

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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JULY CIRCULATION. 52,328. State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss. Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average daily circulation for the month of July, 1914, was 52,328.

ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public. Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

This Nebraska ozone is food, drink and air all at once. Those Japs certainly compose beautiful declarations of war. The German war lord is trying to make a door mat of Brussels.

If war takes the "flower of manhood," what does it leave, the weeds? Too many men seem to think the way to show their colors is to show their teeth.

Descriptions of the air battle above the clouds still belong to the fiction writer. It's a cinch that the judges and clerks of election are heartily in favor of the short ballot. It remains to be seen what effect the war will have on those \$2,000-a-night grand opera stars.

To avoid suspicion of being a spy, leave camera behind when traveling in the war zone. Little Japan, it seems, has a hard time keeping its feet on the ground while the band plays.

Be sure that the year 1914 will take up a lot of pages in that serial entitled "Universal History." "After the war, what?" asks the Detroit Free Press. Why borrow unpleasant thoughts prematurely?

Presumably the next water works postal card exhibit will be issued just a few days before the November election. Still, if this war is a scourge of God to punish man's wickedness, how explain how it happens to leave some of the noncombatants out?

"Mint springs eternal in the human breast," chirps the Baltimore Sun. It goes deeper than the breast, too, in old Maryland and Kaintuck. Those European belligerents may stop up some of the channels of news, but they cannot censor away the war correspondent's imagination.

German railway property in the orient is causing trouble and might serve to remind Americans of the excellent idea underlying their Monroe doctrine. "We, by the grace of heaven," begins Japan's war declaration. That makes the third power warring by divine direction, which ought to make this a very righteous slaughter.

Here in Omaha we have the short ballot for city elections, with only seven crossmarks to be made, and the same argument applies in favor of the short ballot for state and county elections. Darius Miller, the president of the Burlington, who has just died, was another great railroad man who worked his way from the bottom to the top, where there is still plenty of room.

The Indiana democrat, Mr. Lamb, selected to be ambassador to Mexico upon re-establishment of our official relations, has died without waiting for his commission. There may yet be another call for Mr. Lind. Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha. The Fifth Ward Republican club had a pole raising at Sixteenth and Burt streets. Henry D. Estabrook presided, and John M. Thurston made the principal speech.

Conflicting Claims. With conflicting claims of victory coming every day from the opposing armies of Europe, the difficulty of determining the true status of affairs is obvious. "Germans report defeat of both Russian and French invaders," says one bulletin, and another, "Official Russian dispatches claim a victory for the Russian forces over three German corps."

Very naturally in a day when a war correspondent is an anachronism, in the sense that he no longer gets to the front in person and all the news must be screened through the sieve of rigid censorship, the task of reconciling such claims is greater, and at the same time the enormous extent of the lines and the huge number of troops makes it impossible to follow their movements minutely.

And yet despite all obstacles, we may be substantially sure that with every resource of systematic news-gathering exerted, the essential information received through regular channels is dependable. In all probability inaccuracy consists more in the incompleteness of detail than in distortion of fact.

In the Orient. Japan's declaration of war on Germany, though deplorable, is not unexpected. Rather it comes as a natural climax of events arising under Japan's treaty alliance with England and directly as the result of Germany's rejection of the mikado's ultimatum, which also was fore-ordained.

The fear that by some covert means the United States might become involved against our will should be relieved by the mutual relations now existing between the two nations. Japan is said to find the keenest pleasure in the United States' reiterated resolution of preserving strict neutrality at all hazards, and we have ground for rejoicing in Japan's promise to localize its activities in Kiao Chow, whose recovery it seeks only for restoring it to China.

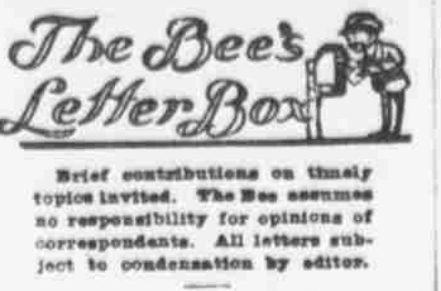
While the war clouds have spread over Japan and China, Americans may nevertheless feel secure in the conviction that our country will not be dragged in except to preserve our own national honor. And the president is determined to avoid such a necessity. As the great neutral power, we have placed our services at the disposal of all alike, yet their accommodation is not to be permitted to come between us and our avoiding a worse than useless war.

How to Shorten the Ballot. The Bee's definite plan for reducing the number of state offices to be filled by popular election was put forth as a first step toward a short ballot. We realize that to accomplish this object by way of constitutional amendment will require four years, but that is all the more reason why its inauguration should not be delayed.

The second step for the short ballot should be taken by eliminating all the nonpolitical county offices and consolidating needlessly duplicated offices. This can be accomplished for the most part by legislation effective at the expiration of the present incumbents' terms without doing anyone injustice.

If we had our way The Bee would retain as elective county officers only the sheriff, clerk, treasurer, prosecuting attorney and members of the county board, and we would add a new elective office of comptroller to serve both county and city as does now the treasurer. We would make the surveyor and superintendent appointive by the county board, and the district court clerk appointive by the judges as is the supreme court clerk and the county court clerk. The register of deeds and assessor we would merge as divisions under the county clerk, and the office of coroner we would abolish altogether as nothing but a graft, of which more later.

Standards of Public Life. Two references in the current Collier's to our standards of public life are conducive to thoughtful reflection. In his comment on congress Mark Sullivan declares that "the intellectual average of the lower house—and of the senate also—has become low," and in an editorial discussion on the possibility of Bailey coming back we find the assertion that "the reform of the senate which came with direct election" resulted clearly "in a distinct intellectual deterioration."



Brief contributions on timely topics invited. The Bee assumes no responsibility for opinions of correspondents. All letters subject to condensation by editor. Hopes to See Germany a Republic. KENNARD, Neb., Aug. 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: Regarding the big war now going on I believe Germany will be defeated. She ought to be too, as she has been an aggressive nation for over fifty years.

Francis of Preaching Selfishness. SPENCER, Ia., Aug. 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: After 2,000 years of Christian civilization the leading Christian nations of the old world are flying at each other's throats with a prayer on their lips to Almighty God to guide them in their murderous mission. It would seem that it is time for the thinking people to wake up to the fact that we cannot go on and recruit our religious ranks by appealing to the selfish instincts of mankind without reaping just such rewards.

Socialists, War and Human Nature. OMAHA, Aug. 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: Because the socialists of Germany and France are engaged in war while preaching peace, it is no true sign that they are inconsistent, nor is it a good indication that socialism would not abolish war.

Editorial Viewpoint. Washington Post: It looks as though Yon Lind had been appointed censor general of Europe. Springfield Republican: "Home travel" clubs will have their work cut out for them this winter. Wall Street Journal: Emergency currency might be better printed. It looks sorry it emerged.

Echoes of the War. Kansas City Star: Some one in Europe not only let loose the dogs of war but left the gate of the zoo open. Louisville Courier-Journal: The British are so busy that they have stopped wasting time putting Mrs. Pankhurst in jail. Washington Post: With the queen of the Netherlands and grand duchess of Luxembourg in the thick of it, what more could the militants ask?

When the Germans Marched on Paris. BY FRANK H. VIKETELLY. (Managing Editor of New Standard Dictionary.) PART I. Forty-four years ago, on the 23rd of July, a shot was fired which probably proved the most costly shot in history, for it cost those who fired it \$1,571,000.00 and the loss of 5,000 square miles of territory.

Twice Told Tales. Smith's Experiment. Congressman Ellsworth R. Bathrick of New Jersey, joined in when the talk turned to savage dogs. He said he was reminded of a party named Smith. Some time ago Smith and a friend were discussing the dog question, when the friend remarked that the most vicious dog might be utterly subdued merely by a person sitting down and staring at him.

Budweiser. America's Favorite Beverage. Anheuser Busch Co. of Nebr. DISTRIBUTORS. Family trade supplied by G. H. HANSEN, Dealer. Phone Douglas 2506. OMAHA NEBRASKA.

Midsummer Dreams. Philadelphia Ledger: "Free ships make free goods," unless international law is to be as maltrated as treaties have been. Washington Star: Some of the remarks issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission sound like reports of an indignation meeting. Philadelphia Record: By the time all the wheat is threshed we'll have the bottom to take it to Europe and bring the price of it back.

SMILE PROVOKERS. Farmer-Foolie has a great scheme and he invited me to "get in on the ground floor." "Careen-Don't forget that that is where the trap-door are!"—Buffalo Express. "Have you been able to meet all the demands of your creditors?" "Meet them! I haven't been able to avoid them!"—Buffalo Express. Little Brother—Bet he'd kiss you if I weren't here. Sister—You insolent boy! Go away this very minute!—Penn State Froth.

SEEING—HEARING—SPEAKING. See not! If others' acts should cause a tear to fall, Perchance it was not meant to hurt at all. Though even the smallest actions leave a trace. That all the powers of earth cannot efface. Some dark and sombre, others clear and bright. Therefore, see not the shadow, but the light. And strive that all the way thy path shall be. A radiant guide into humanity. Faults great and small are all the common lot. Upon life's way. Therefore, all but things see not!

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Advertisement for Safe Home Match. Features an illustration of a matchbox and text: "For Women Who Think! Club Women! Mothers! Women who are leaders in the community. You are interested, almost as much as we are, in extending the use of the Safe Home Match. It is the most reliable, the most efficient and the safest match that can be made."

Advertisement for The Bee newspaper. Features a large heart-shaped graphic with the word "Read!" and text: "Read one installment of 'The Trey O' Hearts' Each Sunday in THE BEE. Twice Told Tales. Smith's Experiment. Budweiser. America's Favorite Beverage. Anheuser Busch Co. of Nebr. DISTRIBUTORS. Family trade supplied by G. H. HANSEN, Dealer. Phone Douglas 2506. OMAHA NEBRASKA."