

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.

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 Thomas J. Kelly. Patience and tranquility of mind contribute more to cure our distempers than the whole art of medicine.—Mozart.

It was a 300 to 1 shot that did the business at the Scribner haystack. A sweet consoling thought, immune to fog, gives assurance that the sun is shining somewhere.

A Japanese bull in a China shop would be a diverting if not a welcome change in Oriental scenery.

The administration's shipping bill dodged the mines only to perish in a windstorm. Its fate lacks the modern touch.

Japan's anxiety for the welfare of the China is whetted by knowledge that other interested powers are too busy to butt in.

The stock of gold in the United States at the present moment is figured at \$1,824,000,000. One yellow streak without a peril.

A Carnegie hero medal is within reach of any one who can translate war bulletins and accurately tell where the warring powers "are at."

Every note exchanged in the pending neutral ships controversy emphasizes the "conciliatory tone." Diplomacy executes the most music in that key.

German blockaders of the British coast do not cast their shadows before. Their shadows are submerged, and all the more scaringly for that reason.

One feature of the pursuit of the Mexican desperado should not be overlooked. It proved that pursuing officers could hit a target smaller than a haystack.

The fewer iron put in the fire by the Nebraska railroad commission the nearer it will come to performing its allotted tasks and justifying its existence.

Happily for the good relations subsisting among the people on the Louisiana purchase tract New Orleans pulled off its Mardi Gras before San Francisco opened the gates of its show.

The New York Central's bond issue of \$100,000,000, recently marketed, was largely oversubscribed. The fact that prime securities company an abundance of takers is the best proof of restored confidence.

Chicago has a traction reserve fund of large proportions. Omaha is similarly well fixed in a water fund surplus. In both cities officials regard idle money as economic waste and their palms itch for a chance to spend it on side gambles.

In other days and more joyous times the retirement of "Home Run" Baker from the profession he adorned would have earthshaken the continent. It didn't produce a tremor outside of the pink section, so great is the world absorbed in other doings.

Thirty Years Ago. This Day in Omaha. James O'Neill and his "Monte Cristo" company arrived for their Omaha engagement. Washington's birthday falling on Sunday (today), is to be observed tomorrow so far as closing of banks, postoffice and public offices is concerned.

Mr. Charles Metz and Miss Toy Metz attended the Maennerchor masked ball in St. Joseph, the latter attracting attention to her charming costume. "For Heaven's Sake Don't Say I Told You."

Oscar Devries, manager of the Himebaugh & Taylor hardware store, has joined a party of friends headed for New Orleans.

An exhibit of carving and colored paper work prepared by the pupils of the public schools is to be continued another week.

Three carloads of fruit from California, consigned to the local commission trade, were found on arrival to be in a partially frozen condition.

William Pringle, twenty-first and Howard, will pay a liberal reward for an Irish setter dog that answers to the name of "Mickler."

The Railroads and the Public.

The campaign entered upon by the railroads with the purpose of educating the public mind to a point where an increase in rates will be accepted as a matter of course, is being vigorously pursued. Magnates of fifteen railroads recently agreed together in Chicago that their executive officers go before the governor first, and then after approaching the people through him, appear before the legislature of Illinois to argue the railroads' side of the rate question.

By following this procedure the railway managements are snowing good sense. Regulation has been unfair to the railroads in the past because the public has been misinformed, and, being misinformed, has been prejudiced. The public will give the railroads a square deal if they will give it a chance. That it has not given them a square deal in the past has been largely due to the fact that the railroads have not made enough efforts to get the facts regarding their business before it.

If the railroads had always pursued the policy which is now being adopted, and had treated the public with the frankness that has finally been forced upon them, there is no doubt they would have been met with equal frankness and fair treatment. In the past the railroads have pursued a policy exactly the opposite. From the highest to the lowest, officials have treated the public, if not as an enemy, at least as one not safely to be trusted.

The impending desperate nature of naval warfare promised on the seas surrounding the United Kingdom readily lends strength to the current impression that Great Britain's policy of "economic pressure" is already seriously felt in Germany. There is no available evidence to sustain the impression. The action of the German government in taking over control and distribution of the food supplies of the empire does not necessarily imply present scarcity. It is more in the nature of a precaution against the eventualities of war by conserving essential resources and preventing waste.

A neutral traveler of wide and varied experience, whose credibility is vouched for by the London Times, prints in that paper the result of recent observations in Germany. The writer discredits reports of distress which have been published in Dutch and Danish newspapers, and affirms that in a three weeks' tour of the empire he found no evidence of food distress or even visible scarcity of the necessities of life.

But economic pressure as a factor in war must be reckoned with. It is already an indirect source of distress in all the nations involved, and is certain to increase as the struggle proceeds. Germany restricts the pressure at present by regulating prices as well as consumption. In Great Britain the pressure is felt in the enhanced cost of necessities, averaging 18 per cent increase in meats, eggs, coal, fish and sugar.

Should Germany make its naval blockade effective, the British policy of economic pressure may prove a boomerang. For a Public Defender. While the house at Lincoln has indefinitely postponed a bill providing for the creation of the office of public defender, the senate has recommended for passage a similar measure. The necessity for such an office has long been apparent, especially in the larger cities. It is needed both as a measure of economy and a measure of justice.

In Douglas county a large sum would be annually saved that is now expended in fees to attorneys appointed by the court to look after the interests of indigent clients. This amount would more than cover the expense of maintaining the public defender and his staff. In serving the ends of justice, the public defender would be much better situated for looking after the true interests of his client than would the casual defender appointed by the court on the day of arraignment. A public defender would be of service in providing legal advice and assistance for poor people who otherwise suffer for lack of information as to their legal rights. Other obvious reasons may be cited for the need of a public defender. The legislature will do well to seriously consider the points in favor of this bill before finally acting on it.

On a Joyous Mission. The democrats at Washington have set themselves a task that must give them the maximum of joy. They are to spend money at the rate of \$50,000,000 a day for eleven days. It is the public money, and this will make it all the easier for them. This stupendous task is part of the price that will be paid for the time wasted in the ineffectual effort to force through congress a shipping measure that even members of the president's own party could not support.

In this connection it will be well to keep in mind that the enormous appropriations are to be made in face of a steadily diminishing income. Also, that this is the second time this administration has been called upon to pass the general appropriation bills, and that each has shown a total in excess of the last of the great appropriations passed by a republican congress. The economy promised during the campaign has gone to join other issues then brought up and since forgotten or only repudiated. The democratic donkey doesn't often get into the clover, and when it does, it likes to enjoy itself, but a joyride of \$50,000,000 a day is going some, even for a democrat.

Uncle Joe Cannon was not on hand when the democratic majority jammed through the house of representatives the amended ship purchase bill. Davville decreed his return to the next congress, doubtless that he might see with his own eyes how mild and childlike a dictator he was in contrast with democratic methods.

Washington and Weems

Henry Cabot Lodge's Biography of Washington. Many are the myths, and deplorably few the facts, that come down to us in regard to Washington's boyhood. For the former we are indebted to the illustrious Weems, and to that paragraph a few more words must be devoted. Weems has been held up to the present age in various ways, usually, it must be confessed, of an unflattering nature, and "mendacious" is the adjective most commonly applied to him.

By profession a clergyman or preacher, by nature an adventurer, Weems loved notoriety, money and a wandering life. So he wrote books which he correctly believed would be popular, and sold them not only through the regular channels, but by peddling them himself as he traveled about the country. Chance brought him near Washington in the closing days, and his commercial instinct told him that here was the subject of all others for his pen and his market. He accordingly produced the biography which has so much success. Judge of the quality of the book in the light of the facts. The style is turgid, overloaded, and at times silly. The statements are loose, the mode of narration confused and incoherent, and the moralizing is flat and commonplace to the last degree. Yet there was a certain sincerity of feeling underneath all the bombast and platitudes, and this saved the book. The biography did not go, and was not intended to go, into the hands of the polite society of the great eastern towns. It was meant for the farmers, the pioneers and the backwoodsmen of the country. To them its heavy and tawdry style, its staring morals, and its real patriotism all seemed eminently befitting the national hero, and thus Weems created the Washington of the popular fancy. The idea grew up with the country and became so ingrained with the popular mind that finally everybody was excited by it, and even the most stately and solemn of the Washington biographers adopted the unsupported tales of the itinerant parson and book peddler.

Weems was not a cold-blooded liar, a mere forger of anecdotes. He was simply a man destitute of historical sense, training, or morals, ready to take the slenderest fact and work it up for the purposes of the market. Weems, of course, had no difficulty with the public life, but in describing the boyhood he was thrown on his own resources, and out of them he evolved the cherry tree, the refusal to fight or permit fighting among the boys at school, and the initials in the garden. This last story is to the effect that Augustine Washington planted seeds in such manner that when they sprouted they formed on the earth the initials of the boy's name, and the boy being much delighted thereby, the father explained to him that it was the work of the Creator, and thus inculcated a profound belief in God. This tale is taken bodily from Dr. Beattie's biographical sketch of his son, published in England in 1795, and may be dismissed at once. As to the other two more familiar anecdotes there is not a scintilla of evidence that they had any foundation, and with them may be included the coat story, told by Mr. Custis, a simple variation of the cherry tree theme, which is Washington's early love of truth. How Mr. Custis, usually so accurate, came to be so far infected with the Weems myth as to tell the coat story after the Weems manner, cannot now be determined. There can be no doubt that Washington, like most healthy boys, got into a good deal of mischief, and it is not at all impossible that he injured fruit trees and confessed that he had done so. It may be accepted as certain that he rode and mastered many unbroken thoroughbred colts, and it is possible that one of them burst a blood-vessel in the process and died, and that the boy promptly told his mother of the accident. But this is the utmost credit which these two anecdotes can claim. Even so much as this cannot be said of certain other improving tales of like nature. That Washington lectured his playmates on the wickedness of fighting, and in the year 1744 allowed himself to be knocked down in the presence of his soldiers, and thereupon begged his assailant's pardon for having spoken roughly to him, are stories so silly and so foolishly impossible that they do not deserve an instant's consideration.

There is nothing intrinsically impossible in either the cherry tree or the colt incident, nor would there be in a hundred others which might be readily invented. The real point is that these stories, as told by Weems and Mr. Custis, are on their face hopelessly and ridiculously false.

So much as this has been said only because these wretched fables have gone throughout the world, and it is time that they were swept away into the dust heaps of history. They represent being much delighted as affected and priggish people, given to cheap moralizing; and, what is worse, they have served to place Washington himself in the ridiculous light of an age which has outgrown the educational foibles of seventy-five years ago. Washington, to whom the greatest wrong has been done, not only never did anything common nor mean, but from the beginning to the end of his life he was never for an instant ridiculous or affected, and he was utterly remote from canting and priggishness as any human being could be. We will therefore consign the Weems stories and their offsprings to the limbo of historical rubbish.

Twice Told Tales. Feared Prejudice. Down in one of the southern states a colored man was billed into court on a charge of stealing chickens, and in defending him his attorney challenged several of the jurors on the ground that they might be prejudiced.

"Are there any more of the jurors you wish to be challenged?" finally whispered the lawyer, leaning toward his client. "No, sah," returned the client, negatively shaking his head. "But 'i nks yo' had better challenge dat judge."

"The judge!" exclaimed the amazed lawyer. "What do you mean?" "It am de way, boss," explained the client. "I hah been up befo' dat judge several times, an' I see afeard dat he may be a little prejudiced agin me." Philadelphia Telegraph.

A Cowardly Fowl. Mrs. Jones bought a chicken at the family butcher shop and after embellishing it with bread crumbs, celery, cranberry sauce and other glad things, she proudly set it before the head of the family. "What is the matter, John?" asked the young wife, with an anxious look as hubby laboriously carved the bird and began to apply it to his appetite. "Isn't the chicken all right?" "Why, yes; I guess he is all right, dear," was the hesitating response of father. "But I fear he was a very great coward."

"A great coward?" returned the perplexed wife. "What do you mean?" "Don't they say, Mary," smilingly rejoined the old man, "that the bravest are always the tenderest?" Philadelphia Telegraph.

Strategy. Mrs. Bright and her little nephew, Kenneth, were visiting some relatives in the country and one morning were crossing a pasture lot together. When they were about half-way across Mrs. Bright saw two oxen, and paused doubtfully. "I really don't know whether it is safe for us to go so near those oxen, Kenneth," she said, stopping. "Oh, don't be afraid of the oxen, since I said Kenneth, as he tightened his hold on her hand encouragingly. "They won't hurt us. The first time I came out here I was afraid of them. I didn't dare to go back of them, and I didn't dare to go in front of them. But I thought of a fine way at last, auntie; I just got down and crawled under them." Harper's Magazine.

Necessarily Slow. A California necessity had been permitted to visit a boy friend on the strict condition that he was to leave there at 5 o'clock. He did not arrive home till 7 and his mother was very angry. The youngster insisted, however, that he had obeyed her orders and had not lingered unnecessarily on the way. "Do you expect me to believe," said his mother, "that it took you two hours to walk a quarter of a mile?" She reached for the whip. "Now, sir, will you tell me the truth?" "Ye-es, mamam," sobbed the boy. "Charlie Wilson gave me a mud turtle—and I was afraid—to carry it—so I led it home." Boston Transcript.

The Bee's Letter Box. Cut Meat's History.

CUT MEAT, S. D., Feb. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee:—In your paper of February 5, I noticed a letter about Cut Meat. Your friend, Mr. Bowles, seems to take exception to the name of our little town of Cut Meat. We have always been very proud of the euphonious deep meaning name and most grateful that we are not afflicted with such a name as Scabby Creek or He Dog's Camp, which camps lie on either side of our camp. And there are many other names much more objectionable than these. You know our names are not like white people's names, and there is something in them—a meaning. Each name has a meaning all its own. Your names do not seem to mean anything. To us, there is a great meaning in the name of Cut Meat. Years ago, a large band of Indians camped on this creek for a few days to cut and dry their meat. Always afterwards they referred to the place as the place where they cut their meat. Hence the name, Cut Meat. It was in the old days when there was buffalo meat. It is an old historic place and we are all proud of the name—Cut Meat.

FANNY HOLY MEDICINE. "Music Teachers' Tenet." OMAHA, Feb. 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: There is a bill before the Nebraska senate that is undoubtedly intended to create a "music teachers' tenet." The professed intention is to establish a standardization of the music teaching profession. The bill requires all teachers of music to conform to certain standards and to take an examination before a state board except where they are graduates of a three-year normal college.

Such a bill as the one before the Nebraska legislature is a distinct invasion of private, constitutional rights. The state may have the right to examine music teachers for state and public schools, for these schools are under state and public control. The state may demand sufficient education for children to prevent danger to the public from ignorance. It also requires licenses from physicians and surgeons, because health and life are at stake. It requires licenses for engineers because life and property are at stake. But public safety does not demand that children have good music teachers or that they have any at all. Parents have to pay for the teaching, so that the state has nothing to do with it.

As there are good and bad music teachers, so there are good and poor laborers, good and poor mechanics and good and poor clerks; but the state does not require that any of these appear before a board for examination. It is wholly left to the employer and the employed. Political heads will drop into the basket of public opinion here in Nebraska as they did in Illinois if this bill is passed. Those behind the bill evidently want positions for favorites who have failed as musical performers and are trying to hide this deficiency behind their modernized methods and books of self-made rules, for which they hope to secure profitable sales when a state board composed of their number does the examining, thus forcing those who are their betters to conform to their ideas and standards in so-called music. It will literally produce a strict control of music teaching. The bill should be exposed and squelched at once.

South Omaha and Annexation. SOUTH OMAHA, Feb. 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: I see there is a great howl being put up by the mayor, city attorney and a few of the city council that if we were annexed to Omaha we would not get any improvements in this end of the city, especially in the south end of South Omaha. Now I want to say that if we never did get anything, we would get something as we are getting or have got in the last few years.

We have not got a crosswalk on one crossing out of forty, and that is not making it too high. Of course we do not need any crosswalks unless they lead to a saloon, for some of the officials elected from the south end would never have any use for them anyway. Now I think that 90 per cent of the people living south of N street and 75 per cent of all the people in the entire city would vote for annexation if it were left to a vote.

I have lived in South Omaha twenty-five years, and will say that the city today is getting less improvements than it ever had and spending twice the amount of money, taxes higher, more insecure officeholders that do not even earn a dollar a month who are drawing large salaries for doing nothing.

We have a park superintendent who draws \$100 per month who has not seen a park since last August, and I am in doubt if he knows that there are any more parks in the city outside of Synodicate and Highland.

A plumbing inspector who draws \$100 per month who has not turned in \$50 for fees since his appointment.

An inspector of weights and measures at \$50 who inspects schoolhouses monthly.

We have officials who draw \$50 per month and attend law school every day in the year. Every other man on the fire department is a captain. Same condition exists on the police department. A street commissioner and a street foreman to oversee four laborers sweep the streets in front of the city hall. A policeman whose duties are to go to the picture shows and to attend dances. Two sanitary inspectors, one whose office is Twenty-sixth and O streets.

So I think if we were annexed we would at least get service for the money that is being given away to pay political debts, and the taxpayers made to suffer, and the members of the legislature should do just as the senate did and pass the annexation bill with the emergency clause attached. I. W. W.

Editorial Siftings

Indianapolis News: Inasmuch as we may have serious occasion to use our flag ourselves some time, we don't want people to get any mistaken notion as to just what it means. Hence our protest.

Louisville Courier-Journal: An Italian professor in an American educational institution says there will be no more European emigration to America after the war because labor will be scarce and high in Europe. Pause, professor, and consider the fact that it takes capital to make a labor market.

Baltimore American: The attorney general of New York is to make an inquiry into the rise of the price of wheat. There should be full and plenty in this country and that we should be required to pay a war tax to speculators is something which the public has a right to look into.

Chicago Tribune: This is the nation which offers asylum from political injustice, which offers its plenty for the relief of distress. Wherever there is a disaster the American hand is reached out to the sufferers. This is the only nation which ever undertook to feed a starving nation and to support it. "See America first"—in the real sense. See it first and hold it first.

Philadelphia Record: The confidence of the government officials that they can teach business to merchants and manufacturers and bankers is delicious. The great merit of a government fleet is alleged to be that it would show American capitalists how to make the shipping business pay; it is claimed that it pays from 20 to 30 per cent, but the timid American capitalist will not go into it until three public officials show him. A State department official comes back from South America convinced that what is needed is to educate the bankers. It is lovely to think of the bureau chiefs in Washington who are willing to explain to bankers and ship owners and merchants how they can make money.

MIRTHFUL REMARKS

First Young Thing—Don't you just dot on Shakespeare? Second Ditto—I adore him. Our club gave his "School for Scandal" last month and it was perfectly lovely.—Boston Transcript.

"There are sermons in stones." "Possibly," replied Miss Cayenne, "that accounts for the fact that some of the sermons intended to reform big cities remind you of a man throwing rocks."—Washington Star.

"Young Mrs. Millyuna certainly did prove a devoted nurse to her husband in his critical illness. She must love him, after all." "Love him, rot! She knows she looks fierce in black."—Baltimore American.

Doctor—What you need is a period of complete mental rest. I've been in Washington for the last two weeks sitting in the gallery of the house listening to the debates.—Life.

Mrs. Bliton—That Mrs. Jinks is always very well dressed, while her husband always looks shabby. Bliton—Well, she dresses according to fashion, and he according to his means.—Judge.

"Jones is making money fast these days. How does he do it?" "The time he used to put in kicking about being poor he's now putting in working to get rich."—Indianapolis Star.

Broker—We just sold the last 10 rolls of it for wall paper.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

FEBRUARY TWENTY-SECOND. William Cullen Bryant. Pale is the February sky, And brief the midday sunny hours; The wind-swept forest seems to sigh For the sweet time of love and flowers.

Yet has no month a prouder day. Not even when the summer broods O'er meadows in their fresh array, Or autumn tints the glowing woods.

For this chill season now again Brings, in its annual round, the morn When, greatest of the sons of men, Our glorious Washington was born. Lo, where, beneath an icy shield, Calmly the mighty Hudson flows! By snow-clad fell and frozen field, Broadening, the lordly river goes. The wildest storm that sweeps thro' space And rends the oak with sudden force, Can raise no ripple on his face, Or slacken his majestic course. Thus, 'mid the wreck of thrones, shall live, Unmarred, undimmed, our hero's fame, And years succeeding years shall give Increase of honors to his name.

Florida and Cuba. Low Winter Fares via Rock Island Lines. Enjoy the Southland's balmy climate during this coming winter—beautiful beaches, groves of palm trees and everything that makes for a summer in winter in the semi-tropics. Tickets on sale daily to April 30th with return limit of June 1st, 1915. Only \$50.68 for the round trip to Jacksonville, Fla., \$87.18 to Havana, Cuba, with corresponding reductions to other points in the South and Southeast. Liberal Stopover Privileges. Connecting service via Rock Island Line. Automatic Block Signals. Finest Modern All-Steel Equipment. Absolute Safety. Superb Dining Car Service. Write, phone or call at Rock Island Travel Bureau, 1123 Farnam Street, for tickets, reservations, information. J. S. McNALLY, Division Passenger Agent. Phone Douglas 428.

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. Spring will soon be here and some little boy or girl will be riding this wheel. Are you the lucky one? You have until March 6th to try for it.