

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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JANUARY CIRCULATION, 53,714

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss. Dwiglit 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 Lucius Pryor. Music is irresistible; its charities are countless; it stirs the feelings of love, peace, and friendship as scarce as any mortal agent can.

Mayor Harrison of Chicago realizes from the pressure of adverse ballots that communities grow weary of "a good thing."

The postoffice efficiency experts, owing to wire entanglements, may have to be content with the joy of a six weeks' vacation in Omaha.

So far as the records indicate the ships sent to Davy Jones' locker by submarines are not equipped with up-to-date boudoir facilities for mermaids.

Government by commission grows apace. One distinct advantage of the system is that commissioners acquire a business education at public expense.

With two weather prophets guaranteeing sunshine and cheer for the fall festival, it only remains for King Ak-Sar-Ben to wave his magic wand and go to it.

While the democratic administration is knocking every government interest in Omaha, the watchdog of the city's welfare "bays the moon" 1,200 miles away.

Two suits for \$100,000 against the Rockefeller Research fund ought to convince Frank P. Walsh of Missouri that he is not the only person eager for a shake-down of the Rockefeller pile.

Welcome to our city, Colonel Sheldon! No doubt Mississippi is a fine state to lose oneself, but while King Corn holds the fort against cotton, Nebraska must remain the habitat of live ones.

Railroad managers in the east are reported planning for a general cut in the wages of employees next spring. If the job is undertaken the railroad managers will certainly earn their salaries during the operation.

It is passing strange why heralded peace advocates from the war zone should carry their message to Omaha and pass by Berlin, Vienna, Petrograd, London and Paris, localities much nearer, and more influential. What's the answer?

Germany and Austria, according to war bulletins, are so well supplied with prisoners of war for harvest hands that arrangements might be made to loan a few hundred thousand to western states, where the annual scarcity of that class of labor strains the college supply.

The Missourian reported on a missionary tour of Nebraska, preaching the gospel of increased railroad rates, might employ his time more profitably among the heathen at home. A rate boost movement in the Missouri legislature has been brought to a standstill by the united opposition of farmer members.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

The weighing of the mails here is proceeding under the direction of Mr. Griffin of the railway mail service. The specialists who have been employed on this work, almost all Omaha men, are: W. H. Freeman, J. B. Saunders, J. Bernhardt, George E. Lake, C. D. Haggood, James Mills, George H. Fitchett, R. H. Booth, D. B. A. Friske, J. L. Hobbs, J. W. Dawson, Fred D. Stratton, business manager for Canary, Livery and Dinmore, bicycle and roller skating champions of the world, is in the city arranging for their appearance here.

Men Who Made the Fontenelle.

Omaha is today congratulating itself on the possession of one of the most complete and beautiful hotels in the world, and it figuratively doffing its hat to the men who made this splendid contribution to the city's advantages. Without lessening the importance of the part played by all the public spirited citizens who have contributed to the success of the undertaking, it may be permitted to especially emphasize the obligation that is due to Messrs. Arthur D. Brandeis, John L. Kennedy and Gordon W. Wattles. It was Messrs. Brandeis and Kennedy who came forward two years ago with a proffer that awoke the enthusiastic response to the generous offer, which is now embodied in the beautiful building so magnificently appointed. Their tender of the site, valued at \$200,000, gave the needed impetus to the project. It was Mr. Wattles who gave of his time and experience, as president of the Douglas Hotel company, to the direction of the affairs connected with the financing of the proposition, and to those other details which have been so well handled. The services of these men have been great to Omaha in many ways, but in no way have they been greater than in the building of the Hotel Fontenelle.

Stampeding the Commercial Club.

Twelve years ago the Omaha Commercial club was stamped into an attitude of support for Senate File No. 1, the enactment of which subsequently cost the city of Omaha more than two millions of dollars in excess of what reasonably would have been required to purchase the plant of the Omaha Water company, had the city proceeded under the authority it possessed both through its charter and through its contract with the company. Many members of the club later frankly admitted the mistake then made. Today these tactics are being repeated, and another effort is being made to stampede the club into the position of supporting Senate File No. 6, just as it came from the author's hands.

Two things should be kept clearly in mind when dealing with this measure: First, The city of Omaha has at this time ample power, without further legislation, to construct, or to buy, or to condemn, an electric lighting plant.

Second, That Senate File No. 6 only provides for the construction of a plant, and not for the purchase or condemnation of any. In this essential the bill is weak, and it should be amended so as to make it possible for the Metropolitan Water District to either buy or condemn. It should be amended so as to clearly provide for a schedule of rates that will be plain, and not subject to jugglery, and it should be further amended so as to provide for such publicity as will make certain that the surplus earnings of the plant will not be accumulated in a fund to be manipulated by the management of the Metropolitan Water District.

In making these amendments nothing will be done to weaken the purpose of the bill. The question of municipal ownership is not involved in these points. That Omaha will have public control of its lighting plants is apparent and desirable, but this control should come under such conditions as will make it certain that the people will derive all the benefit from public ownership. Senate File No. 6 does not at this time make the proper provision for giving the people all they are entitled to for the money they will invest in a lighting plant. It should be amended in the particulars pointed out before it is finally enacted into law.

His Plea Should Be Heard.

Mr. Robert Lansing, counselor for the State department, makes a plea to his countrymen on the relations of the United States with other nations, he says that these days are critical, "how critical only those who are in intimate touch with affairs can realize." Without departing from the evenly balanced attitude of the diplomatic representative of the government, Mr. Lansing manages to leave an impression unmistakable that the first duty of the American citizen is to give unreserved support to the president at this time.

There is no place for partisanship in the present crisis. It is a time when the country should stand united behind the president. Plenty of time will be had for criticism after the trouble has passed, but for the present we can all very well afford to follow the advice given by Mr. Lansing in these words: Today when nations are swayed with unreasonable passion, when prejudice blinds them, when they "see red" when they misjudge their friends as well as their foes, is the time for us to avoid harsh judgment, to preserve calmness in dealing with them and to curb the natural resentment which arises when our acts are misinterpreted and we are charged with wrong motives and purposes.

Embargo as a Remedy.

While the text of the identical note just forwarded to the governments of Great Britain and Germany by the United States is still withheld from the public, enough of its nature has been disclosed to indicate a suggestion that this government is seriously contemplating some retaliatory action of its own. The note is said to make very clear to the belligerents that unless they modify their present positions as regards the rights of neutrals, they themselves will assert a right which the belligerents have apparently overlooked.

If Great Britain persists in seizing cargoes of noncontraband stuff destined for Germany, and Germany persists in sinking vessels headed for British ports, regardless of the nature of the cargo, the neutrals have but one course left. They can refuse to ship to either country, and this is the course now contemplated. Norway has already served notice on Germany of intention to no longer permit shipments from Norwegian to German ports. If the United States should adopt a similar policy, its action would undoubtedly be followed by all of the neutrals, and the source of supply for the nations at war would be effectually stopped.

If the belligerents feel they must persist in interfering each with the other's commerce with friendly nations, the end will be cessation of all their commerce, except such adventurous traders as may succeed in eluding the menace of torpedo and mine. This situation touches all the countries engaged in war, and its seriousness may cause some modification of their present attitude.

Carter Harrison entered the race once too often. Will Mayor Jim sit up and take notice?

British Flag in Civil War

The action of the steamship Lusitania in recently raising the United States flag as a means of protection against German submarines has brought into the discussion incidents of the civil war where the British flag was used by the confederates to deceive Union cruisers and enable them to escape into an open sea. A case of peculiarly interesting features was that of the steamer Oreto, which was chased by the United States sloop of war Omida, commanded by Commander George Henry Preble, and other vessels of the squadron blockading the port of Mobile in September, 1862, and how the Oreto's commander finally came to Washington to testify in Commander Preble's behalf.

The Oreto was speedy and it gave its pursuers the slip and as a result of this Commander Preble was dismissed from the navy, but was restored by act of congress. After getting into Mobile the Oreto changed its name to Florida, and, as a confederate privateer, it with other famous confederate privateers, spread devastation upon the high seas until the merchant marine of the northern states received such a blow that it has not recovered from it to the present day.

Since the appearance of the item in the Washington dispatches referring to the affair of the Oreto, veterans of the civil war, as they have come together in various parts of Brooklyn, have discussed the affair in Mobile bay when the Omida tried ineffectually to stop the Oreto, alias Florida, and Commander Preble was immediately dismissed from the navy and began his long and persistent fight for reinstatement. Each veteran of the war, especially the naval veterans, as they talked over this stirring event, added to it by a scrap from his recollections, and it has devolved upon the writer to piece these together into a consecutive narrative.

One veteran who was seen knew Commander Preble and had talked with him in Washington during his long fight for reinstatement. He said that when Preble on the Omida first saw the Oreto he thought it was a British man-of-war, who had come to assist the United States blockading squadron. The Oreto was flying an English red ensign and pennant and had every appearance of being an English war vessel. Commander Preble discovered his mistake a little too late, but when he did he fired at the stranger but did not succeed in checking its speed, which latter took it out of reach of the Omida's guns and into the port of Mobile.

Such occurrences naturally create controversy, especially after fifty years have elapsed since the occurrence, as in this case. In the discussions which have followed the appearance of the item above referred to, there have been those who criticized Commander Preble, accusing him of dilatory action and also those who vigorously defended him. The latter cited the fact that the commander of the Omida, whose previous record was unimpaired, was a nephew of Commodore Edward Preble, who won fame in the war with Tripoli, while those who were against the Omida's commander, from Admiral Farragut's official report of the Oreto affair in which he says "of regret to be compelled again to make another mortifying acknowledgment of apparent neglect, to wit, the running of the blockade at Mobile by a ten-gun gunboat, supposed to be Laird's gunboat, Captain Bullock. You will perceive, however, from Commander Preble's report that there was no lack of vigilance. They saw it in good time, but failed to sink or capture it. Why Commander Preble did not fire into it after it failed to stop or answer his hail, I cannot imagine. The commander of the Rachel Seaman says, and I believe they will admit, there never was a finer opportunity for stopping a vessel, until it passed them; then, however, when it was too late, they commenced firing."

Commander Preble was so thoroughly convinced that a great injustice had been done him by his summary dismissal from the navy in which he had borne a very conspicuous part, that he immediately asked for a court-martial and an opportunity to tell his story. This was denied him on the ground that he was no longer an officer of the navy. He then asked for a board of inquiry, and three naval officers were appointed to act. The report of this board was rather discouraging. It ran thus: "It is the opinion of the board that Commander Preble did not perform his whole duty as a senior officer of the force blockading Mobile, and, further, that he did not do his utmost to prevent the passage of the steamer Oreto into the harbor, as appeared from the statement contained in his report of September 4 to Rear Admiral Farragut, to the effect that had he known the character of the vessel he could have run it down."

To be turned down by President Lincoln, to whom Commander Preble appealed, by the secretary of the navy was certainly enough to discourage almost any man, but not a Preble. This disgraced officer now returned to congress for justice, and then was furnished one of the most dramatic incidents of the whole story. As the case stood the odds were decidedly against Commander Preble. The naval committee of the house of representatives were very naturally guided by the official reports and by the action which had already been taken. Unless Preble could produce some new evidence there was not much chance in congress going against the report. The plucky naval officer was equal to the occasion. He and his friends induced the commander of the Oreto, later the privateer Florida, to come to Washington and testify as to what had occurred when the latter ran past the blockading squadron and got into Mobile. War was still raging between the north and south when this inquiry began, but the naval committee of congress was braved all the dangers and came to Washington and convinced the committee that it was superior in speed of the Oreto that enabled him to elude the union warships. Commander Preble was then reinstated, served with distinction for a number of years, and at 62 was retired as rear admiral.

A word may be in order regarding the privateer Florida, previously the Oreto. It changed its name to Florida as soon as it reached Mobile. One dark night in the following December it ran the blockade again, reached the high seas and began its career of destruction of northern merchantmen. During the first year it destroyed twenty-two such vessels. The steamer Electric Spark was captured by the Florida within a few miles of New York. During the fall of 1863 the Florida entered the port of Bahia, Brazil—a neutral port—where it anchored. At this time the union gunboat Wachusett, commanded by Captain Napoleon Collins, was also in port. On October 6, when part of the Florida's crew was ashore, at midnight, Captain Collins made an attempt to sink the Florida, but failing in this he captured the privateer and towed it out to sea. It was later sunk in Hampton Roads. For this breach of neutrality Secretary Seward later apologized to the Brazilian government.

People and Events

Four Industrial Workers of the World walking delegates in New York, after filling up at a restaurant, told the proprietor to charge it to the public. The police took the delegates away and the public will pay for their feed for the next thirty days, besides the shelter.

Postoffice Inspector E. P. Smith will start from San Francisco and will travel 3,000 miles, covering a period of three months, to inspect the postoffice at Oahu, Philippine islands. The inspection will probably require but half a day's work. This is the first inspection of this postoffice in seven years.

For the violent theft of two kisses from Miss Martha Drasen of Burlington, Wis., a jury at Racine soaked William Bushman \$100 for the first kiss and \$50 for the second. Mr. Bushman is hustling for the money and wondering at the same time why the second smack calls for more "sugar" than the first.

The Bee's Letter Box

UPLAND? Neb., Feb. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: Your letter box contains numerous articles of undoubted merit, and while that department of your newspaper shows in a lucid manner the popular feeling on many subjects, it must be noticed that in regard to the great war, the matter is very seldom discussed in an impartial way. The pro-German articles being signed by practically only Teutonic names, while those in rebuttal are nearly always from people bearing names suggestive of English extraction, or from nations allied to this side.

This is a remarkable illustration of the freedom of speech in our country, whereby we may express our opinion without fear of molestation in the shape of fines or prison from a government we have established of and for ourselves. And while discussions and queries based on racial considerations and qualities should be strictly avoided, tending to aggravate rather than conciliate people of different origin, the only regulation we have in our country, bearing on this subject, is a mild invitation from our president, expressed in terms of extreme moderation, to refrain from such discussions and to remain neutral in action, and, perhaps in thought.

Contrast this with the laws and punishments that are the rule in some European monarchies concerning "lese majeste," where servile officers of an almighty king or emperor are so many spies pouncing on the unfortunate who may inadvertently drop a remark not altogether respectful to his majesty, or to the established order of things. The question now squarely before us is, whether such democratic forms of government as exist in the United States, France, Switzerland and England are an improvement, a step forward, a progressive achievement over the old monarchic idea, or whether we are laboring under a delusion and should fall back to the prevailing ideas of government that obtained previous to the middle of the eighteenth century. Under a different form of government, should we propound the question thus:

Shall we strive for individual liberty, happiness, for a condition where our time may be employed for the benefit of humanity in general, and the adornment of our minds in particular, in other words, free cultivation of the arts of peace? Or shall we take the other course and confound ourselves in a body so thoroughly organized that the supreme end in view shall be material efficiency, where our every act and thought shall be devoted to the state, so that from our feverish activity, resources may be provided for our divinely appointed lords, to carry on an extension to all lands of this philosophy of force? Shall we exchange ourselves by work in time of peace, and lose our lives afterward in war, to kill our weaker brothers, so that some king or emperor may go down in history as the glorious conqueror of nations not so well organized?

This is the real question now involved in this great conflict, and the futile discussions as to who began the war, the assassination of a prince or two, are only details of the whole scheme whereby the assassination of millions is sought to be justified by the assassination of two individuals, effete scions of the result of cross-breeding which we do not tolerate in our horses, our cattle, or our hogs. And whereas, in democracies the leader of the nation is chosen by a system of selection calculated to secure the brightest mind and the most practical; in monarchies there is a careful system of allying cousin to cousin, whose interests were already related by numerous alliances before, so that from this system a ruler is born and divinely supplied with all the qualities necessary to rule, a system which we do not tolerate in our mental and body, a system against which legislation is directed in all civilized countries in so far as it would apply to the people.

But, as unnatural as this may seem, the harm would not be great if, as in Great Britain, this offspring of closely related parents, is merely a figure-head, who harmonizes the transition of the old system into the more practical and modern new method of conducting the affairs of a nation, until such time as it may be deemed best to dispense with the nominal head altogether, as the United States and France have done in a direct and radical way.

The present war is the result of the existence of abnormal conditions in one monarchy, where, in form only, there is constitutional restraint of the monarch, who, in this case, happens to possess some qualities, and who, on that account, has been able to dictate the policy of his empire.

As these qualities are of the nature to foster national vanities, the crown of psychopaths always surrounding a throne has made the case worse, and there is no wonder of the assumption by leader and subjects, of the title of the God chosen instrument of the chosen people. But let us not throw our invective against the Germans, they are, in spite of this tremendous mistake, a great people, and will live to realize their error. They have been led and educated from infancy by the nobility and the church, in order to retain their influence and privileges, have incultured into the minds of the people the idea of danger from attack by foreign nations, and this has resulted in solidarity and strength, which, coupled with their scientific achievements, their patience for work and intelligence, has resulted in unheard of rapidity in advancement in all branches but one: politics, in which they are 300 years behind the times. It is very unfortunate that nothing about the present war should be necessary to mendacious shock should be necessary to wake them from that political lethargy. They are still fighting the French revolution, and do not know it. But, whether they win or not, equality and fraternity will soon dawn in their minds and there is no doubt that, with their interest awakened in that direction, their advance along these lines will be as phenomenally rapid as in their industrial achievements. This war will cause them to see, whereas they have been blinded to by the nobility and clergy, the most powerful weapon in all ages, to perpetuate the privilege and abuses. L. BERTRAND.

Case for Wonder.

"It is a cause of wonder to all of us familiar with the real conditions," says the secretary of the Commissioners of Charities of New York City, "why the bread line still keeps filled with men apparently willing to accept private charity, while the city of New York stands ready to help them in such a way that they will not feel themselves in any sense the recipients of bounty to which they are really entitled." Like phenomena has been observed in other cities.

Editorial Siftings

Philadelphia Record: A great truth is set forth in the dictum of the court of appeals of Georgia that "a man at some time in his life may get drunk and his general character will be good." In their assaults upon the demon rum our prohibition friends too often overlook this fact.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: People with experience in fighting the Russians are prone to the conclusion that it is a bad thing to drive them far back into their own country. At least a certain Napoleon Bonaparte and some 600,000 men in his company came to that conclusion a century ago.

Baltimore American: The proposed blowing up of merchant ships by German submarines and the intent of England to starve out Germany are proofs that we are talking of myths in speaking of civilized war, for such savagery, compulsory though it may be, is beyond the whole intent and purpose of civilization.

New York World: Hereafter the war in Europe is to be conducted according to the rules that used to apply in the Gas-House district. If you can hit your adversary in the back of the head with a paving block when he is merely passing the time of day with a neighbor at the corner, you are "protecting your vital interests."

PASSING PLEASANTRIES.

Office Boy—Please, sir, me gran-mother—Employer—Is dead, eh? Office Boy—No, sir, she wants me to take her skatin', sir.—Boston Transcript.

"Trouble never comes single, does it?" "No; I never a family who last year had double pneumonia and the next year had twins."—Baltimore American.

"Critto—Here you have left the heroism with her face buried in her handkerchief! Playwright—Yes. Critto—Are you going to leave it there or have it exhumed?"—Boston Transcript.

OPTIMISM.

Baltimore American. Sometimes, life looks all dull and dark. With scarce a glimmer of hope's spark. And everything misfortune's mark. Naught left us but repining. The clouds will sudden roll away. And with them gloom which held us prey. While new life springs to brighter day. When out the sun comes shining.

Sick Women Attention

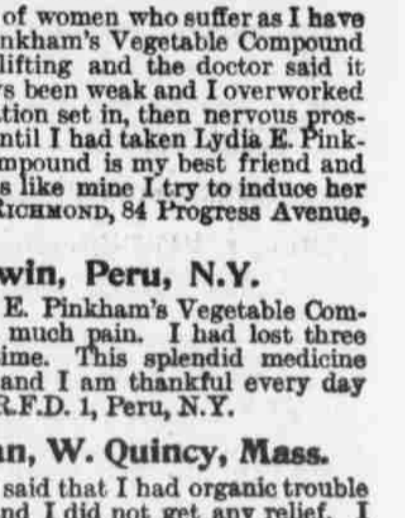
Is it possible there is a woman in this country who continues to suffer without giving Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial after all the evidence that is continually being published, which proves beyond contradiction that this grand old medicine has relieved more suffering among women than any other one medicine in the world? We have published in the newspapers of the United States more genuine testimonial letters than have ever been published in the interest of any other medicine for women—and every year we publish many new testimonials, all genuine and true. Here are three never before published:

From Mrs. S. T. Richmond, Providence, R. I. PROVIDENCE, R. I.—"For the benefit of women who suffer as I have done I wish to state what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me. I did some heavy lifting and the doctor said it caused a displacement. I have always been weak and I overworked after my baby was born and inflammation set in, then nervous prostration, from which I did not recover until I had taken Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. The Compound is my best friend and when I hear of a woman with troubles like mine I try to induce her to take your medicine."—Mrs. S. T. RICHMOND, 84 Progress Avenue, Providence, R. I.

From Mrs. Maria Irwin, Peru, N.Y. PERU, N.Y.—"Before I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I was very irregular and had much pain. I had lost three children, and felt worn out all the time. This splendid medicine helped me as nothing else had done, and I am thankful every day that I took it."—Mrs. MARIA IRWIN, R.F.D. 1, Peru, N.Y.

From Mrs. Jane D. Duncan, W. Quincy, Mass. SOUTH QUINCY, MASS.—"The doctor said that I had organic trouble and he doctored me for a long time and I did not get any relief. I saw Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound advertised and I tried it and found relief before I had finished the first bottle. I continued taking it all through middle life and am now a strong, healthy woman and earn my own living."—Mrs. JANE D. DUNCAN, Forest Avenue, West Quincy, Mass.

Write to LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICINE CO. (CONFIDENTIAL) LYNN, MASS., for advice. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence.



Busy Bee Boys and Girls

It's only a few day now until one of you will win this 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.

Dear Editor—I would like a bicycle very much and would be glad if someone would help me. Mae Townbridge, 2118 Grand Ave., Omaha, Neb.

Dear Editor—I am trying to win the Bike and would thank you very much if you would help me. Louis, Gerald Fleming, Coleridge, Cedar County, Neb.

Payments should be made to our authorized carrier or agent, or sent direct to us by mail.