

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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JANUARY CIRCULATION. 53,714

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas. D. W. 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.

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Thought for the Day. Selected by E. Virginia Kennedy. If you mean to act nobly, and seek to know the best things which God hath put within the reach of man, you must fix your mind on that end, and not on what will happen to you because of it.

The electric light con might as well come down. Hesitation will not save it. The tumbling price of wheat may require a steam callopo to make itself heard at flour mills and bake shops.

In law and in fact, the jitney is a common carrier. So very common that street cars are inclined to shy at it. The Plutes render to posterity the dubious service of forcing a revival of the forgotten art of making "good Indians."

If bread makers have the courage of their kick, why not come out in the open with an increased price for a sixteen-ounce loaf? A peace parley "made in America" would be more impressive if there was a certainty that those most in need of it would welcome the brand.

Reading between the lines of the political obituaries of Chicago's mayor it is evident that his performances were several miles behind his promises. It may be noted as a common human characteristic that the Italians who are striving to force their country into war are not crowding the recruiting offices of the reservists.

While the bakers of Omaha are squeezing the weight of the loaf the bakers of New York are hurrying back to the normal price of 5 cents. The latter heard from consumers and heeded the warning. Now watch how the leaders of a dying congress will eulogize its achievements and forget the growing embarrassment of shrunken national revenue. The evils that it created remain to worry its successor.

It is very nice of the Rockefeller Institute doctor to lay it on the hookworm, but a lot of people will still hold Major Wirtz, C. S. A., as being responsible for some of the ills suffered by the union men who were imprisoned at Andersonville. Chicago grain brokers doing business on 'change decline to show their books and records to sleuthing government officials. The brokers have too much regard for the health of innocent officials to risk their limbs among the ropes with which the market is rigged.

United States and the World. It is most inspiring to read so calm and cogent an article as that contributed by Viscount Bryce to the literature of the present war.

No philosopher has considered the American people with greater care or closer analytical inspection than James Bryce, and none could put into fewer words, or with stronger expression, his summing up of the conditions which make for American citizenship. He says:

The children of Europeans who are born in America grow up normal American citizens for all practical purposes. Their loyalty is to the Stars and Stripes, and their feeling for the land of their parents is comparatively weak. The truth of this statement is apparent to any who has given the matter thought.

Viscount Bryce further points out to the belligerents the desirability of permitting the United States to maintain its attitude of absolute impartiality, because it is the greatest of the neutral powers, and its actions on any of the important questions arising in connection with the war should not be affected in any degree by bias in favor of one or the other parties to the controversy.

Another Argument for Home Rule. The Omaha Commercial club has prepared for the information of its members a list of forty-six bills introduced in the legislature, directly affecting Omaha, and only indirectly, if at all, affecting any other community in the state.

Almost every one of these measures has to deal with matters which should properly be left to the action of the citizens of Omaha, without appealing to the law-making body of the state. A more forcible argument in favor of home rule for Omaha could scarcely be presented. Some day the citizens of Nebraska will tire of having so much of the time of the legislative session taken up by "discussing Omaha local affairs, and will force the city to look after its own business.

Profitable Time to Build. The spring building season in Omaha glows in the distance with the promise of big things.

Business and office buildings, apartments and homes, are projected, but active construction work is delayed for various reasons. Some of these enterprises are in the architect stage, too many in the talking stage. Yet at no time in the past three years have such profitable inducements in the building line been offered as the present season affords.

Compared with last spring or the previous year, a saving of from 10 to 15 per cent can be effected in the cost of a building, large or small, which is put up to contracting builders this spring. This is a moderate statement of the reduced cost of building now prevailing, and the reasons for it are not far to seek.

In the first place, the law of supply and demand is the operating force. Supply is greater than the demand in all the factors of building construction. Materials are substantially lower. The demand for lumber is insufficient to meet overhead expenses, consequently dealers cut down the margin of profit to stimulate business and keep things moving.

Labor and lumber constitute the two largest cost items in home building in Omaha. They are the factors which govern the responsible contractor's bid. Both are down to rock bottom. Besides these spurring inducements, the various loaning agencies are overloaded with money and could readily place \$1,000,000 in a month at normal rates on building securities.

It must be apparent to those contemplating a building of any class that the prevailing conditions are exceptionally favorable for profitable results. They insure full measure in labor and material for every dollar invested. Moreover, every dollar put into construction work stimulates a dormant labor market, revives activity in material yards, carries spring cheer to the homes of workmen and puts ginger in the various currents of trade. Thus the builder who promptly responds to the call of opportunity not only profits thereby, but also puts a spur to the mount of General Prosperity.

Uncle Sam in the Insurance Business. When the war in Europe broke out steps were immediately taken to protect American shipping owners by permitting the government to provide insurance for vessels and cargoes that could not otherwise be obtained.

The fruit of this action is now coming home. Two American ships, laden with American cotton, and bound for a German port, have been sunk in the North sea as a result of colliding with floating mines. In each instance the ship owners admit that the loss of the vessels and cargo under the circumstances was a natural risk in war times.

It will be very difficult, if not altogether impossible, to determine the responsibility of either of the belligerents for the presence of these vagrant mines in what is supposed to be "open" water. The United States government is concerned in the matter because it will be necessary to present and prosecute claims for indemnity because of the fact that the government has issued insurance on these vessels. To this end the president is seeking for the fullest information available with the understanding that any likelihood of suit will be lodged against both Germany and England.

This is but another novelty in the course of the war that has shattered many of the precedents, as well as the conventions, of civilized warfare. It also adds to the perplexity of the administration, which is conscientiously endeavoring to fairly meet the issues as presented.

The American Red Cross, since the European war began, has spent \$760,000 in maintaining eight hospitals in the various belligerent countries. The outpouring of American generosity to the victims of war through the Red Cross and other sources reflects the highest credit on the humane impulses of our people.

Forcing the Dardanelles

It is interesting to recall, at this moment, when the British and French fleets are battering the Dardanelles forts, that it was an American frigate called the George Washington which 14 years ago last October made the first passage of the Dardanelles after the historic strait had been "closed" to foreign vessels.

The children of Europeans who are born in America grow up normal American citizens for all practical purposes. Their loyalty is to the Stars and Stripes, and their feeling for the land of their parents is comparatively weak.

In 1908 a small British fleet under command of Admiral Duckworth sailed through the strait on a friendly mission, and again in 1912 a British fleet sailed through to Constantinople to assist in the prevention of the fall of that city into the hands of the Russians.

The Dardanelles, the ancient Hellespont, is one of the finest strategic points in the world and is invested with romantic and tragic history that has been the theme for no end of classic poetry and history.

After the Dardanelles are successfully negotiated there remains the forts of Constantinople and the Bosphorus guarding the waterway into the Black Sea. The difficulties of that operation can hardly be as great as the Dardanelles, where a much narrower channel give land for a decided advantage.

For five hundred years, far longer than any other European dynasty, the house of Othman has ruled from Constantinople. Again and again has Turkey been attacked and won.

The direct results of Turkish conquests have been that while in the last 500 years the nations of western Europe have been marching on with progressive civilization the natives of eastern Europe have been suffering 500 years of bondage, with all its frightful attendants.

Second, in your Monday's issue just before me, in your first column are these words in the headlines: "Fight Three Hours With Naked Bayonets." It naturally makes me ask if it is the usual custom to fight with "covered" bayonets?

Twice Told Tales. The Funny Printer. Let us all try to console ourselves, when our clients tear their hair over some typographical error, that to err is human—especially to err typographically.

Another Chicago paper reported that the propeller Alaska was leaving port with a cargo of 40,000 bushels of oats. A Buffalo newspaper, in describing the scene when Roosevelt took the oath of office as president, said it was a spectacle never to be forgotten when Roosevelt, before the chief justice of the supreme court, took his simple bath.—Associate Advertising.

"As She is Spoke." William Lackaye, the player, is a stickler for correct English on and off the stage, and he never loses an opportunity to put the erring on the right path in this respect.

Popular Poverty. Katie, aged 7, was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Jones. One day when the new minister called, Katie, upon her own invitation, went into the parlor to entertain him until her mother came down stairs.

Chicago's unemployed see a rift in the clouds. Work has commenced on the site of the new Union station. Eventually it is estimated that 2,000 men will be employed in the work of construction.

The Bee's Letter Box

Insists He is Correct. CLARKS, Neb., Feb. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: To answer "P. A. P." of the eighteenth I say, that I am not mistaken concerning Germans having to learn Danish, and could prove the same by living witnesses that I am right.

Now, being under German rule, all foreigners should submit themselves to German rule and regulations, the same as we have to do here. If you don't they would better get out of Schleswig-Holstein, as a good man of north Schleswig thought better.

Lawyers Fit for Judges. CHADRON, Neb., Feb. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: In The Bee you say: "Lawyers big enough for the highest bench ought to have the courage of state-wide run."

Salary of the President. TILDEN, Neb., Feb. 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: What is the present salary of the president of the United States? F. L. PUTNEY.

Use of Words. SHERIDAN, Wyo., Feb. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: Please pardon me for scribbling to two articles in your paper. First, to the "School teachers' quarrel over the use of the word 'was'."

Second, in your Monday's issue just before me, in your first column are these words in the headlines: "Fight Three Hours With Naked Bayonets."

Second the Motion. SOUTH OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: With your kind permission I should like to endorse every word written in this morning's Bee by "Anti-force." J. G. BLESSING.

People and Events. Senator Bailey Waggoner of Atchison, a veteran legislator and attorney of Kansas, sang his swan song in the legislature one day last week. It was an appeal for generous treatment for the state orphan asylum at Atchison, an institution for which he has acted as foster father.

What has been a puzzle to laymen more than to lawyers in Philadelphia has suddenly vanished from the courts. It has been a common practice of minor courts of equal jurisdiction for one judge to revoke the sentence imposed by another and pardon the offender.

Chicago's unemployed see a rift in the clouds. Work has commenced on the site of the new Union station. Eventually it is estimated that 2,000 men will be employed in the work of construction.

New York City is trying the experiment of closing certain streets to traffic and letting the children romp in them. Huge signs are stretched across these thoroughfares, reading: "Street closed for play."

Editorial Viewpoint

Washington Star: The enormous cost of war is not accompanied by conditions which support the theory that anything which puts money into circulation is of public benefit.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "When peace finally comes to Mexico I shall retire to my ranch," says Villa. Let us hope that he don't have to wait till his next incarnation to taste the joys of farming.

Kansas City Star: Fifty-five unguarded convicts from Leavenworth prison gave a minstrel performance in Leavenworth and "returned to jail with not a man missing." They are to be congratulated—professionals frequently do not get off so easily.

Baltimore American: Heroic deeds, individual heroism and collective heroism, has been so much a matter of daily performance in the strife beyond the Atlantic that no demonstration of nerve courage, however extraordinary, now excites surprise.

Indiana News: Placing 1,000,000 volunteers under training according to the Army and Navy Journal, "would be a measure of peace," but when one recalls that this is just the sort of measure that Europe took previous to last August, somehow one doesn't feel much confidence in it.

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MIRTHFUL REMARKS.

"The new recruit is no good," growled the officer in charge. "Why?" queried the sergeant. "Every time I cry 'halt,' he throws up his hands and pleads for me to spare his life, even if I take everything he has."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Skinnum—I want to interest you in a mining proposition. It's a good thing." "Huh—uh—perhaps it is; but I'm not a Judge."—Baltimore American.

"Did'n' Buff Jackson tell you dat mule he traded to you is a powerful kicker?" "He didn't 'zactly tell me, but he tried to be honest. He showed in two bottles of liniment an' a crotch without no extra charge."—Washington Star.

"Yes, I saw Chawlie Chippendale at the front." "Good old Chawlie, I suppose he was waving his sword in the sunlight and shouting, 'Come on, lads, come on.'" "Well, no, he wasn't. He was waving a spade and yelling 'Dig, you Tommes, dig.'"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Doing any good?" "Some," said the man who had been indicted for grafting. "I've sold a confessor to another, and now I'm dickering with a third for a confirmation of the original expose."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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Musings of a Cynic

A woman has no sense of humor, which may explain why she sometimes takes a man seriously. Many a man claims to have the dearest little wife in the world, when he really means the cheapest.

Many a man deludes himself with the idea that he has the world at his feet, only to have his foot slip. Quantity doesn't always count. A little charity to the living is worth a wagon-load of flowers to the dead.

Friendship is essential to happiness. Even the man who is his own best friend can't get along very well without a few others.—New York Times.

Modesty forbids the enumeration of lawyers equally experienced and equally well informed with the district judges named above who are located in almost every county seat west of the tenth meridian, so why haw! us out whose only fault is that we prefer the simple life and the healthful ozone a few hundred miles away, rather than the highly stimulated atmosphere of our metropolis which you so justly admire? Yours truly, ALLEN G. FISHER.

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Some little boy or girl will be happy next week riding this Bicycle. Are you the lucky one? You have until 4 p. m., March 6 to try for it.

Making the small merchant a profitable customer. I have a list of merchants in 500 towns that are too small to send salesmen to. Once or twice a week I send each of these buyers a Western Union Night Letter or Day Letter quoting a list of especially attractive buys.

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.