

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Circulation figures. Includes entries for State of Nebraska, Douglas County, etc.

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Merry Christmas. And the same to you.

Christmas is the children's day. See that they get the most out of it.

By the way, Santa Claus, don't forget to leave Omaha that new auditorium.

When it comes to Christmas presents Uncle Sam beats all his European cousins out.

The ship subsidy bill can be put in the class of measures that will not be floated at this session of congress.

It won't be a very efficient war measure hereafter to cut the cables if Marconi's little scheme works out all right.

The way ex-Governor Hogg of Texas is denouncing the story that oil has been exhausted at Spindletop indicates that he still has oil well stock to sell.

The luckiest strike in oil in Nebraska to be anticipated in the near future will certainly be that of Governor Mickey's appointee to the state oil inspectorship.

With disastrous earthquakes, famines and other mishaps of nature in so many countries, Americans may well conclude that there is after all a pretty good land to live in.

The news that a violent snowstorm has been raging in and about Constantinople affords little consolation to the people here who see their coal piles melting away, while prices are still at almighty altitudes.

If Mr. Vanderbilt gets daily health bulletins in the papers during his present sickness how often would the physicians have to announce the condition of their patient if J. Pierpont Morgan were under the weather?

The congressional mill has closed down for the holidays, but the third house consisting of the Washington correspondents is in continuous session, doing even more legislating than when the legislators are there.

Army officers everywhere are, with few exceptions, in favor of the restoration of the canteen. After another experience or two with holiday cheer furnished by the groggeries on the fringe of the posts the verdict will be unanimous.

Notwithstanding Secretary Shaw is a radical gold standard man, he did not let the silver anniversary of his marriage go by without due celebration with his friends. Still his political enemies may make a handle out of the fact that he would permit no presents.

Judge McPherson's decision overruling the Iowa supreme court and holding that express companies can handle liquor packages for Iowa C. O. D. from other states did not come in time for Christmas business in the prohibition counties, but it will answer every exigency connected with New Year's swearing off.

The situation with reference to the statehood bills pending in the senate may be summed up briefly in a few words. All the senators are for the admission of all the territories, but they are not agreed on the time that admission should take place. If a vote were taken on the date statehood should become effective it would vary all the way from next week to next century.

A strong effort is being made to rehabilitate the bicycle trust, which got punctured on the rough road of syndicate finance. The scheme involves practically a heavy assessment of the stock, showing that in the end it is the stockholder that gets the worst of it in such cases. They will have to sacrifice their stock or put up more money on an uncertainty as to pulling their enterprise through.

CHRISTMAS.

The one day in the year that is always welcome and is welcomed by all, that never loses its power to gladden and cheer, that is ever an inspiration to the kindly offices and generous acts, that whether the sun shine or the sky be leaden with winter storm still diffuses a genial and joyful influence, that is the most truly symbolic of Christian days—the merry Christmas—is with us again.

We need not be concerned about the genesis of this day, whether it had its origin in barbarous times ages before the Christian era or had a more recent beginning. Neither need we be troubled with considering the past or the various methods of its observance. We need only be concerned with the spirit of the day as we find it and with the influence it exerts, and in these there appears every reason why it should rank first among days in the affection and appreciation of the Christian world.

The observance of Christmas is getting farther away, with each succeeding generation, from the austerity which once characterized it and becoming more and more festive and joyous. It is not therefore losing its moral and religious influence. On the contrary, there is reason to believe that in its newer character, in the greater care that is taken in its observance to minister to the happiness of the young, associating with such ministrations easily impressed lessons of the significance of the day, far more is accomplished for moral and religious effect than was possible under the restraints which Puritanism imposed upon the observance of Christmas.

The churches have remitted none of their proper labor on this day, though the sermons may be somewhat shorter; the Sunday schools make the occasion one of such exceptional attraction as to draw into them many children who would not otherwise enter their doors, and Christian beneficence takes a broader sweep on this day than on any other of the year, doing it, too, with a warmth and heartiness and geniality that make it doubly valuable.

So we say that no matter when or where or how Christmas originated, its spirit and influences as we find them are wholesome and elevating and good. The gladness this day brings into millions of homes, brightening the life of childhood and sweeping away the shadows that hang over the pathway of age, the testimonial of love and friendship it calls out, the family gatherings it invites, and the heartfelt greetings it evokes, are all humanizing and Christianizing in their tendency, creating delightful memories that never fade, but rather become with the advancing years more delightful and more cherished. May no reader of The Bee lack today any of its legitimate pleasures in our sincere wish, and so we extend to all the greeting of a merry Christmas.

PROPOSED BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

Among the suggestions for legislation which is to be the Omaha Commercial club will re-enforce is one for the creation of a Bureau of Statistics for Nebraska, with a view to advertising the resources of the state as an attraction for immigrants and investors. The promoters of the proposed bureau overlook the fact that Nebraska already maintains a bureau or department devoted to a compilation of statistics and that the work of this department, so far as it goes, is highly satisfactory. We refer to the work under the deputy labor commissioner, which has been expanded so as to include the gathering of information with reference not only to labor and labor conditions, but also to the entire industrial activity of the commonwealth.

It is true that in the matter of crop reports Nebraska is behind some other states, notably Kansas, where, under the State Board of Agriculture, a system has been perfected of gathering news of growing crops from the opening of the season to the completion of the harvest, as well as the usual statistics as to acreage, animals and farm products. That such statistics for Nebraska are desirable and would be useful goes without saying. Whether a new and independent bureau of statistics is needed to do this is open to question. What we should do, if more varied industrial statistics are wanted is to strengthen and build up the work of the labor commissioner and place him in position to command the cooperation of county authorities and assessing officers. To duplicate present machinery of government simply out of sentiment, or to give employment to somebody out of a job, would be unnecessary expense without producing any better results.

OUR HISTORIC POLICY VINDICATED.

It is perfectly gratuitous to assert, as some partisan critics of President Roosevelt are asserting, that his administration has backed down from the traditional principles of the Monroe doctrine. The explicit avowals of the British and German governments that they propose no infringement of the Monroe doctrine, that they intend neither to oppress Venezuela nor to seize its territory, establish the exact contrary. It is rather a triumph of the administration to secure recognition of the American doctrine without expatiating assertiveness or unnecessary spread-eggsism. There is absolutely nothing new in the position that the Monroe doctrine does not protect South American governments in wrongdoing, and that they must, like other governments, respond in damages where the subjects of foreign countries have been injured in person and property.

To assume that the Monroe doctrine was ever intended to suspend in the case of the countries of the new world the principles of international justice and comity which obtain among civilized nations, and which we ourselves both submit to and enforce upon others, is preposterous. Time and again the government of the United States has

paid damages for injuries to subjects of foreign nations, and it is absurd to suppose that the administration of President Roosevelt or any other typical American would establish any different rule for the so-called South American republics, under gauge of Monroism or otherwise. What the Monroe doctrine in its original intent and subsequent development does do is to interpose to prevent their dismemberment or the appropriation of their territory by European aggression, no matter on what pretense.

The present administration, having enforced this principle, even to the point of securing in advance positive assurances of its observance, the essence of the Monroe doctrine has in fact been vindicated in the most notable manner. The preliminaries to arbitration of the whole subject assume the inviolability of our position on that doctrine, and the suggestion of the chief European governments, interested that President Roosevelt himself shall act as arbitrator is a precedent establishing the substance of our historic policy with the most signal emphasis.

ROOSEVELT AND ARBITRATION.

President Roosevelt has received a formal request from the European governments to act as arbitrator in the Venezuelan dispute. There is no intimation as to what the decision of the president may be, but having already had the matter under consideration and conferred with his cabinet and others in public life in regard to it, and realizing also the desirability of an early determination, it may confidently be expected that a decision will be reached without unnecessary delay.

The president has been strongly urged not to accept the task and some weighty reasons are given why he should decline it, and continue his effort to induce the powers to submit the controversy to The Hague tribunal, which was created for the express purpose of adjudicating such disputes and is ready to do so in this case. One of the objections to Mr. Roosevelt acting as arbitrator is that it would subject him to the criticism certain to follow from the disappointed party to the controversy, but this is not a consideration that is likely to have any great influence with the president. There is no doubt that all the parties have entire and implicit confidence in his integrity, fairness and impartiality and would accept his award without complaint. A more serious objection appears to be that in regard to the position which the United States would be placed in. The request of the European governments that President Roosevelt act as arbitrator is very generally regarded as an exceedingly shrewd piece of diplomacy, the credit for which belongs to the German foreign office, which very likely was prompted by Emperor William. It is felt that the president acting as arbitrator would place the United States under some implied obligation to see that the award is enforced. It is apprehended that the ultimate purpose of the allies is to press this country into some sort of an acknowledgment of responsibility for the conduct of the countries in this hemisphere over which it has extended the protection of the Monroe doctrine. But it would seem that this objection may be removed by an explicit stipulation that our government will assume no responsibility in the matter, that whatever the award of the president it will not in the slightest degree commit the United States. Moreover, it is extremely doubtful if the European governments are actuated by any such motive as some are disposed to ascribe to them. It is more reasonable to think that they want President Roosevelt as arbitrator solely because they have full faith in his wisdom, integrity and sense of justice.

We may be sure that the president will give this matter the careful and deliberate consideration which its very great importance calls for. No one can be more anxious than he for an amicable settlement of the grave trouble and the country may confidently look for a judicious determination of the question before him.

MINISTER BOWEN'S GOOD WORK.

The United States minister at Caracas, Herbert W. Bowen, is receiving merited commendation for the ability and tact he has shown since the beginning of the Venezuelan affair. Immediately upon the severing of diplomatic relations between the European governments and Venezuela, Minister Bowen was entrusted with the task of looking after the interests and welfare of British and German subjects in Venezuela and he discharged this duty most acceptably and satisfactorily to the British and German governments. The subjects of those countries have been fully protected and the valuable service rendered by the American minister has been cordially acknowledged. Conclusive evidence of the popularity of Mr. Bowen with President Castro was furnished when he was selected to represent the Venezuelan government in proposing arbitration, he having been given practically a free hand in the matter. All that he has done in the difficult and delicate position of sole representative in Venezuela of the United States, Great Britain and Germany has been marked by intelligence, tact and good judgment, giving him high rank among contemporary diplomatists. Mr. Bowen entered the consular service twelve years ago, during which time he has had considerable diplomatic experience and throughout has made a most creditable record.

NO GREATER DANGER EXISTS IN OUR MIDST

than this infamous method of robbing the people by corrupting their trusted representatives. It is a menace to our civic and political life. It is anarchy, it strikes an insidious and deadly blow at government. It substitutes the debauching moneyed power of irresponsible corporations, acting through

LIVE TO FIVE SCORE.

Increasing Age-Limit Shown by Census Returns. The ready reckoner of the bureau of vital statistics in the census department has reared some tall columns of figures on human ages, and in contemplating the finished product with much satisfaction. Everything about life and death which the census takers could gather are piled up on these columns, and furnish an abundance of material for those who thrive on figures and tentative conclusions. A correspondent of the Record-Herald found much meat in them—meat for thought and speculation—and deftly masticated them into prose. One of the most important facts that the ready reckoner has logically deduced from his comprehensive material is that which proves that there are more centenarians accumulating in this country during every decade, and the natural corollary that the average length of life within our boundaries is appreciably increasing.

First of all, we find in this report the statement that there are, or were in 1900, 3,586 persons in the United States who are 100 years of age or upward. This may not seem particularly impressive as an indication of growing vitality when it is placed beside the item that puts our population at 74,000,000, but it means something altogether different when one is told that it gives us twice as many centenarians as there are in Germany, England, France, Scotland and Serbia, with a combined population of 125,850,000.

Incidental food for argument is afforded by a further examination of the figures in the cases of the foreign countries mentioned in this connection by the ready reckoner, and in but one instance do they come out as any glory. It shows that Germany, with a population of 55,000,000, has 775 centenarians; that England, with 32,000,000, has 146; that Scotland, with 4,000,000, has 44; that France, with 40,000,000, has 213; that Italy, with 32,000,000, has 123; that Austria, with 12,000,000, has 11; that Serbia, with only 2,250,000 people, has 117; and that the United States has 3,586.

Turning again to our own centenarians, we find that out of the 3,586 almost two-thirds of them are women, the exact roster being 2,241 women and 1,345 men, and that out of the 3,117 that are native born 1,698 are men and 2,098 are women.

There are, it appears, 118 Indian centenarians, two Chinese and one Japanese, and 72.8 per cent of the whole number are negroes—388 males and 1,967 females. The ready reckoner of the census bureau says, however, that a considerable grain of salt should be taken with these figures regarding Ethiopian longevity, as the older a negro grows the more vivid his imagination becomes.

One noticeable oddity in all statistics concerning centenarians is that showing how steadily the proportion of the sexes is maintained among them from one census to the next. More than half of them, too, are always colored.

Of the foreign born centenarians in the United States, the census man sets down 45 per cent as Irish, 18.4 per cent as German, 8.4 per cent as Canadian, 6.6 per cent as English, 2.0 per cent as Japanese and 1.0 per cent as Chinese.

The average length of life in the United States ten years ago was, according to the ready reckoner, only thirty-one years. Now, according to the same authority, it is thirty-two years. This isn't much to be commended, but it is a step in the right direction, and it means that the child born 100 years hence, granting that the same proportional increase continues.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE CENSUS INFERENCES

regarding the prolongation of life it is pointed out by other authorities that sufficient emphasis cannot be laid upon the importance of occupation, or rather the choice of occupation, among those who wish to avoid the grave as long as possible.

The following table shows the ratio between occupation and mortality among a thousand persons noted by life insurance companies:

Table with 2 columns: Occupation and Mortality rate. Includes entries for Physicians and lawyers, Teachers and clergymen, Musicians, etc.

AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS SINCE THE LAST CENSUS

has taken practically no notice of the world that the public generally will miss the tremendous significance of the announcement now made at Halifax. To appreciate it better one has only to consider that but a very few years ago telegraphy without wire was regarded as something well out of the range of possible attainment. Even after its practicability for short distances had been demonstrated the idea of sending messages across the Atlantic without wire was regarded as the dream of a visionary enthusiast. Most certainly, it appears, has succeeded not only in sending messages across the ocean, but in demonstrating beyond all reasonable doubt that this may be done a regular method of communication for the future time that means of securing secrecy in military operations may be of no avail.

TRAGEDY OF THE GREAT TRIUMPH.

Chicago News. So gradually has the possibility of wireless telegraphy been made known to the world that the public generally will miss the tremendous significance of the announcement now made at Halifax. To appreciate it better one has only to consider that but a very few years ago telegraphy without wire was regarded as something well out of the range of possible attainment. Even after its practicability for short distances had been demonstrated the idea of sending messages across the Atlantic without wire was regarded as the dream of a visionary enthusiast. Most certainly, it appears, has succeeded not only in sending messages across the ocean, but in demonstrating beyond all reasonable doubt that this may be done a regular method of communication for the future time that means of securing secrecy in military operations may be of no avail.

IT CAN BE DONE.

It is probable that this is exactly the kind of occupation the sage of Concord would have prescribed for his descendant under such circumstances. Philadelphia Ledger. A decision of great possible importance is announced from London in the Taft Vail Railway Company against the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. The verdict is in favor of the company against the union, which is held responsible for "agitation, molestation and interfering with the business of the railway by picketing, intimidation of employees and other means. This case has been pending for a long time and has now reached a decision in the high court of justice. The act of Parliament permitting the incorporation of trade unions was designed for their benefit, but it is seen that such incorporation carries with it accountability. Though the question of liability is reserved by the court, the liability of the union for damages resulting from the enforcement of a strike is established by the verdict. This is sufficient reason for the objection generally held by labor leaders in this country to the proposition that labor unions should be incorporated.

THE CYNIC'S SELF-DECEPTION.

Danger of Overdoing the Doubting Inclination. Kansas City Star. Phillips Brooks once made the kindly criticism of Harvard university that it turned out men who were more afraid lest they believed something untrue than lest they failed to believe some truth. Perhaps it is as well that some people are inclined to be skeptical on all matters. Buckle used to contend that civilization had its origin in skepticism and that to the critical attitude will be due all the progress that the world can hope to make. Yet there is danger of overdoing the doubting inclination. Many a man who prides himself on his ability to penetrate shams is the dupe of his own skepticism. He has distorted a view of things as the person who obstinately refuses to see any motives except good ones. The extent to which a man may be deceived by his own smartness frequently appears in politics. A professional politician who, as Croker said, is working for his own pocket all the time frequently has no conception of the motives of such a man, for instance, as President Roosevelt. When the president was police commissioner of New York a certain politician in the administration was fighting his efforts for decent government and blocking every move he tried to make. Jacob Ellis happened to be in the office when a political police officer came in and attempted to curry favor with his chief by urging a raid on a disreputable place where he had information that the enemy would be found that night. Ellis did not know the man's errand at the time, but he heard Roosevelt exclaim: "No, sir, I don't fight that way." That police officer would probably have put the man down as a "rucker," who should have told him that the police commissioner would not seize any opportunity to strike at his opponent.

Justin McCarthy tells how Disraeli once observed in a conversation with John Bright: "Of course you are both in politics for the glory of it." And when Bright protested that he was in Parliament only because he thought he could do something there for his country, Disraeli smiled cynically, shook his head and walked away. For all his shrewdness, he could not understand such a character as Bright's. Voltaire, as was perhaps inevitable, considering his times, attacked the whole scheme of the church. What an advance is shown from his attitude to that of the author of "The Washerwoman's Song," with its insight into the meaning of Christianity for this man, at least.

Of course there is a lamentable amount of hypocrisy and selfishness in the world. "Fraternal children of dust," the hymn runs, "and feeble as frail." But the cynic who observes only the bad in the world, and who looks at the world as a whole through the irritating dillard who refuses to see any evil in the world. A newspaper's news columns frequently recount sad instances of crime and of heartlessness. But that is because selfishness and devotion to duty are so common that most cases of the sort have no news value. It is the unusual that attracts people. The person whose mind is really open and whose insight is keen enough to discern the truth may see plenty of little follies and bits of vanity to smile at, but he will discover many exhibitions of selfishness. Yet he will be confronted on every hand with such an amount of genuine honesty, sincerity and regard for duty that he cannot avoid taking a hopeful view of things. The first rays of belief in youth may prove false. A promise of disillusionment may be necessary. But this means simply that untrue values are swept aside and that the person has acquired sufficient experience to see the world as it is. When this process is complete the man, if he be of the right stuff, will have a surer faith in humanity than before, because it is grounded, not on fantasy, but on fact.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Senator Teller is at Denver looking closely after his senatorial interests.

Short weight coal dealers in Chicago are getting full weight sentences from the courts.

Booker T. Washington can sleep and wake at will. Few men have such control over their minds.

The center of population of the United States is in Henry Marr's barnyard, near Columbus, Ind.

The Chinese emperor, in his capacity of high priest, has to offer at least forty-six sacrifices to different gods in the course of a year.

Robert E. Peary, the Arctic explorer, is making a report to the department of the New York navy, looking after the civil engineering operations being conducted there.

Miss Anna Hovevel, who is in America studying our way of editing newspapers and magazines, is the editor of the largest newspaper in Norway, the Aftenposten, of Christiania.

When Henry Marr of Columbus, Ind., goes to his barn lot and steps upon a neatly carved slab bearing the inscription "1900" he has 18,650,000 people on all four sides of him for he is the center of population man of the whole United States.

Spencer Trask of New York and George Foster Peabody of Brooklyn have a force of workmen employed in remodeling Crosbyshire, a hotel on Lake George, where they will establish a vacation home for the young women toilers of New York City.

"Vanamanantani," which is Samoan for the "home of the singing bird," is the name given to her new residence in the Santa

THE OLD RELIABLE ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE

Crus mountains of California by Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson. The spot is in one of the quietest parts of the great blue mountains and much like the old home at Vail.

MIRTHFUL REMARKS. Somerville Journal: The girl who is homely enough to stop a clock is generally homely enough to know how to keep it going.

Chicago Post: "He talks a good deal of the wealth of the country. What does he know about it?" "Practically nothing at all. He's an assessor."

Boston Transcript: David—You don't mean to say she's rejected your proposal? Jonathan—Hardly that. She was sort of noncommittal, so to speak. She said when she felt like making a fool of herself she'd let me know.

Detroit Free Press: "Mrs. Hunker has the queerest rad," said Mrs. Giddings. "She collects umbrellas." "What's that?" "I wish she would ask a receipted bill for each present."

Brooklyn Life: Mooney—Brace up, man! There's a job as big as I ever did hove a frid in in the whole world. Hogan—Oh hove it! Mooney—Gee whizz! If it ain't money, you want 'em, O'm as good as a frid as I ever yes had.

Yonkers Statesman: Mr. Bacon—I notice all of the articles of that woman which are now appearing in this magazine are about things which happened years and years ago. Mrs. Bacon—She is trying to lay up the articles to her husband to mail.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "It is claimed that there are 60,000 Missouri mules at work in the Transvaal." "What a lot of kidding there must be." "Yes, I s'pose that's one of the heaping effects of gentle peace."

Smart Set: Clerk—Michael, are you about through moving those trunks? Clerk—Well, when you've finished stretch the life net over the trunk, Mrs. Hilbawi has just telephoned from the top floor that her husband has fallen out of their minds.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM. By Phillips Brooks. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by: Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous Gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin, Where messengers receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy Pray to the blessed Child, Where misery cries out to thee, Son of the Mother mild; Where Christy stands watching, And Faith holds wide the door, The dark night wakes; the glory breaks, And Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray! Cast out our sin, and enter in; Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels: The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Merry Christmas. We are going to hang our stockings, So they will be the first thing Santa sees, When he comes down the chimney, From out the wintry breeze.

Browning King & Co. R. S. WILCOX, Manager.