

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss. Dwyight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average daily circulation for the month of December, 1914, was 54,211.

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January 23

Thought for the Day

Selected by John A. Creighton. Let us speak of a man as we find him, and censure alone, what we see; And if a man blames, let's remind him That from insults there are none of us free. If the will from the mind could be torn, And the heart could be read on the brow, There are many we'd pass by with scorn That are laden with high honors now.

In brief: Young Mr. Cutright made a wrong cut.

Real municipal home rule would relieve the legislative calendars of one-third of their burdens.

Much as they decry and muzzle the pen, spokesmen for the sword neglect an opportunity to use it in reaching the ear of the world.

The Burlington will complete the Guernsey tranch at once. All right! Now let the Missouri Pacific produce that Dodge street viaduct.

The explosion on the San Diego fortunately is described as an internal explosion. That being the case, we will not need to "remember the Maine."

Note, that when he could no longer loyally conform with the bull moose program, Medill McCormick promptly resigned from the third party national committee.

But the one question to be answered is, is it worth the money to have the house and senate journals printed daily, so all who read can see, and no secret doctoring later?

An oil pipe line from Wyoming to the Missouri river holds vast possibilities of industrial uplift. The opportunity to get in on the ground floor is still knocking at Omaha's door.

The bandit general of Mexico waxes indignant because a retiring president made off with a bagful of national pesos. It is high treason for a private to outrun a general to the loot.

It is charitable to assume from his screen on national preparedness that Congressman Gardner has not been apprised of the appointment of ninety-two staff colonels in Nebraska.

King Canute beating back the waves with a dipper, or Ajax defying the lightning, are no more impressive spectacle than Henry C. Richmond resisting the magnetism of the postage stamp counter.

The Bee has always favored adequate and liberal pay for public servants, but why should the legislature be asked to raise the salaries of fire department officers when the city commissioners have full authority? Here is where a little home rule might come in handy.

One by one the pioneers of Omaha and Nebraska answer the last call. This is to be expected. But with each vacant place in the thinking ranks of state builders comes the natural regret of parting and the consoling thought that each lived to see and reap the fruitful harvest of pioneer labors.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

A petition of ninety-seven representatives of leading agricultural houses to have the state fair located in Omaha was entirely ignored by the State Board of Agriculture, which did not permit it to be presented or read, so it transpired.

Another furnace has just been put into Trinity cathedral to be sure it is kept warm, this being the fourth one in use.

Mr. Frank Range has just recovered from a two weeks' siege under the weather.

Miss Kattie Barker arrived home from Marionette, Wis., where she has been visiting her uncle, Mr. Henry Swart, who accompanied her to visit his sisters here, Mrs. Churchill Parker and Mrs. John Barker.

Mr. C. H. Keller has just returned from a visit to Dakota City and vicinity, which he reports experiencing intensely cold weather.

Governor Morehead's Responsibility.

The greatest responsibility that has come upon Governor Morehead, and probably the greatest that will come upon him during his official career, confronts him in naming the successor to the vacancy of chief justiceship of the supreme court of Nebraska, caused by the death of Chief Justice Hollenbeck.

Never in the history of this state has such a vacancy occurred, the only thing akin to it being when, after the adoption of the constitutional amendment enlarging the court by the addition of three new members, it devolved upon Governor Sheldon to fill those places. Let this much be said for Governor Sheldon's selections—that they were all ratified by the people as each appointee successively came up for election. This then must also be the test of Governor Morehead's discretion—whether he confer the highest judicial power upon a man of legal learning and experience, rugged honesty and deep humanity, who in less than two years will demonstrate his superior fitness sufficiently to convince the people that he be retained.

This is not a question of partisanship, because it has been decreed that the judiciary in this state be divorced from politics, although we have no doubt the governor will be impressed more favorably by aspirants who affiliate with him in the democratic ranks. It is for the governor, however, to show that he can give Nebraska a man for chief justice who will be a credit to him, and to us all.

The Balance of Trade.

Our democratic brethren are just now pluming themselves on another accomplishment of the administration, pointing out that an apparent balance of trade in our favor has for the first time become an actual balance. Just how this desirable result has been achieved shows a what slender pegs the supporters of the present administration hang their arguments.

To begin with, imports for the last quarter of 1914 touched low mark, while exports, also showing a falling off, consisted mainly of foodstuffs and munitions of war. This gave an undue preponderance to the excess of exports over imports, due to the abnormal conditions of commerce between the nations. Added to this is the reduction in interest charges paid abroad on investments of European capital, which was brought about by the liquidation forced by the urgent need for money on the part of the security holders. The third item that enters into the calculation is the money usually spent in Europe by American tourists, which was cut off in the midst of its flow.

It would be occasion for marvel if, under the circumstances, the balance sheet did not show a tidy sum in favor of the United States on international trade. The condition is unhealthy, however, and the readjustment is still in the future. What will happen after the European war is the question business men are asking themselves.

Rural Credit and Co-Operation.

Secretary Houston has spoken several times lately in the west on the general topic of rural credits and co-operation among the farmers. So far as his published remarks are available, they indicate that a very good democratic diplomat is now holding the portfolio of agriculture in the president's cabinet. The secretary advocates co-operative effort in marketing among the farmers, but insists the plan must not be used to control prices. His views on rural credit are about as definitive.

If the farmer is to have any advantage whatever from co-operative effort, it will come in the form of better and more stable market prices. If an efficient system for farm credits can be worked out along with workable co-operation in marketing, the public will be gaining in a degree quite equal to that of the farmer. The final result would be to eliminate the gambling in foodstuffs through the establishment of such conditions as would make speculative buying and selling of "futures" unprofitable.

A better system of farm credit is desirable; not so urgently needed as to justify an extra session of congress, but a plan must soon be adopted to provide for the proper financing of agricultural undertakings. It may be either co-operative, as is an extensive practice in Europe, especially in Germany, or it may be organized under a special congressional enactment, but loans for the farmer on better terms than now possible must be made available. Farm loans offer a most attractive field for the investor, because of the nature of the security, and yet the farmer generally is compelled to pay a higher rate for his accommodations than does any of the other branches of organized industry. The adoption of a plan to change this will be beneficial to all, for it will enable the farmer to conduct his business on a more certain basis, and with a lowered cost of production on the farm, lower prices to the consumer must surely follow.

New Spirit in Law Making.

At this early day, the legislature is showing signs that are encouraging. A proposed measure of advanced reform was set aside by the house for the reason that the people are not yet sufficiently educated on the point to favorably receive the law. This departure from methods of the past is as refreshing as it is inspiring. The custom has been first to enact laws, and then to see if the reform proposed is desired or welcome. If this new spirit had prevailed in the past, Nebraska would have been spared quite a little legislation later found of unsavory relish by the public. The lawmakers will do well to keep up the practice until it becomes habitual, and make sure that the state needs or wants the laws before they are passed.

History as it is written and history as it should be written continue clashing on the origin of Chicago's great fire. Michael Ahern, the surviving member of a trio of newspaper reporters who "covered" the fire, eliminates the O'Leary cow and the lamp from the scenery and puts the responsibility on spontaneous combustion of green hay stored in the O'Leary barn and baked by Chicago's September sun. The truth of history must be vindicated even though the picturesque is lost. Let it go at that.

Twenty-five years ago an Omaha optimist who might suggest the values downtown property have reached, as indicated in recent transactions, would be laughed at and his sanity questioned. In another twenty-five years the property values of today will be considered "dirt cheap."

World Hope of Permanent Peace

W. Morgan Shuster in the Century.

NO ONE can know when this war will end, yet every one in the whole world is yearning in his heart for the day of peace to arrive. So we ask ourselves: Of what nature will that peace be? And how shall it be permanently secured? And this self-questioning leads to many fond delusions.

Because for the normal yearning for an end to dangerous conditions, and while the whole world is still stunned by the spectacle of five hundred million people at war, a few super-optimists find breath to say that there will never be another great war, and that the one silver lining to the clouds is the probability of disarmament, partial or complete, after the nations of Europe and Asia shall have fought themselves to satiety, victory, or defeat, as the case may be.

But this hope is so misleading, its indulgence so vain, and yet so natural, that it seems proper, even at this indecisive stage of the conflict, to point out some of the reasons why anything approaching general disarmament cannot take place.

The term "disarmament" is apt to be used vaguely to represent anything from the mere cessation of ourselves: creation of an army-increase programs to that purely idealistic condition when banners would be furled, standing armies be dispersed to their homes, and war vessels be transformed into commercial craft, or remain, dismantled, as interesting relics on a benighted past.

The latter state is manifestly so impossible to expect, at least within many decades, that it may be promptly dismissed from consideration. To mention only a few of the martial objections: There are millions of men who are substantially unfitted by education, experience, or temperament for any other profession than that of arms, on land, or at sea. Society, industry and commerce have long since adjusted themselves to their existence as a major police force, and to attempt to thrust them suddenly into peaceful pursuits would create no little disturbance. Professional fighters could not be expected to take quietly to mere idleness, even on pay, nor would they be content to be regarded as mere pensioners of a baser social state.

Then the creation of nations for war, even during periods of peace, has created vast industries official and private, largely dependent upon the existing armies and navies being maintained and even increased. Enormous amounts of capital are invested in such plants, and hundreds of thousands of workmen would be thrown out of employment, should general disarmament be suddenly attempted. The expression "general disarmament" is used because, manifestly, no nation or nations will begin it unless all do.

In a hundred ways, of which only one or two examples have just been cited, the constant possibility of war and its consequence, preparations for war, have become so interwoven with the world's entire social and economic fabrics as to render any radical departure from present conditions highly impracticable.

Enough has been said, then, to indicate that by "disarmament," among serious advocates of the plan, must be meant a state more nearly approaching the one first mentioned; that is, virtually a limitation of armaments on some basis acceptable at least to the leading nations of the world. But if this be what is contemplated, the plan is already doomed to failure, for the simple reason that such a thing as any binding agreement in such matters as national safety and advantage has been conclusively shown to be far-fetched. Even if the nations could, by some divine chattering process, agree on the relative strengths at which their armies and navies were to be maintained, it must be remembered that standing armies and warships are only the first line of offense, the quick-striking force, and that there are a dozen ways in which a nation can successfully prepare for war without actually calling a single additional man to the colors or adding a unit to the navy until hostilities had been actually declared.

Whatever stupendous changes occur in the political and social systems of the world as a result of the present war, it is safe to prophesy that general disarmament will not be one of them. In the world, then, to be left, notwithstanding the unutterable sufferings and losses of modern war, exposed, after longer or shorter respites, to constant repetitions of substantially the same tragedy.

This question is the most vital and important one that civilized nations face today. The present war is here, and should peace ensue over night, its material effects will be felt for half a century or more, to say nothing of its irreparable losses in other directions. But great as is this calamity, it will be dwarfed by the losses and hardships of the future unless some means can be devised whereby the probability of its recurrence may be at least vastly diminished.

If not by disarmament, how then shall this end be sought? Treaties, conventions, and even the accepted law of nations have been shown to be inadequate to preserve peace. They are not self-executing. Indeed, many treaties and declarations have proved and are proving a fruitful source of discord between both belligerents and neutrals.

Should Czechs Favor Restriction? OMAHA, Jan. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: For about three years we have been reading in the different papers about the literacy test for immigrants. We see it ridiculed by the foreign tongue papers printed in this country. Why? Are there so many illiterates in Europe? Especially in Bohemia, the country which established the first university in the world and had its students enrolled from England, Germany and France and others by the thousands, I will say that it would be impossible to find one illiterate in Bohemia today under sixty years of age, unless prevented by a physical defect.

The province of Bohemia pays in taxes to the Austrian government 22,000,000 K each year and receives back only 20,000,000 K for educational purposes and other expenses. To support their mother tongue they collect by different means and iron boxes are in all public places for voluntary donations. Even in this country collections are made and sent to Bohemia that their young may receive education in the Czech language. In my opinion this is a great battle of the Czechs, since they are surrounded on all sides (practically) by Teuton countries or provinces, who are trying their best to absorb the Czech and make a German out of a Slav.

The Czech press in this country is insuflating to itself as well as to those who know better the past and present history of their ancestors. DR. F. J. KALLAL.

As Answer from the German Side. BENVINGTON, Neb., Jan. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: The Bee's Letter Box not long ago appeared a contribution by W. E. Martin, in which he designated all those opposing the practice of our country (after having prayed officially for peace), supplying any of the belligerents with war material, as "sinking to the lowest depths of sordidness or foulness."

As one among many who has been active in support of a policy to stop such trade, may I ask the privilege for a short reply here.

Let me say that by his incoherent abuse of people that differ with him W. E. Martin himself has shown himself a "sordid fool," probably past redemption.

Simply from one of his own statements, let me expose W. E. Martin as a fellow who has as little regard for truth as for the opinion of other people. Says he: "Arriving in China after the Boxer uprising had been quelled, the German officers, butchers and looters, and tore from China large areas of its country and insulted the Chinese in its cost of themselves."

The whole statement is of course partly pure invention and the rest malicious distortion of these well known facts: In 1857 at a time when England, France, Japan and Portugal had long been in the possession of their respective colonies in China, Germany took Kiao Chou as a lease from China. Immediately following Russia took Port Arthur and England took Wei-Hai-Wei.

During the Boxer uprising in 1899-1900, when the united forces of all nations fought in China under the supreme command of Count Waldersee, charges of looting were made, indeed, against the soldiers of every nationality without distinction. The new international encyclopedia (Art. "China") holds that these charges were true and holds that with regard to all participating nations.

All nations, including the United States, made China pay indemnities for the expenses incurred, only the United States refunding part of these to China later.

The more I hear and see of the allies' despicable lying crowd, the more I give Germany credit for her enemies; the more

People and Events

Governor Rye of Tennessee threatens to make Memphis so dry that the mention of his name will shock the expansive thirst.

The Bee's Letter Box

Let All Keep Still.

OMAHA, Jan. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: As a member of the Society of Sons of the American Revolution I proved my eligibility to membership in the brotherhood of pure Americans. In one sense I am a thoroughbred.

Since the outbreak of the European war we have been admonished by men in high places to abstain from expressing our views as to the merits of the question. Who is to blame for starting the fray?

The vast majority of pure Americans have kept still lest they offend men of foreign birth. Out of respect for the feelings of my friends residing here who were born in Britain or in Europe I have not expressed my honest convictions in the premises. And there are others.

But all the while there is a constant din raised by men who are naturalized citizens, or the sons of naturalized citizens, in efforts to prove that the other fellow is the culprit.

Why should these good people keep this conviction before the reading public, while Americans are foreclosed from expressing their views? Are they Americans in name only, secretly acknowledging allegiance to their native land? Are they so regarded and for that reason licensed to keep up the talkfest because what they say is said as aliens, not as Americans, and as such not censurable from the American point of view?

If these noisy contestants want America to be made on the subject, why don't they keep still and give us a rest? J. R. HAYNES.

Democratic Family Differences.

PLATTSBOROUGH, Neb., Jan. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: In his letter Ernest Haman of Florence, Neb., wrote in part: "Some people should become better informed regarding the 'Hitchcock appointments.' It was Mr. Bryan that demanded the appointment of Mayor Dahlman as collector. Hitchcock merely offered to compromise with Gruenther for United States marshal."

We would kindly "suggest" that there are others "who should be better informed" in regard to the "compromise" and "the get together," of which there has been so much written.

Mr. Bryan has not "demanded" nor even recommended the name of any person for collector.

After Hitchcock's recommendation he wrote: "I am committed fully and finally to the candidacy of Gruenther." After waiting for two or three years he finally succeeded in "getting together" and in "compromising" with himself and in complying with our "suggestion" he withdrew the name of Gruenther. Later he named Byrne, whom, it is said, "is as deep in the mud as Gruenther is in the mire," and his name may remain with Secretary McAdoo until after the term of the senator shall have expired.

Had Hitchcock have complied with our "suggestion" and have named Richard L. Metcalfe or George L. Loomis or any one of a hundred others, whom we might name, who are friends of both Bryan and Hitchcock and who have not criticized the national administration, the appointment would long since have been filled. A. W. ATWOOD.

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I hope she will continue to blow Russian armies and French forts and English ships skyward. E. V. NUSBAUM.

Editorial Snapshots

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Great Britain has always been strong in the matter of diplomacy. There is hardly any violation of the so-called comity of nations that can not be evaded or explained by some technical provision of international law.

Baltimore American: A fine modern example of the Good Samaritan is Holland, which little nation is taking care of over 1,000,000 Belgian refugees, even though that care is something of a problem. As a neighbor, Holland is demonstrating itself one of the genuine kind, in sharp contrast to the nations taking advantage of the smaller and helpless ones.

Springfield Republican: A Nebraska democrat takes exception to the observation of an eastern writer that Aristotle was the "greatest intellectual athlete the world ever produced." He says that Aristotle could not hold a candle to Woodrow Wilson. But probably Mr. Wilson will first ascertain whether or not the Nebraska gentleman ever read Aristotle before taking the compliment to heart.

Emporia Gazette: We note in our exchanges that candidates for city commissioner are ripening in the southern part of the state. Just as we have got our New Year's resolution all wrapped up in pink cotton and tinfoil and have tied a bit of blue baby ribbon around a high resolve to keep out of politics along comes the city campaign and a gang of grief. Is there no rest for the weary—this side of Jordan?

Philadelphia Record: There is new push and incentive in the cry of "back to the land" that is now so frequently shouted in the market places. The value of farm products in the United States for 1914 was \$9,725,000,000. This was \$3,000,000 in excess of all past records, notwithstanding the falling off of \$30,000,000 in the value of the cotton crop because of the European war. After all, the farmer is the backbone and stay of the country.

GRINS AND GROANS.

"By the way," said Mrs. De Syle. "Do you know of any poor person who would care for a discarded lorkette?"—Puck.

Jim—"What kind of a fellow is Briggs?" Jack—"Oh, he's the sort that leaves his car in front of the church and goes across the street to shoot a game of pool."—Lace Record.

Yeast—"Most of the cats in Liberia are of a bright red tint and they are very conspicuous in the moonlight." Critsonback—"But I'll bet they can't hear 'em any plainer."—Yonkers Statesman.

"Pa, when you say you're laying for a person it means you have a grudge against him, doesn't it?" "Generally, my son." "Well, has he been a grudge against the farmer, pa?"—Boston Transcript.

"Why did you put all the picture puzzles out of ghostly echoes start?" "To relieve father. They kept reminding him that his new year resolutions are in similar fragments."—Louisville Courier Journal.

THE OLD PIANO.

H. S. Hawkins in New York Sun. And now, at last, you've got to go. I've come to say good-by. Forgive an old man's weakness and the tears which fill my eye. For five-and-thirty years I've played Upon your friendly keys. Which yellowed 'neath their tuneful tasks Are rich in memories.

My little children, all of them, Have learned to play on you; One key was cracked by Johnny's tooth, And this you lost long rest. And one note never has regained Its old sonorous tone. Since Tom, to stop his "practice," went And hit it with a stone.

I lift your lid, the rusty strings With ghostly echoes start. To quiver with the long farewell That's bursting from my heart. Your sounding board, melodic in The long, long yesterday. Vibrates with Tom's sweet "Good night!" My wife so loved to play. Like and handshakes a final chord Is lovingly caressed.

May your career now ended be, And this your last long rest? I cannot bear the thought of you By fond use made divine, Responding to my rhapsodic touch Of other hands than mine; I cannot think of cheap dance hall, All this smoke and racket, beer With drunken fingers banging at The keys I hold so dear; But rather, and I had forgot, So harmonies may fill The twilight of your life, safe in A warehouse, cool and still.

Lady is the name we have given the doll for this week. When you see her, you just can't help exclaiming: Oh! What a pretty little lady. So neat and trim. What a fine little housekeeper she must be. Lady will be given free to the little girl under 12 years of age that brings or mails us the largest number of doll's pictures cut out of the Daily and Sunday Bee before 4 p. m. Saturday, January 23. Lady's picture will be in The Bee every day this week. Cut them out and ask your friends to save the pictures in their paper for you, too. See how many pictures of Lady you can get, and be sure to turn them in to The Bee office before 4 p. m. Saturday, January 23. You can see "Lady" at The Bee Office

More Skates for our Busy Bee Boys. Barney & Berry American Club, Nickel Plated, Tempered Welded Steel Blades. Skates to fit. This picture of one of the Skates will be in The Bee every day this week. Cut them all out and ask your friends to save the pictures in their paper for you, too. See how many pictures you can get and bring them to The Bee office. The Skates will be given Free to the boy that sends us the most pictures before 4 P. M. Saturday Jan. 23.

Sore Throat Chest Pains. Sore chest and sore throat can at once be relieved by Sloan's Liniment. It goes right to the seat of pain, warming and soothing the affected parts; the pain— presto!—is gone. SLOAN'S LINIMENT KILLS PAIN. Hundreds of people have given their grateful testimony for what Sloan's has done. At all dealers. Price 25c., 50c. & \$1.00. Dr. Earl S. Sloan, Inc. Phila. & St. Louis.

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