railroad-owned lake steamer lines. The economies were effected all right, but at the same time freight rates were pushed up notch after notch, forcing shippers to economize in quantity of freight shipped. Thus, while economy guarded the spigot elevated rates knocked in the head of the barrel. The result of too much consolidation is the order to railroads to cut loose from lake shipping.

Americans are fortunate in their versatility. Switching from one intensive national topic to another involves no greater effort than moving the lever. For the moment the perplexities of submarine warfare are submerged by the throbbing question: "Are bald-headed lawyers the brightest members of the profession?"

Omitting from print the names of the suffs who pastored the president in New York robes of its chief inspiration.

Indebtedness of Cities and Counties in Nebraska.

Census Bureau Bulletin.

THE CIVIL DIVISION of the state of Nebraska reported a total net indebtedness of \$29,371,967 in 1912. Of this amount, the counties, as a separate unit, were obligated for \$1,736,138, or 5.93 per cent; the cities, towns, villages, townships, etc., were obligated for \$27,635,829, or 94.07 per cent; and the independent school districts, for \$1,604,887, or 5.47 per cent of the total. The amount reported in 1913 was an increase of \$18,561,027, or 73.3 per cent, over the amount reported in 1912. The indebtedness in the latter year showing an increase of \$1,177,147, or 7.3 per cent, over that in 1910. The per capita debt in 1913 was \$29.55, having increased \$0.37, or 1.3 per cent, from 1912 to 1913. During the period 1890 to 1902 the per capita debt increased \$4.79, or 23.8 per cent. During the period 1890 to 1902 the per capita debt of all civil divisions increased at about the same rate as the net debt, while during the period 1902 to 1913 the rate of increase in the net debt was very much in excess of the rate of increase of the per capita debt.

The counties of the state reported a total debt of \$3,544,472, of which \$1,500,265, or 42.3 per cent, represented funded or fixed debt, nearly all of which was in the form of general bonds; \$2,044,207, or 57.7 per cent, revenue loans; and \$20,000, or 0.6 per cent, warrants. The sinking funds held by the counties amounted to \$148,344, or 4.2 per cent of their total debt. The net debt reported in 1913 was a decrease of \$1,078,630, or 22.5 per cent, from the amount reported in 1902, the last mentioned year showing a decrease of \$78,217, or 13.3 per cent, from the amount reported in 1890. The per capita debt decreased from \$1.30 in 1890 to \$1.48 in 1902 and \$1.20 in 1913, the rate of decrease in both periods being in excess of the rate of decrease of the net debt, although the rates for the period 1890 to 1902 were very nearly the same.

There were ninety-two counties in the state in 1913, and of this number, forty-one reported debt. The smallest debt, amounting to \$1,000, was reported by Perkins county. The largest debt, amounting to \$1,898,664, was reported by Douglas county, in which the city of Omaha is located. The smallest per capita debt, \$0.07, was reported by Saline county, where the total debt was only \$1,250, while the largest per capita debt, \$14.2, was reported by Otoe county, with a total debt of \$75,000. During the period 1902 to 1913, thirty-seven counties paid off the entire debt outstanding in 1902, while only five counties which were free from debt in that year reported debt in 1913. Douglas county, mentioned above as being the largest individual debtor, reported more than one-half of the debt of all counties, and showed an increase during the period 1902 to 1913 of \$89,056, or 90.2 per cent.

The cities, towns and villages of the state reported a total debt of \$28,328,041 in 1913. Of this amount, \$24,610,215, or 87.2 per cent, represented funded or fixed debt; \$3,717,826, or 13.1 per cent, special assessments; \$256,716, or 0.9 per cent, revenue loans; and \$450,304, or 1.6 per cent, warrants. These places held sinking fund assets in 1913 amounting to \$845,237, or 2.9 per cent of the total debt. The net debt reported in 1913 was \$28,547,714, an increase of \$16,236,611, or 123.8 per cent, over the amount reported in 1902. During the period 1890 to 1913, 280 of the 312 incorporated places increased \$6,228,596, or 194.1 per cent. The per capita debt for all incorporated places was \$21.61 in 1913. The per capita debt for prior years was not calculated.

The cities of Lincoln and Omaha make up the group of cities having a population of 50,000 or more, and together reported a net debt of \$18,042,196. The city of Omaha was obligated for \$15,062,451, an increase of \$9,626,471, or 148.5 per cent, over the amount reported in 1902. During this period the per capita debt increased \$6.81, or 109.3 per cent. During the period 1890 to 1902 the net debt of Omaha increased \$4,600,000, or 28.5 per cent, while the per capita debt increased \$4.63, or 35.7 per cent. This is one of the very few cases in which the rate of increase was larger for the per capita than for the net debt.

The group composed of cities having a population of 2,000 to 50,000 reported a net debt of \$2,813,885, an increase over that of 1902 of \$2,088,136, or 121 per cent. Each city in this group reported an increase in net debt. The largest increase having been reported by South Omaha. The cities of Beatrice and Hastings reported a small increase in net debt and a decrease in the per capita tax.

The next group includes twenty cities ranging in population from 2,500 to 4,100. These places reported a net debt of \$1,879,885, an increase of \$1,703,415, or 131.3 per cent, over the amount reported in 1902.

There were 477 incorporated places in the state with a population of less than 2,500 in 1913. Of this number, 408 made reports to the census bureau. Of these, 231 reported debt aggregating \$1,812,358, an increase of \$2,671,184, or 24.9 per cent, and a per capita debt of \$16.48, being the per capita on the population of all places reporting.

The "specified civil divisions" include drainage districts and townships. The drainage districts reported a total indebtedness of \$40,097, all of which was special assessment loans. No sinking funds were reported by these districts. The townships reported a total debt of \$11,783, of which \$11,176 represented funded or fixed debt; \$6,281, special assessment loans; and \$4,893, outstanding warrants. Sinking funds amounting to \$444 were reported, leaving a net debt of \$11,341.

The independent school district of the state reported a net debt of \$3,415,887 in 1913, an increase of \$1,381,108, or 62 per cent, over the amount reported in 1902. This amount does not represent the entire indebtedness of the state on account of schools, but only the debt of those divisions which lie outside the boundaries of those cities and towns having a population of 2,500 or more.

The civil divisions of the state, excluding school districts, reported a gross indebtedness amounting to \$31,749,385, of which \$28,231,761, or 88.6 per cent, represented funded or fixed debt; \$4,297,507, or 12.7 per cent, special assessment loans; \$400,694, or 1.3 per cent, revenue loans; and \$72,423, or 0.2 per cent, warrants. As an offset to this debt the civil divisions reported sinking fund assets amounting to \$29,216, or 0.23 per cent of the total debt, leaving a net debt of \$31,719,169, to which should be added the debt of independent school districts, \$3,615,887, giving a total net debt of \$35,335,057, or \$29.56 per capita.

Twice Told Tales.

Kiddie Was Comfortable. They were speaking of the bright remarks of the little folks the other evening when this anecdote was related by Congressman Henry George of New York: "Recent a woman ordered a crowded trolley where a man and a very small boy were sitting side by side. Instantly the man offered his seat to the woman and seized a strap."

"Isn't that gentleman your father, my boy?" gently asked the woman passenger, breaking into conversation with the youngster.

"Yes, ma'am," answered the boy. "We are going to the zoo."

"Well, since he is so much older than you, why don't you give him your seat?" resumed the kindly hearted passenger. "Don't you dislike to see him reaching for the strap?"

"Not in a trolley car," was the prompt rejoinder of young America, "but I do at home."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

What He Understood.

The plain young woman from New England who was devoting herself to the education of the negro in a southern school told one of her small scholars to bring a bucket of water from the spring.

"I ain't gwine fetch no water," he whined, rebelliously.

"Oh, Eph!" she protested, "you mustn't say that. Don't you remember how I have taught you: First person, singular, I am not going; second person, you are not going; third person, he is not going. Plural: First person, we are not going; second person, you are not going; third person, they are not going. Now, Eph, do you understand it perfectly?"

"Yas'm, I understand—ain't nobody gwine!"—Collier's.



Cases of Bitter Feeling.

SOUTH OMAHA, May 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: There did not exist in this country at the beginning of the present war any disposition to favor the powers allied against Germany. There is every reason why Germany should hold a high place in our esteem. The German people form a large part of our population. They easily out-number the French, Belgians and Russians. We love and respect them for their high ideals, thrift and ingenuity. To what, then, must we attribute the growing sentiment in favor of the allies?

A careful investigation cannot but show that this condition is the fault of none but the Germans themselves. The failure of Germany to accomplish the destiny to which it first set itself seemed to arouse in the breasts of its sympathizers in this country a resentment and bitterness toward the allies, which no one feels toward Germany, no matter how prepossessed they may be to favor its enemies. The German-Americans seem unable to discuss the issues of the conflict in a fair and temperate manner. They may be sincere, but they allow their prejudice to govern their logic. While they profess a desire for "real" neutrality, they advocate measures distinctly favorable to Germany. We must protest vigorously to Great Britain for its action in taking our cargoes to its ports for inspection, but should concede to Germany the right to attack unarmed merchantmen and passenger ships without warning and with apparent disregard of the lives of non-combatants and subjects of neutral powers. They urge an embargo on arms as, of course, they have a perfect right to do, but they denounce the administration and accuse our government of partiality because such a measure is not enacted into law. How fraught with inconsistency is such an attitude!

The Krupp of Germany have furnished arms and ammunition for almost every war during the last generation. Just a few years ago they were accused of fomenting war merely for the purpose of creating a market for their products. If the seas were open to it, Germany would undoubtedly consider it its right to buy supplies in this country, and in accordance with the recognized rules of war, would exert every effort to prevent such shipments to its enemies. Now that its enemies can prevent such shipments to it, it considers our failure to prohibit the further exportation of ammunition a violation of neutrality.

Every true American wants to think well of Germany and has no one hopes to see it suffer a humiliating defeat. There is, however, a wide-spread feeling that Germany is guided by men actuated by a desire for military power. The resources of the country have been drained to support the largest army in Europe, an army that was, with good reason a source of uneasiness and alarm for its neighbors, hence the strong inclination to state to Germany the greatest measure of blame for this war. Let us all hope for a speedy and just settlement, productive of lasting peace, and in the meantime for a greater spirit of toleration and fairness on the part of our program friends.

E. J. M'ANUS. 1017 N. 26th Street.

Figures on World Commerce.

WASH. Neb., May 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: Please tell me through the letter box what per cent of business of the world Germany controls, also what per cent for the United States.

A READER. Note—Best accessible figures are for Germany imports (1913), \$2,544,277,000 and exports, \$12,718,000, being about one-third of the world's total. For the United States imports (1913) \$1,813,006,000 and exports \$3,428,306,000.

Editorial Snapshots.

Boston Transcript: The trouble with the average American town is that it sets more store by its ball team than it does by its chamber of commerce.

St. Louis Globe Democrat: When it comes to downright unneutral conduct, the refusal of Americans to go abroad this summer hits 'em all where they live.

Boston Transcript: Subsequent developments have demonstrated that Ross Platt and Mark Hanna knew what they were doing when they were worrying about the state of William McKinley's health.

Brooklyn Eagle: "Go west, young man, and grow up with the country" was the advice of Greeley's day. Go west, young man, and see how the country grows in our inflection to the rising generation.

Baltimore American: In connection with the enforcement of the food and drug laws, the United States government wants to know what a noodle is. The majority of the housekeepers will feel like replying that Uncle Sam himself is one to ask the question.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: It may be believed that patent laws become scraps of paper quite as quickly as international laws. Yet Lord Charles Berezford wants to know if the British war department is paying the Krupp concern a shilling for every patented shell fuse the British army burns.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: A striking measure of the war is afforded by that statement that the British used more ammunition in the skirmish at Neuve Chapelle than during the two years and a half of the Boer war. The last shell may rival the last dollar as a deciding factor, though they probably will amount to the same thing.

Nebraska Editors.

The Aurora Sun has been selected as the official organ of that thriving little city.

Karl L. Spence has sold the Naponee Herald, one of his spring of Franklin county papers, to R. V. McGrew of Naponee.

The Stromsburg Headlight rounded out thirty years of its existence last week. Miss Chattie Coleman has been editor and proprietor for twenty-two years.

The Blair Democrat, Postmaster T. T. Osterman editor, made its initial bow to its readers as an all-home print paper last week. It donned a brand new dress for the occasion.

B. L. Walden, who purchased the Pennington Republic a few months ago, has sold it to E. L. Barker, an experienced printer and experienced editor, who has been in the employ of one of the Tekamah papers. This is the third time this paper has been sold within two years.

The Nation's Stake.

Chicago Tribune: The president will lead this nation peacefully through dangers in which cowardly men would fight to improve the apparent fact of their cowardice. That is what he means by "too proud to fight." He will scurry through none in which a brave man, conscious of his courage and mindful of his true dignity, would fight.

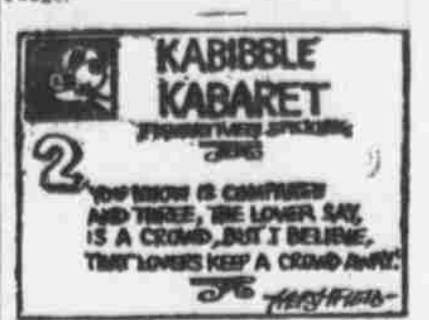
Springfield Republican: Because British merchant ships are generally armed and have repeatedly tried to ram submarines, explains the German foreign office, "they cannot be treated like ordinary merchant vessels." Like the American merchant steamer Gullflight, for example, or the Dutch steamer Katwyk, which was torpedoed without warning while lying at anchor lighted up like a ballroom to show its colors?

Philadelphia Record: The German vessels interfere in this country for the war are reported to be worth \$20,000,000—an amount sufficient to cover a reasonable indemnity for the loss of the American victims on the Lusitania. There are two here in Philadelphia, the two converted cruisers at Newport News, and a number of others at New York and other ports. If Germany refuses to make just reparation this country has still the means of enforcing its prospective claims.

New York Post: President Wilson's fronting of the great duty suddenly pressed upon him by the German outlawry has thus far been all that the country could hope. He has not lost his poise, at the same time he has not hidden the fact that he has been cut to the heart, along with all other Americans. His appeal for calm and thought, joined with the clear intimation that he, as the head of our government, will do the just and resolute thing when the time comes, was admirably timed. He himself is displaying the temper which he asks of his fellow citizens.

SUNNY GEMS.

"Little girl, does your papa have much trouble with his automobile?" "Yes, sir. He has as much trouble with it as if he was married to it."—Judge.



Patience—Why did Wagner write such terribly loud music, do you suppose? "Patience—Oh, I guess his wife was deaf and he did it to annoy her.—Yonkers Statesman.

Stupid Professor—Miss Clara, decline the matrimonial proposal. "Pretty Pup!—How can I decline it, professor, until I've had some proposals!"—Baltimore American.

ON SECOND THOUGHT.

Washington Star. I have kicked about the taxes, as a lot of people do; I've often said I wondered what our land was coming to; I've kicked about the railroads and been waited the reckless way.

That cash is sometimes handled, which commuters have to pay. But in spite of my misgiving About arbitrary rates, I'm mighty glad I'm living In these old United States.

I've bewailed the tipping evil in pathetic flights of song; And expressed the sad opinion that all graft is very wrong. From gumpian to philanthropist I've scanned the social scale. And criticized my country in a melancholy wail. Yet my joy I can't be hiding. As a star strange terror waits. That I chance to be reading In these old United States.

What to Eat in Hot Weather. MEATS, heavy and greasy foods should be eaten very sparingly during hot weather. Faust Spaghetti ought to be indulged in during summer. It does not heat, is very easy to digest, and is also extremely nutritious. It contains the rich gluten of Durum wheat—blood enricher and muscle builder. Write for free recipe book showing many ways that Faust Spaghetti can be prepared to make delicious eating. In Large Packages, 10c. MAULL BROS., St. Louis, U. S. A.

"Isn't this refreshing And the Flavor! Well, it's a pleasure to drink Tea like this Ask your grocer for Ridgways Tea 50c., 60c., 70c. and \$1.00 per pound (10) H. J. Hughes Co., Inc., Wholesale Distributors.

The Business-Like Chew. "I chew 'PIPER' because it's good business," says the man of affairs. "Its mellow, juicy sweetness is delicious, and its wholesomeness helps keep my system in working order." The lively, tasty, beneficial effects of nature's richest tobacco are yours in PIPER Heidsieck. There's an appetizing tang to the famous "Champagne Flavor" of "PIPER"—a zesty relish that adds another joyous tickle to the rich tobacco taste. Chew the highest type of chewing tobacco in the world. That's "PIPER." FREE. Send 10c and your tobacco dealer's name, and we'll send a full-size 10c cut of "PIPER" and a handsome leather pouch FREE, anywhere in U. S. The tobacco, pouch and mailing will cost us 20c, which we will gladly spend—because a trial will make you a steady user of "PIPER". THE AMERICAN TOBACCO COMPANY New York

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