

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

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DECEMBER SUNDAY CIRCULATION. 45,029

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss. Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average Sunday circulation for the month of December, 1914, was 45,029.

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 Paul B. Horn. Count that day lost, whose low-descending sun Views from thy hand no worthy action done.—Bobart.

That pro-military diet seems to have turned the stomach of the Japanese Diet.

Those Filipinos can afford to revolt, now that General Funston is at a safe distance from them.

The Argentine navy is said to buy its razors in St. Louis. Yes, but how about its beer and tobacco?

Let us have those lower electric lighting and water rates for Omaha, not next year, but this year.

That insurance-against-unemployment is another sure sure to evoke loud protests from the I. W. W. ranks.

What's this? An Ambulance Chaser's trust in New York? Must be imitating some of our Omaha lawyers' methods.

Watch King Caucus come back now and get in his work again on the organization of the impending Nebraska legislature.

The real irony of this Mexican turmoil comes out in Zapata's protest against Villa's too-human manner of treating the enemy.

By becoming a seventh-time grandfather, Secretary Bryan has Colonel Roosevelt, with all his race suicide preachments, beaten to a frazzle.

Governor Whitman of New York advocates the budget system of state finances for New York. Just a little tip for Governor Morehead in Nebraska.

President Poincare of France is sure the great war will be ended within the year. It will have to be or there will not be enough left to fight over.

Forgetting Kansas for the nonce, let us ask "What's the matter with Ohio and Indiana?" with Toledo's mayor accused of permitting gambling and Terre Haute's figuring in election frauds.

That note on American commerce, Johnny Bull says, for private home consumption. Possibly, but it has been turned over to every ultimate consumer in the United States through the newspaper channels.

It is very kind of Carter H. Harrison's wife to permit the mayor to run again, especially as he had already determined on doing so. And why shouldn't he? He has only had five terms as Chicago's chief executive.

The New York district attorney, in his attack on the Bronx Ambulance Chaser's trust, might get a few useful pointers on how the work is done by looking over some of The Bee's files showing up the operations of a similar gang of grafters in Minnesota.

Instead of costing a billion dollars a month, revised figures of the statisticians place the outlay for the war at one billion four hundred thousand dollars a month cash outlay, disregarding the loss of life and value of property destroyed. But if a billion dollars a month is incomprehensible to the ordinary man, so much more is fourteen hundred millions a month.

Local telegraph operators are disturbed over the rumor of another cut in wages impending. The first class men are now getting 25 a month.

Fire Chief Butler reports the number of fires in 1914 as eighty-two and the estimated loss at \$145,000.

The warm weather called out today a large number of sleazebags and peddlars.

The editorial sanctum of The Bee was honored with the gift of a beautiful cake by Mrs. E. J. Culp and Miss T. C. Donaldson of 133 Howard street.

Miss Emma Moore is entertaining Miss Nellie Sackett of Council Bluffs.

Mr. Park Gowdin upon retiring from the office of district attorney will enter upon law practice in this city.

Expediting Justice.

It is gratifying to The Bee to note the emphatic endorsement of R. L. Metcalfe in his "Nebraskan" of our protest against using the excuse of the clogged supreme court docket to resurrect the discredited supreme court commission, with all its train of attendant evils.

The crying need of expedited justice is not to be ignored, but to rehabilitate the "deputy judges" is not, in our opinion, nor in his, the correct solution.

Other states with no more judges on their bench, and many of them with fewer, keep abreast with their litigation without the troubles which we complain of in Nebraska. They do it, first, by discouraging, or limiting, frivolous appeals, and particularly appeals where the only object sought is to gain delay, and they speed up the wheels of the judicial machinery by restricting the hearings and arguments to the points really at issue, and likewise holding the opinions of the court within reasonable compass by excluding all the side lines.

They do it, further, by closing a case for good with a decision without successive rehearings, unless some vital factor has been overlooked or is newly discovered. They do it chiefly, however, by a spirit of co-operation between bench and bar that keeps the main object in view, and eliminates time-consuming technicalities.

What has been done in other states toward expediting justice can certainly be done to a measurable degree in Nebraska if those most directly concerned will put their minds to the problem and work it out.

A Year of Expositions.

With the San Diego Panama-Pacific exposition touched off by the president to run its full-year course and San Francisco's big show soon coming on, California embarks upon one of the biggest enterprises to which it has ever set its great powers. Whether that state of indomitable grit would have essayed such a task if it could have foreseen the turn of world events is not the question now. The task has been essayed and California may be depended upon to complete it successfully if such a thing can be done.

Moreover, California will have the hearty good will of the entire country back of it, and no doubt a lot of even more practical support and co-operation.

With European travel badly discounted by the war, many thousands of those Americans who just must go somewhere every year will in all probability go to California. It is doubtless true, as has often been said, that many of our best travelers from the eastern states have sadly neglected their opportunities for travel and study in the west. Now here is the golden opportunity to make good their shortcomings, to put into practice the "See America First" slogan. And it will more than pay them to do so. The journey across the continent will afford them both profit and pleasure in becoming acquainted with other dominions of wealth and wonder, besides California. Of course, thousands of these tourists will be drawn over the water route by the added attraction of the Panama canal, whose opening these expositions are to celebrate, but many may make the trip one way by land. Indeed, the combination land and water journey would afford one of the rarest privileges of travel.

Back of the pleasure side of the expositions to California, of course, is the stern factor of business; of exploiting and colonizing some of its wide stretches of land, such, for example, as the Imperial Valley to the south. Here, again, the interlying states may come in for their share of the fruits of the expositions, for states like Nebraska have the most attractive offers to make to anyone seeking either investment or a home on the land. This reminds us of the importance of a systematic effort to attract as many of these passing strangers as possible. They might, despite our irresistible charms, not see fit to tarry with us long enough to appreciate them unless hidden to do so.

Two Kinds of Preaching.

The apparent remarkable success of Rev. William A. Sunday's method of preaching is coming to invite comparison with the more decorous and dignified manner of preaching from the average church pulpit throughout the land. Sunday's biggest buildings are overflowed, whether in Des Moines or Pittsburgh, while many pastors yearn for occupants of empty pews, although church attendance on the whole is said to be somewhat improving of late.

Those who have studied the style and method of the great evangelist, Whitefield, whose torrential eloquence burned into the souls of men two centuries ago, find analogy in the Sunday sermons. Both men are described as genuine evangelist crusaders, preaching the old-time religion in the straight-from-the-shoulder fashion, sparing neither friend nor foe in laying bare the sins of the people, in flaying the indifferent and exposing the hypocritical.

"In his terrific sermons," says a portrayer of the great Whitefield, "he lashed the faults of his auditors unsparingly, and told them plainly that if they did not change their ways they were destined to everlasting fire. The kind of preaching that drew vast congregations then, draws them now."

Certainly Mr. Sunday seems to have as much fire and force in his preaching as any man could have, and the people fairly fall over themselves in not only going to hear him, but going to the mourners' bench after they hear him. As the Des Moines Capital, which has had recent occasion for studying Sunday and his ways, puts it: "His hearers seem positively to relish being told they are 'half beasts and half devils.'" The question seems to arise, is it time for the average pastor to take his foot off the soft pedal and let out the steam as Sunday does and as Whitefield did and as most of the old-time preachers used to do. Has the sugar-coated method of preaching, or even the more dignified rationalism in the pulpit failed of proper results.

Not long ago a stout-hearted layman here in our own city, who, feeling that his pastor was losing ground because of his too gentle preaching, went to him and said:

"Doctor, do you not see some faults in some of your people?" and the good pastor admitted that he did.

"Then, why," asked the layman, "do you not go after them? Strike out and hit one of them; hit me if you will, hit anybody. Put a punch in your preaching."

It would be interesting to know how general that feeling exists among laymen and how far responsible it is for the empty pew problem. No pastor or layman, of course, will admit that Rev. Mr. Sunday's vigorous style of preaching constitutes his real power. They would, doubtless, point you to this secret, which the evangelist, himself, puts in his own words:

I would no more think of attempting a campaign in any city without the co-operation of God's people in the neighborhood prayer meetings than I would try to play a game of base ball without a ball. That is, "Billy" Sunday names prayer as the sine qua non of his power.

Teachers' Retirement Pensions.

Signs are already visible of opposition to that part of the school law code recommended by the Revision commission, which proposes retirement pensions for teachers throughout Nebraska on a plan somewhat similar to that which already obtains here in Omaha. This proposal is denounced as infringing on the principle of equality and establishing a privileged class.

The question is thus raised as to whether a school teacher is entitled to preferential treatment as compared with other public employees or as compared with those in private employment. Here in Omaha we have taken the teacher's retirement pension as a matter of course, having also retirement pensions for members of the police and fire departments. The pension system has not yet been extended beyond departments where the beneficiaries hold by good-behavior tenure, this being the only practical way so far devised to transfer the superannuated, and keep the arteries of circulation open.

The alternatives would seem to be either to have fixed terms of employment and rotation for all public servants or to set a deadline at a designated age, neither of which conform to modern ideas of progress. The college professors have had retirement pensions, subject to established rules, provided for them by private endowment, and in one or two states by state appropriation, and to pension public school teachers, to our mind, no more creates a privileged class than to pension university instructors.

Nebraska's Mortality.

According to the State Board of Health, the total number of births in Nebraska in 1914 was 26,704; deaths, 10,735, leaving a net gain to population of 15,969, reminding us again of the small proportion of population increase from this source. But if the birth rate is discouragingly small, the death rate is encouragingly so; it is even smaller than for the year previous, when the total number of deaths was 11,254. For a state of 1,300,000 population, 10,000 deaths in a year stands itself a splendid advertisement of the wholesome living conditions.

Cupid was on the job rather industriously during the year, consummating 12,167 triumphs at the altar of Hymen, albeit the little cherub witnessed all too many defeats in the divorce courts. In the year 2,159 attempts at separation were made, most of them successfully. Most of those seeking divorce had been married less than five years, which will furnish new ground for the contention that domestic infelicity is more common than in former years, although the logic may be quite faulty.

Late statistics showing the ratio of births as between so-called native Americans in Nebraska and foreign-born families would doubtless, if available, reflect some interesting facts, the large birth rate being in the foreign-born families. Failure to advance far along this line of increase does not necessarily mean, of course, that Nebraska's population is not keeping up; it is making normal gains from immigration, which may promise still larger contributions in the next few years.

The Shortage of Housemaids.

Chicago complains of a shortage in housemaids, despite the general cry over the country for employment. Good wages, it is said, fail to supply the demand for competent help.

"Wages now offered for experienced housemaids are at least normal," says a woman engaged in trying to "fill these wants." "In fact, in many of the suburbs they have reached the high level."

An oversupply of jobless women ready to accept housework is admitted, but they are without experience, not capable of earning the top wages and unwilling to accept less. How typical the Chicago situation may be cannot be said, but the chances are it is a good deal like that in most other cities. The truth is that, even though housework is the woman's most natural occupation, and a competent housemaid is often in the long run better paid than her sister who prefers the shop and factory, the great majority continue to choose the latter. Yet this condition may not be due entirely to the housemaid. The housewife, if she has not quite learned how to treat her "help," may have as much, or more, to do with it than she is eager to concede. Ordinarily, the comforts of the homes employing maids, in addition to the wages, offer relative advantages and inducements which the factory or mill do not have to offer, and when these fail to attract, surely the fault must be elsewhere, or at least divided between the two sides.

Possibly the correspondent who wrote it may not have intended it, but there is a vein of very subtle humor in the last line of the story of Villa's announcement that conspirators must be severely dealt with: "General Villa signed the statement." It is quite the impression that his keen American lawyer secretary wrote it, as he writes all of the illiterate bandit's public statements.

According to Secretary Bryan, the certain way to destroy the liquor traffic is by total abstinence. No one will dispute that statement, for if everyone were to swear off for the year, and to stick to it, there would be nothing doing. The trouble is that not all of them swear off, and then a lot who do swear off soon begin to slip.

Photographs have arrived showing where the German shells hit during that raid on the English coast town. These photographs are the best evidence of the marksmanship accuracy of the German gunners that any court could require.

The British call the German plan of naval warfare the "policy of attrition." It has proved rather wearing on British patience as well as on British warships.

People and Events

"Don't worry clubs" are not making much headway in Philadelphia. One of the worries of the Quaker city just now is: "Why do people who reach the age of 100 insist on dancing?" Try it on a Philadelphia lawyer.

United States senators appear to be in a fair state of precariousness. Among the items of supplies for members the reports show two pitchforks, one scoop shovel and an instrument for cleaning and adjusting revolvers.

Benjamin Priest of Cassan, Somerset county, Me., celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary recently, and remarked to his callers that he didn't feel much different from what he did at 50. He is supposed to be the oldest veteran of the civil war.

In one of the reports of a shooting scrape in the Carpathian mountains the Russian bulletin editor says the enemy "sustained grave losses." "Severe" has been the word heretofore, but "grave" points more clearly to the destination of that line of business.

A teacher down in Holton, Kan., received this note from an admiring parent: "Pardon me for calling your attention to the fact that you have pulled Lloyd's right ear until it is longer than his left. Please stop the left ear for awhile, and oblige his mother."

Miss Bertha Bates of St. Louis, fiancée of William Donaldson, died, and is reported to have outlasted her fiance. Donaldson, an attorney, was fatally burned on the night of October 12 last, his clothing saturated with gasoline from his automobile, catching fire. His last act was the making of a codicil to his will giving half his fortune to his fiancée.

The director of public safety of Pittsburgh starts the new year with a reform calculated to shake down the arched front of policemen. At all public dances with instructions to teach women and girls the "safety first" position which will prevent familiarity on the floor. The idea implies that Pittsburgh policemen are immune.

Old Boreas pulled off a screaming "Merry Christmas" at Belfast, Me. Without any provocation on the part of the townspeople the town band got into a church steeple on Christmas morning and began caroling joyfully. Winter does considerable business in that locality and is not partial to elevated notes on an elevation. In less than fifteen minutes the joyful notes froze in the instruments and the musicians were obliged to come down and shut up.

AROUND THE CITIES.

Philadelphia's yearly loss because of rats is put down at \$1,000,000.

Salt Lake City reports that Utah sheepmen pulled down \$5,000,000 during 1914.

Yankton, S. D., put \$300,000 into building improvements during the last year.

St. Louis authorities are forcing the removal of revolving doors from non-fireproof buildings.

In Milwaukee's cat and dog city a swell pup or an aristocratic kitten may be decently interred for \$40.

According to figures from the district attorney's office a first-class killing may be pulled off in New York City for \$1,000.

The aggregate money value of all business transactions of the last year puts Omaha securely in the billion dollar class.

Boston has organized a "Safety First" society composed of business men for the purpose of promoting industrial safety in factories.

Atlantic City advertises for 300 chorus girls to skate with young and old skaters on the Boardwalk and throw a note of gaiety into the soothing of the sea waves.

San Francisco is said to be "dance mad." The "exposition trot" is the favorite and is regarded by peckish artists as the warmest winter they ever flushed the dimples of the goddess Terpsichore.

Morristown, N. J., advertises for "a capable fire chief," to whom a salary of \$10 a month is guaranteed. Applicants should send in their photographs and a statement showing what they will do with all the money.

In Boston recently a fire in a basement stocked with paint materials produced such volumes of smoke that firemen employed electric fans to draw it out and permit the men to work advantageously. The method was a success.

Beau Brummel burglars are the latest innovation in Denver industry. "Pardon me, lady," said one of these elegant dressers, as he bowed himself into a woman's chamber at 5 p. m. "I am obliged to ask you not to make any noise while I gather the money and valuables." "He was a perfect gentleman," the woman remarked, after the caller departed.

SIGNPOSTS OF PROGRESS.

Electrically driven, a new machine pastes paper labels on bottles, no matter what their shape.

Because boring stumps preparatory to blasting is an arduous task, an inventor has devised an auger driven by a portable gasoline engine.

Switch targets on some of the American railroads are being painted green with a white ring around them. The combination makes them easily discerned.

A Japanese inventor has provided an iron kettle which bursts into song the moment the kettle begins to boil. The sounds are produced by steam bubbles striking against musical metallic bars just above the water.

In a patent taken out recently by Clarence H. Plummer of Mack River Falls, Wis., is presented a process of temporarily preserving green vegetables, such as peas and beans, in which the vegetables are subjected to an upwardly flowing stream of cold water for a sufficient period to reduce their temperature approximately to that of the water.

Pulp and paper mills in Niagara Falls, Canada, are equipped with the latest improved American machinery, while practically all managers and superintendents are Americans trained in American mills. Many of the skilled operators are former employees of American mills and are receiving the American rate of wages.

C. Wilbur Miller, president of the Davison Chemical company of Baltimore, has invented a non-rifling gun which may revolutionize the making of modern ordnance. Mr. Miller returned from England the latter part of October, after he had placed the plans for the new gun before Sir Edward Grey, foreign secretary, and Lord Kitchener, chief of the British land forces. The invention eliminates the necessity for rifling in the gun.

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT

St. Louis Republic: A St. Louis preacher we suppose is a polite ministerial way of telling them that they are up in the air.

Springfield Republican: Ministers and justices out Topeda way are complaining because they have to attach a five-cent revenue stamp to every marriage certificate of couples whom they unite in the bonds of matrimony, and who insist on taking away with them documentary evidence of the happy event. The internal revenue collector rules that it is the duty of the officiating clergyman or justice to provide the stamp. One remonstrant says that the law cannot be legal, for the stamp constitutes a bar to marriage. But assuming that this contention is as broad as it is long, the fee that is charged by the man who performs the ceremony is equally a "bar."

Indianapolis News: One of the most serious spiritual effects of the war, says the Missionary Review of the World, New York, is the dismemberment of many internatinal organizations. The Christian Endeavorers of different lands have broken off friendly correspondence. More than 200,000 members of the Young Men's Christian association are in the different armies, and there is hardly a secretary that has not quit and gone to the front. The Geneva association had three secretaries. One went with the Germans, one with the French and one stayed with the Swiss troops. The continuation committee, appointed by the Edinburgh missionary congress, has split into British, German and French factions. Two Methodist missionaries in North Africa, working together, have separated. One has become a captain in the German army, the other a captain in the French army. The German missionary, a splendid scholar, was fatally wounded at Verdun. In France 200 of 400 pastors of the Reformed churches were liable to military service. So more than half of the Protestant churches are now pastorless. To have men professing that creed and who have dedicated their lives to Christianity, ceasing their work and flying at one another's throats seems to be a hopeless spectacle. But they cannot help it. With compulsory military service they are forced to join the colors.

Musings of a cynic. The dead sure thing is often more dead than sure.

All men have equal rights, but lots of them are left.

A food and his money are soon parted, frequently with alimony.

The only time a hypocrite isn't busy is when the devil has nothing for him to do.

You always have to look out for some fellow, and others will be looking into you.

If we could see ourselves as others see us, conceit would drop on the market.

Even the athlete may rejoice in the fact that it's a long time between leap years.

Blood will tell, but like lots of other tale bearers it doesn't always tell the truth.

The race is not always to the swift. The faster a man runs in debt, the more he gets behind.

It takes a mighty clever woman to make up her mind whether she would rather be clever than pretty.

The man who has no friends realizes the disadvantages of having no one to tell his troubles to.

We should all do something to make other people happy, even if it is only to let them alone.

And man can be thankful for what he has. It requires a peculiar frame of mind to be thankful for what we haven't.—New York Times.

TABLOIDS OF SCIENCE.

That it cannot be upset is the claim of the Ohio patentee of a new stepladder that has six legs.

Clamps have been patented to prevent a cow kicking or switching her tail while being milked.

An Indiana inventor's life preserver consists of two spherical bags, to be inflated and fastened to a person with a belt.

Cameras mounted on gunstocks and operated by triggers have been invented by a German for taking photographs from balloons.

Ink can be removed from light-colored fabrics by washing with milk, then with turpentine, rolling up the goods for half an hour and washing in water.

A portable motion picture projector which weighs only twenty-five pounds and can be carried in a case twice the size of an ordinary suitcase has been invented.

After a long investigation a French scientist has declared that tuberculosis can be transmitted by the perspiration of a person afflicted with the disease, the germs passing through the pores.

MUFFLED KNOCKS.

Most of the men who are seeking positions are dodging jobs.

Politics is one of our most popular sports because you can talk it all day and not know a blame thing about it.

If there are no children in the family, people roast the wife, and if there are a dozen children in the family, people roast the husband.

The lad who loafs around and owes everybody in town is the same fellow who is deeply worried because the Panama canal isn't paying expenses.

The old-fashioned poker player who used to walk around his chair to change his luck now has a son who can deal a diamond from the bottom when his stack gets low.

There was a time when a girl considered a silver thimble a dandy Christmas present. But if you sent one to a girl nowadays she could have you arrested for insulting her.

It is funny that the girl who has her own hair is always letting it fall down so you can see that it is real and that after she begins to wear store hair you can't pry it off her head.

Some of the old masters could paint seraphic innocence on a countenance. But for the real thing just look at a man's face when he is on a street car and the conductor has forgotten to collect his nickel.

The old-fashioned housekeeper who used to bustle around so much that she wore holes in the front of her apron now has a married daughter who sits around so much that she wears holes in the rear of her kimono.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTIES.

"Don't you worry about the danger Willie may run into with his new skates any more?"

"Not as much as we used to. Now we are devoting our worry to what father is going to do with his new automobile."—Washington Star.

"And was the production of Hamlet artistic?"

"For your life, yes. A famous female impersonator played Ophelia, they had a lightweight pugger in an Hamlet, and four great base ball players were doing other parts."—Indianapolis News.

"How can you tell a chronic borrower from any other man?" asked the Old Fogey.

"By the sense of touch," replied the Grouch.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"Plimmer—Met Unsmom down town today. He'd just bought a tin horn, a triangle, some blocks, a rattlebox, some sleigh bells and a popgun. I didn't know he had a baby."

"Plammer—he hasn't. He's a vaudeville trap-drummer. Those things are part of his outfit."—Puck.

"Faw, why did they give the officers the 'G' medals?"

"For bravery, son."

"What's the bravest paw?"

"Well, in most cases it's having the luck to command a lot of mighty good fighters."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Why didn't you come to our box party last night?"

"Couldn't make it."

"But we saved a couple of seats for you."

"Sorry, old chap, but my wife couldn't find the sock she knits between the acts for the command of Europe."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mr. Dewar called again this morning," said the new office boy as Mr. Wilson entered the office.

"Did you tell him I had gone to California, as I told you, Frank?"

"Yes, sir."

"What did he say?"

"He asked when you would be back, and I said, 'After lunch.'"—Indianapolis News.

THE GOOD OLD HYMNS

Frank L. Stanton, in Atlanta Constitution.

There's a lot of music in 'em—the hymns of long ago.

And when some gray-haired brother sings the ones I used to know, I sorter want to take a hand, I think of days gone by.

"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wistful eye"

There's lots of music in 'em—those dear, sweet hymns of old.

With visions bright of lands of light and shining streets of gold.

And I hear 'em ringing—singing, where memory, dreaming, stands.

"From Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strands."

They seem to sing forever of holier, sweeter days.

When the lilies of the love of God bloom white in all the ways;

And I want to hear their music from the old-time meetin's rise

Till "I can read my title clear to mansions in the skies."

We never needed singin' books in them old days—we knew