

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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JANUARY CIRCULATION.

53,714

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 January, 1915, was 53,714.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 2d day of February, 1915. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

February 9

Thought for the Day

Selected by Helen Mackin

There let the pealing organ blow To the full-voiced choir below. In service hark and anthem clear, As may, with sweetness through mine ear, Dissolve me into ecstasies, And bring all heav'n before mine eyes. Milton.

Madame is an actress, all right.

The moral: Beware of itinerant self-advertising relief fund collectors.

As a booster for national preparedness, Hudson Maxim talks like a man who has the goods.

If the jitneys offer real money for a motto, here's one: "No strap-hangers—a seat or money back."

The growing deficit in national finances calls for fewer plugs and more armor plate around the "pork bar's."

The time has expired for the introduction of new bills at Lincoln, but any bill may still be amended so it won't know itself.

Threats of food embargo, if made effective, might switch war issues from "fighting for a place in the sun" to a struggle for grub.

President Wilson's prediction of prosperity touches a responsive chord. The seed bureau of place in the sun" to a struggle for grub.

An extensive system of interurban lines in Nebraska would effectively counteract the move for advancing passenger rates in the state.

But why should the jitneys confine themselves to a single route when all car lines are almost equally congested at the rush hours?

The issue is narrowing down to the clearest question: "Have neutral nations any rights which warring nations are bound to respect?"

Owing to the inconveniences of the situation, their majesties on the eastern firing line will on this occasion omit the royal formality of kissing.

The fabled "land office business," once the pride of Uncle Sam, is now transferred and multiplied to the admiralty lawyers of London. Marine prizes afford the rich pickings of the day.

The brewery vote which Mr. Bryan rejects as a party asset would feel the full force of humiliation if it did not know that democracy ignores class distinction when the votes come its way.

A guarantee fund of \$50,000 is required to clinch a contract for Billy Sunday's campaign in New York City. The amount is insignificant as money goes in Gotham, but it drives another coffin nail on the claim that "Salvation is free."

It was quite magnanimous on Mr. Bryan's part to omit mention of the gold-plated special trains of 1896 from the package of advice handed to railroad managers. But considerable water has run under the bridge and out of the stock in nineteen years.



The account of the Board of Trade meeting is headed "An Uneventful Session; Plenty of Wind Blowing Neither Evil Nor Good." The orating turned about the question of erecting the Board of Trade building at the corner of Sixteenth and Farnam.

As secretary of the Omaha Commercial College Literary and Debating society, H. J. Scannell lets it be known that E. E. Zimmerman favored the society with his first encounter with the dentist, and the question, "shall the Unity Lawn Be Replanted?" was handled by Messrs. Measner, Olson, Hendricks and Fritchard. The next meeting will have a talk on Naples by Mr. Isaac Adams.

A Rosenzweig is rejoicing in the advent of a new girl at his home. Joe Withrow of the Pacific Express is also smiling because of the addition of a ten-pound boy to his family.

The snow shovelers had a picnic today. No sooner would they shovel the snow off a walk than it would blow right back again.

James F. Brackett of Fort Omaha won first prize, a silver medal, at a competitive harmonica concert at Council Bluffs.

Ferdinand Schaefer returned from a visit to his sister at Atchison, Kan.

The Lusitania Incident.

The captain of the Lusitania has answered one question of several that have been raised since the German proclamation of a war zone in British waters. He crossed the Irish sea with the Stars and Stripes flying over his vessel, but he was merely carrying out instructions, as had been charged by the Germans, and used a neutral flag to protect his ship against attack by an enemy. The practice is as old as "civilized" warfare, and is commonly resorted to. One of the latest exemplifications was when the Emden stole into a harbor on the Indian ocean, disguised as a Japanese cruiser, and flying the Japanese flag, long enough to gain advantage that enabled it to destroy French and English vessels and escape.

Under the law, an enemy ship is bound to ascertain the real character of any vessel overhauled before sinking her. Herein lies the gravest danger of the submarine blockade. It is practically impossible for a submarine to halt a vessel at sea, because of the ease with which a surface traveling boat can elude the submarine when warned of its presence. The provision of the Declaration of London, which governs the capture of merchantmen, provides that all persons must be safely removed from captured vessels before they are sunk. This, too, is quite out of the power of a submarine. These factors serve to complicate still further the question of the "paper" blockade.

No material interest of the United States has so far been put in jeopardy, and it is suggested from Washington that no protest is to be made on the German program for interfering with English commerce. This being true, it is not likely that any serious complaint will be lodged because of the Lusitania incident.

Encouraging Interurban Lines.

The union of three Douglas county senators to secure legislation, the object of which shall be to encourage the building and operation of interurban railroads, is interesting for many reasons. Interurban development is desirable and its importance to Omaha often pointed out by The Bee. The advantages to a market town of a network of trolley lines connecting it with the surrounding towns are obvious, but other factors must also be considered.

Any measure passed for this purpose must be carefully drawn, so as to safeguard against the possible hawking about of franchises, made valuable by reason of a well-intended law, but without other support. Omaha has witnessed some exhibitions of this sort, and has felt the effects of the reaction that necessarily follows. Many projects have been mooted that have failed because the promoters have been unable to show prospective investors wherein their returns were to come in. A law that will merely promote speculative attempts to dispose of interurban franchises will not fill the bill.

In the end, however, the successful construction and operation of an interurban trolley line will depend on the traffic. The service possible from such a line is admitted, and its building will be certain whenever it can be shown that it will do sufficient business to pay dividends, and assurance is given that those who put their money into it will not later be treated as public enemies.

Swimming for a "Sheepskin."

Princeton university authorities announce an extension of required studies, by making it obligatory on candidates for degrees in the future that they be able to swim 200 yards, and show mastery of a "stroke." Which raises the question, old as the ages, for what good? What shall it profit a man, if he is able to swim a mile, and never go near the water? It is good to know how to swim, but many useful, happy lives have proceeded along the even tenor of the way from birth to death without expert knowledge of aquatic in any form. The Bee knows of one man who in his youth was a noteworthy swimmer, but whose busy adult life has fallen into such lines that for longer than a score of years the deepest water into which he has actually been flung is found in the matrimonial tub.

A sound mind in a sound body is still good practice, and much to be desired, but why not require that candidates for collegiate distinction show proficiency along some line of endeavor outside his scholastic attainments that may be useful to him in every day life? In Nebraska, for example, where university students are denied access to water of greater extent than that afforded by Salt creek, the aspirant for a "B. A." might be examined in his capacity as a corn-husker; the seeker for a "M. A." could gain his after showing mastery of a tractor or some other form of farm machinery, while the exalted distinction of a "Ph. D." would go only after a satisfactory exhibition of skill in applied dairy methods.

The Princeton plan has certain attractive qualities, but they should not be limited to mere skill in swimming.

A Made-at-Home Charter—Some Day.

In the various charter bills pending in the legislature at Lincoln, we have illustrated again the folly of not availing ourselves of the privilege of making and amending our own charter. The constitutional amendment according that right has been effective for over two years, but not a single city in the state has yet adopted a home rule charter, with the consequence that the legislature is again loaded down with an excess of bills with which it has no business to bother at all. Omaha is asking lawmakers who live in remote towns and villages, or outside of incorporated towns altogether, to tell us how much of our own money we may spend for fire, for police, for light and for parks, and to give us permission to order our own streets paved, or to levy a wheel tax, or to pension superannuated city employees. The mere enumeration suggests how ridiculous the whole system of made-at-Lincoln charters is. Some day Omaha will have a made-at-home home rule charter.

Complaint is registered that the workmen's compensation law in New York has already conferred more practical benefit on political chair warmers than on the class it was designed to benefit. The commission created by the law started business with a manager on a \$10,000 salary, secretaries at \$2,500 per, and a number of specialists at fancy terms. In half a year the commission disposed of a year's appropriation of \$500,000 and is now seeking a deficit appropriation of \$425,000.

Press Poll on Prohibiting the Exportation of Arms

Literary Digest. Part II—Conclusion.

A concise statement of the general basis of the opinions against embargo legislation is given in the words of the Minneapolis Journal that since international law as it exists today does not forbid the exportation of contraband subject to seizure \* \* \* it would be a breach of our neutrality to take cognizance of any specific advantage to one nation or another. We are told then that "it is not neutral for any nation at peace with all other nations to take upon itself the enforcement of an embargo against any other nation."

According to the Providence Journal, any action forbidding exports of war materials "would neither stop nor shorten the war and would in view of existing conditions, nullify our neutrality and frantically favor Germany." That an embargo would have no effect on the duration of the war is the conviction also of the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph, Grand Rapids Press and others. The Cleveland Leader sees "no sufficient reason for making a radical departure from the beaten track of a century's precedents unless the federal government is to enter upon a most difficult and complicated experiment at a critical time." Besides, this journal points out that it would be impossible to draw any line as to what exclusively is war material, "without inconsistencies," because "flour may be more vital to a nation at war than cartridges and beef than rifles." So, too, thinks the Washington Herald, and the Atlanta Constitution says that "the twilit zone between armament and ammunition and articles of warfare which very closely touch our varied industries is too vague to permit us to take the chance of penalizing our export trade, and, for the time being, of seriously menacing our foreign commerce."

More plainly still the New York Times tells us that to restrict trade in arms "at the demand of the friends of one of the belligerents would be a hostile act against the others," and the New York Herald wonders whether the German-Americans that importune congress for an embargo law "think Germany has been a 'partner in crime' in permitting the house of Krupp to sell its product to belligerents the world over." The policy which German partisans are urging upon congress seems, to the Louisville Courier-Journal, one that Germany itself would certainly be "the last power on earth to adopt in a war in which it was not engaged." The upsetting of a precedent of international law dating back 100 years, that we should violate our neutrality by enacting an embargo law, are two of the chief arguments of many other journals, among which may be named the Portland (Me.) Press, New Bedford Evening Standard, Boston Daily Advertiser and Evening Record, Lowell Courier-Citizen, Fall River News, Providence Tribune, Hartford Courant, New Haven Journal-Courier and Times-Leader, Buffalo News and Times, Syracuse Post-Standard and Herald, New York Sun, World, Press and Tribune, Philadelphia Inquirer and Record, Baltimore News and American, Washington Post, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Charleston Evening Post, Savannah News, Birmingham Age-Herald, New Orleans Times-Picayune, Dallas Dispatch, Kansas City Journal, Des Moines Capital, Indianapolis Star and News and Detroit Free Press.

However, a third strong objection heard from these greater manufacturing and shipping centers is the plea that such legislation would inflict still greater losses on American business. "This country has already suffered severely" because of the war, says the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, which thinks "it would be the very acme of stupidity to sacrifice such business as our own manufacturers can secure" from the belligerents in our markets. Among many others that see the matter in this light are the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times and the Tacoma Ledger, and the coast daily says that the war "might last ten years," and asks whether we should "by our own volition cripple our industries indefinitely in pursuance of a vague theory."

As long as the government is "not officially responsible for, or does not lend encouragement to, transactions between manufacturers and agents," maintains the Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader, there should be no prohibition of exports in "any materials used in war" while not advocating any such prohibition, the East St. Louis Journal believes in being "impartial and fair to all the belligerents." No embargo "for this war," says the Omaha Bee, although it holds that some arrangements "should be brought about by international agreement between the belligerent powers"; but that even then it would be a mistake in the belief of the Waterbury Republican, which says that such a law "would place a premium upon deliberate war preparations by preventing peaceably inclined nations from strengthening themselves after war broke out." Along this line is the statement of several journals, among them the Springfield Republican and Rochester Post-Express, and the Brooklyn Eagle says that "as we have not contracted the habit of preparing for war before it comes, we might be much in need of just what some of the belligerents would now like to buy from us \* \* \* and in that event our own ox would be gored, perhaps rather ruthlessly." In significant confirmation of the statement we hear from the Chattanooga Herald that "judging from what has been said, officially and otherwise, as to the lack of ammunition and war material in the armed forces of the United States, we should be setting a dangerous precedent for ourselves if we should prohibit the exportation of war material to belligerent nations."

Another argument of self-interest is brought forward by the New York Commercial, which reminds us that if an embargo were declared "the chances are the allies would retaliate by refusing to trade with us in other ways." We are still "dependent on Great Britain," adds this journal, "for the transportation of most of our overseas trade. Our position from a business standpoint is vulnerable and our losses would be tremendous."

People and Events

The Rochester (N. Y.) Labor Journal suspended publication last week after sixteen years of activity. It was the oldest labor paper published in the state of New York.

Captain Hobson will not disappear from the public eye when he retires from congress next month. On the contrary the chattanooga circuit will broaden the range of vision.

A New York woman who was knocked into a snowbank by a fast moving hearse declined to prosecute because the vehicle was of the auto variety. Therefore she could be classed as a slow one.

"Glasgow" is the latest word knocking for a place in American dictionaries. One authority says it is the Russian word for a small coin, and fittingly finds its place in the 5-cent class. But it is going and growing.

A bunch of theological students pulled off a stunning tour in Boston as a lark, but made the mistake of changing clothes at a hotel before starting out. Some practical jokers filled the pockets of the clothes with punk jewelry and caused it to arrest as receivers of stolen goods. It required much argument to make the police see the joke.



All Over But the Talking.

OMAHA, Feb. 8.—To the Editor of The Bee: The Women's Christian Temperance union and prohibition party in Nebraska have recently federated and the undersigned, who was appointed an organizer, called on the mayor and, as announced in The Bee of the 2d inst., that it was arranged to have a series of joint debates on this question, either before or immediately following the April primary. Mayor Dahlman, whatever may be thought of him otherwise, is no trimmer. He stated then, as he has often since, that he would stand for what he terms personal liberty, which means the licensed saloon. Those who take the other view are just as strongly opposed to the policy. We meddle with no man's appetite or conscience, but are unalterably opposed to the public authority becoming an accessory in degrading and debauching its citizens through granting license for the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks. We would like the contest over this question to be as a distinguished officer said in reference to the civil war, "Short, sharp and decisive," but, in any case, want it to terminate in another civil war commander said, in an "Economic Standard."

THOMAS M. C. BIRMINGHAM. 219 Lafayette Avenue.

Observations of "A Neutral."

CUSHING, Neb., Feb. 5.—To the Editor of The Bee: It is with much interest I have read the letters concerning the present struggle in Europe. It appears to me that the great fault of the honorable writers is exaggeration. Why not be fair in judging in his letter invites Mr. H. Steinkraus to judge at all.

Mr. H. Steinkraus in his letter invites an investigation. He says: "Study the German and Austrian history for the last 100 years or more and he will find that Germany and Austria never were aggressive—this means never claimed what did not rightfully belong to them." Is this ignorance, prejudice or what? Ask the Poles if that is the way they feel towards Russia, Austria and Germany. They have not forgotten that these three powers sat down like a band of robbers in 1794, and drew in 1814, and divided Poland among themselves. Barnes' History calls it "the greatest crime of the eighteenth century."

Ask Denmark and the 150,000 Danes of North Schleswig. They still painfully remember that, when Germany and Austria combined robbers of Schleswig-Holstein and Lauburg. The Russian and British powers sat quietly and consented to this highway robbery, although they had promised help. The history of the German modern navy dates from 1864. Now England, Russia, etc., are having their hands full fighting the Teutons. It certainly does savor of divine retribution.

Nor have the Danes forgotten the act of England in 1807, when it, under a subtle excuse, bombarded Copenhagen and stole the whole navy. And ask the French of Alsace-Lorraine if they can subscribe to the opinion of Mr. Steinkraus? They suffer under the result of 1871 until this day.

More could be added of the atrocities of France, Turkey, Belgium, Japan, etc., but let this be sufficient to show the inconsistency of the hypothesis of Mr. Steinkraus and others.

It is not wise for any one living in a glass house to fight with stones. As for me, if I should choose between the "Kultur" of either the Teuton, Slav or Latin—give me the Teuton. I am neutral.

REV. N. P. SOREENSEN.

Hidden, But Quite Apparent.

BLM CREEK, Neb., Feb. 8.—To the Editor of The Bee—Will the editor of The Bee kindly explain what it meant in the editorial "Defeat of the Literacy Test" by the term "Hidden forces behind it?" This is the second time that you have hinted at this hidden motive.

There is no one more generous or willing to assist those in distress or need than a dyed-in-the-wool American (and none more willing to protect American and its interests to his last drop of blood), provided those admitted do not strike at the woe of the nation.

Is it not possible that the originators and supporters of that bill desire to remove forever the cause that produces the condition of European unfortunates today?

Isn't it possible, even probable that any man or woman in these countries today, if they have any ambition to better themselves, has opportunity to learn to read and write? (Not that that qualification would make them better moral citizens.)

Isn't it probable that those lacking this desire or qualification cannot and will not become desirable citizens in a country in which every man has an equal voice in governmental affairs? If they were educated they would be better qualified to vote with intelligence and would not be so easily controlled by others, and less governed by tradition.

Isn't it possible that over three-quarters of the members of both houses are better able to judge the wishes of their constituents and know the evils of incompetent citizenship, whether foreign or native, than Mr. Wilson.

I would like to ask The Bee the effect of its avowal of foreign immigration following the present war, without some educational clause either in the door of the nation or at the booth of the ballot? We will probably have an opportunity to see. Come, Mr. Bee, what is the hidden motive of which you hint so plainly. Perhaps you will and can enlighten us? F. H. BARNEY.

GRINS AND GROANS.

The man who had failed for \$11,000.00 laughed uproariously. "I am cackled, 'put my failure under 'Business Troubles.' For he had managed to fail without the slightest trouble to himself.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Footlight—And was the performance artist? Miss Sue Brette—No; the scenery and the leading lady were both badly painted.—Yonkers Statesman.

The type of youth who indulges in loud clothes and a hat forced back over his ears dropped into the dental chair. "I'm afraid to give him gas," said the dentist to his assistant. "Why?" "How can I tell when he's unconscious?"—Philadelphia Ledger.

A youngster of our acquaintance who has a faculty for getting into scrapes recently expressed the wish that he was a postage stamp. When asked why, he answered: "Because a postage stamp can only be licked once. Whereupon he pointed out that the stamp received, besides the licking, a severe punch in the face.—Boston Transcript.

"They are always bragging of their ancestors." "Yes; from the way they talk you would almost imagine they had selected them themselves."—Detroit Free Press.

"I see that Jones has failed. Has he any assets?" "Nothing of any value. The inventory which he filed with his petition in bankruptcy shows that he had 230 wedding presents."—Brooklyn Citizen.

"Don't you know that you have the wickedest city on earth?" "No!" exclaimed the old resident. "How did you get that information?" "I read it in the papers." "That's just press-agent stuff intended to make out-of-town people think that this is the place to spend money and whoop things up."—Washington Star.

THE FATHERLAND.

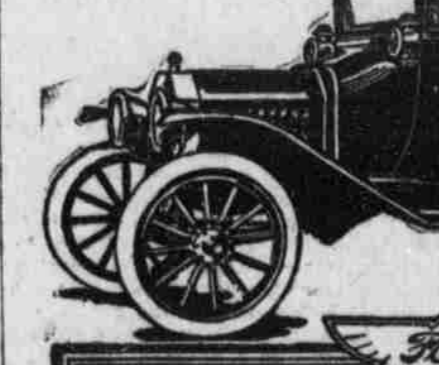
James Russell Lowell Where is the true man's fatherland? Is it where he by chance is born? Doth not the yearning spirit scorn In such scant borders to be spanned? Oh, yes; his fatherland must be As the blue heaven, wide and free.

TABLOIDS OF SCIENCE.

Owing to the dry, cold atmosphere, not a single infectious disease is known in Greenland.

After extensive tests German experts have decided that ivy benefits rather than injures stone or brick walls on which it grows by drawing superfluous moisture from them.

The mountains of Porto Rico are so magnetic that they attract surveyors' plumb lines—and it has been found that some old surveys are incorrect by half a mile or more.



The Ford Sedan is high class in appearance and appointments with the luxuriousness you desire in a family car. Carries five passengers comfortably. Splendidly upholstered with cloth of the highest quality. The body is aluminum and large doors give convenient entrance on either side. Plate glass windows give the protection of the closed limousine for inclement weather, and plenty of fresh air when open. With high quality in detail is economy in maintenance—less than 2 cents a mile. Ford Sedan \$975; Coupelet \$750; Town car \$690; Touring Car \$490; Runabout \$440. All fully equipped, f. o. b. Detroit. On display and sale at 1216 Harney Street. Buyers will share in profits if we sell at retail 300,000 new Ford cars between August, 1914 and August, 1915.

Busy Bee Boys and Girls

We have a grand surprise for you. We will give a Bicycle next. You can have your choice of either a Boy's or Girl's wheel. It is a famous

WORLD MOTOR BIKE

It has a 20-inch Frame with Coaster Brake. Motor Bike Handle Bars, Eagle Diamond Saddle, Motor Bike Pedals, Motor Bike Grip, Luggage Carrier Holder, Folding Stand, Front and Rear Wheel Guards, Truss Frame and Front Fork.



This picture of the bicycle will be in The Bee every day. 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, Saturday, March 6th. The bicycle will be given free to the boy or girl that send us the most pictures before 4 p. m., Saturday, March 6th. Subscribers can help the children in the contest by asking for picture certificates when they pay their subscription. We give a certificate good for 100 pictures for every dollar paid. Payments should be made to our authorized carrier or agent, or sent direct to us by mail.