

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss. D. Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that average daily circulation for the month of April, 1914, was 58,448.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 15th day of May, 1914. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

Oyster Bay comes back on the map alongside of that Brazilian river. Those mediators keep silent just as if they were all imitating John Lind.

Raid Head Bankers Klased at Cabaret—Headline. It must have been a touching scene. More rain for the wheat, more money for the farmer, more trade for the merchants.

These made-to-order spontaneous uprisings threaten to become regularly recurrent events. And then, besides, somebody always has to be the goat in all such situations as Mr. Mellen describes.

Experience seems to prove that digging dandelions only makes two grow where but one grew before. "I'd rather be a base ball player than secretary of the navy," exclaims Secretary Daniels. Who wouldn't?

Mr. Mellen did not want to be too inquisitive for fear he might learn something he did not want to know. The Chinese language is said to contain 50,000 word signs, and the Lord only knows how many curly queues.

Serious auto accidents are happening all around us. Reckless speeders will do well to slow up, and be more careful. If that Kansas doctor is right in foreseeing the day when we shall all be young at 100, then we can see the finish of his business.

Sixteen people were killed by hailstones at Coahuila, Mex., which makes sixteen that Villa and Carranza may not claim credit for. The great Detective Burns was slapped in the mouth in a Georgia town, but the wallop he and his gang got in Omaha was worse than that.

For the treaty that hands Colombia a present of \$25,000,000 the excuse is offered that it isn't much of an apology. Yes, but why apologize? Talking about "sniping," recollect for a moment who was doing the rear firing at President Wilson when the currency bill was in legislative transit.

The census bureau reports that moving too often makes many tenant farmers poor. How about the cliff dwellers of Chicago, who hit out every May day? And now the Hessian fly is said to be again up to his old tricks. When the wheat market sags again a little later, the little green bugs will be brought out.

President Mellen said he would do business with the devil if he had to. So far as disclosed, however, he never did business with a certain famous detective agency. Mayor Mitchell of New York has fixed 2 a. m. as the time for the curfew on Broadway. Why at 2? Why not let the curfew sleep on the remainder of the night?

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Our Purpose in Mexico.

Synopsizing the expressed views of President Wilson in a conversation reported by its special representative, the Saturday Evening Post lays down these propositions as the settled policy in regard to Mexico: First—The United States, so long as Mr. Wilson is president, will not seek to raise a foot of Mexican territory in any way or under any pretext. When we have finished with Mexico, Mexico will be territorially intact.

Second—No personal aggrandizement by American investors or adventurers or capitalists, or exploitation of that country, will be permitted. Legitimate business interests that seek to develop rather than exploit will be encouraged.

Third—A settlement of the agrarian land question by constitutional means—such as that followed in New Zealand, for example—will be insisted on. All three of these propositions read well to fit in with a profession of unselfish motive, but in truth the first is the only one of an international character the other two being wholly of domestic concern to Mexico.

We all take it that the United States is not seeking territorial expansion, but it should also be remembered that the suggestion that expansion means imperialism and subversion of our own popular government no longer scares us.

When it comes to developing Mexican resources by offering encouragement to foreign investors that will devolve upon the Mexicans, and not upon us. We certainly will insist upon equal treatment for American investors to that accorded European investors, or to investors from other countries.

The proper settlement of the agrarian land problem in Mexico is highly desirable, particularly so long as the unequal land distribution is the fomenting cause of continuous revolution. But the land question in Mexico interests us more than the land question in Ireland chiefly because it is closer to us—it is a subject for Mexico to legislate upon.

Accepting, however, these three fundamentals of our Mexican policy, we must still ask ourselves how they are to be brought into the terms of the mediation, and if so incorporated, how long will it take to work them out satisfactorily. From another source, the president is quoted as saying that we will hold Vera Cruz, and stay in Mexico, until all the agreements exacted are fully executed. If these agreements are to include a settlement of the land question, our soldiers in the army of occupation may countermand all orders for next winter's clothes.

No Let-Up on Gun Toters. The agitation against the indiscriminate sale and possession of firearms goes on in several cities; the unfortunate thing is, though, that some effective remedy for the deadly menace does not follow. Both Pittsburgh and Chicago are crusading against the crime, and yet the gun-toters are continuing to shoot down their innocent victims.

World peace, with its idealistic complement of universal disarmament, is a beautiful dream of many of our good people, who, if they would lend their enthusiasm and influence to the disarmament of thugs and murderers in the cities of the land, might do a good deal more for the safety of mankind and the welfare of lawful society. At least, their co-operation, as well as that of all good citizens, is more than needed to make the domestic crusade successful.

Sentiment-at-large, of course, is against free and careless gun-toting. This sentiment must be crystallized into such action as will tend to prevent youths and men of hair-trigger tempers and criminal instincts laying their hands freely upon firearms and other munitions of death whenever they desire to. It is all the more atrocious when respectable and law-abiding communities sit by and permit artificial inducements to be made for the indiscriminate sale of these deadly weapons. It is a potential crime, for instance, for these things to be attractively displayed in show windows to the fascination of young or irresponsible minds. Yet this is done in every city where the howl goes up against gun-toting after the murder is committed.

Increasing Safety Devices. Interstate Commerce commission figures show a steady increase in the extent of the block signal systems for railroad protection. Up to January 1, of the present year, 53 per cent of all the railroad trackage of the country was so protected. What is still better, the use of the automatic block signal system is gaining over the hand-control system. In 1913 there was an increase of 4,350 miles in the length of road operated by the automatic blocks and a decrease of 1,563 miles operated by the hand-control.

Thus we have a concrete illustration of the fact that the railroads are actually pushing forward in this general and very important campaign of safety first in the operation of trains. Some lines have practically all of their trackage protected by the block signals. Some of the leading lines of the west are making very rapid progress with the automatic signals, discarding the less useful and modern hand-control block.

All the money invested in such devices is sure to reproduce itself handsomely in the revenues of the railroads. No road can afford to lag behind in this great improvement today any more than it can afford not to advertise. And what better advertising could a road have than just this, to be able to show that it gave first consideration to the safe hauling of its traffic, human and otherwise? From even a purely avaricious standpoint the roads are finding that prevention is better than cure in the sense that protecting life and property is more profitable than maintaining damage suits.

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The Bee's Letter Box

Too Good to Pass. BRADSHAW, Neb., May 21.—To the Editor of The Bee: In your issue of the 20th you say: "Prohibitionists always insist on quoting a lot of dry statistics." This writer is something of a prohibitionist himself and he has on hand a fine assortment of "wet" statistics that are of more value in an argument than are the "dry," that he will willingly quote to any anti-prohibitionists who may insist on having the "wet" rather than the "dry"—all gratis, no charges.

JOHN B. DRY. Letters from a Political Heathen—Mexico. SOMEWHERE, May 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: Genius is not hereditary. One says the great Napoleon was above mediocrity. Louis Bonaparte was above the mediocre character of all. Victor Hugo rightly named him Petit Napoleon. For the first forty years of his life, he was a wandering vagabond. He was imprisoned for some time at Ham; visited the United States, where he beat an honest Dutchman at Hoboken out of a board bill; was a special policeman in England at the time of the Chartist riots. While in England he was an invited guest at Lady Blessington's. Here he met the younger Disraeli, who conceived an emphatic dislike for him. When Disraeli became a statesman, his dislike was embarrassing to Louis Bonaparte.

I do not purpose to be Bonaparte's biographer. I shall assume that the reader is familiar with the main facts of his life. The political and economical unrest which visited Europe in 1848 evolved some strange and diversified characters, among them: Louis Kosouth, Padre Gavayal and Louis Bonaparte. The story of the latter is the history of the French empire does not belong to the history of Mexico. From the battle of Solferino on June 24, 1859, to the battle of Sadowa July 3, 1866, Louis Bonaparte was the arbiter of Europe. After he became emperor he essayed to be an author and wrote, inter alia volumina, a life of Julius Caesar, a dull work, in which he compared the Roman to his Corsican uncle, who died at Longwood, picturing them both as disinterested altruists. He was neither a soldier nor a statesman. But we have nothing to do with the fellow, except his escapade in Mexico.

What was back of this French invasion of Mexico? Two women. One of them was Eugenie, Louis Bonaparte's wife, now living in England at the age of 88; the other, the Princess Charlotte Amelia, wife of the Austrian Archduke Maximilian of Hapsburg, now, at the age of 74, confined in a private insane asylum near Brussels. The French emperor and the Austrian archduke were the most uxorious men in Europe (Louis Bonaparte was said to have abandoned a former wife and five children for the truth of this I do not vouch). But he was very much ruled, or at least influenced, by the empress. The other woman, known as Carlotta—she spelled her own name with one T—was ambitious to be an empress. Back of Eugenie—who was a devout Catholic—was the reigning pontiff, Pius IX, who received with alarm the triumph of the liberal party in Mexico, and would be pleased to see a pious prince, like Maximilian of Hapsburg, on the throne of Mexico, who would check the heresies of the republicans on the papal preserve. Pius did not regard the separation of church and state as the ideal condition. As for Louis Bonaparte there is little doubt that Goldwin Smith was right: Louis had in contemplation the recovery of the Louisiana purchase. Napoleon had remarked to Talleyrand, at the time of the sale to the United States, that a confederacy never held together. At the French invasion of Mexico, Napoleon's prophecy seemed in the process of fulfillment; we were the victors of a civil war.

DER HEIDE. Cause of Adam's Fall. Revered First Parent a Victim of Grape Juice. Knocks for Bible Stories. Modern explanations of remarkable events of biblical times, beginning with the departure from the Garden of Eden of Adam and Eve, and covering the period up to the passage of the River Jordan, were given before Bible students of the Young Women's Christian Association in New York recently, by Sir William Willcocks, K. C. M. G., the noted English engineer. Mr. Willcocks designed and built the Assuan dam on the Nile and has about completed an irrigation system in Mesopotamia. The greater part of his active life has been spent in the Holy Land and Egypt, and has an intimate acquaintance with all the places made famous in biblical history.

Sir William told his hearers, according to the New York Sun's report, that in planning the irrigation system of Mesopotamia Sir William discovered the exact location of the Garden of Eden at the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates, and he illustrated his lecture with many pictures from the supposed site. At the time the two original settlers went there, Sir William said, nothing grew in the Garden except date palms, vines and alfalfa.

They subsisted on dates and everything went along happily until Eve found how to make wine out of the grapes, and then she wasn't satisfied until she had Adam drinking it. He grew dissatisfied with dates as soon as he became addicted to drink, and it is Sir William's idea that Adam and Eve left the Garden to try to find something to eat besides dates.

Noah and His Flood. Taking up the flood episode, Sir William said that if the inundation had been so extensive as to leave the ark stranded on top of Mount Ararat the forty days rain would have had to yield a precipitation of 5,000 inches a day, which is quite a shower. As a matter of fact the ancient word Ararat really meant "desert" in the language of the flood times and what happened was that the rivers overflowed and inundated the valley in which Adam lived. All the settlers for many miles around hurried over to Noah's to take refuge in his ark and when the floods receded the ark remained in the valley.

Sir William said that the ancient flood sufferers really thought the inundation had covered the entire world, and they commenced building high towers to escape from inundations. The Tower of Babel was one of the first of these, and while it was under way the people from the surrounding countries all came there for safety in case of another flood. Naturally there were many languages spoken and a "confusion of tongues" was the result. This led the tower builders to believe that God had sent a confusion of tongues because He was angry over the penetration of the towers into heaven.

"This is one of the childish stories that have come down to us, because it has pleased God in His wisdom to preserve it for us," said Sir William. Joseph Exposed as a Prophet. One of the inundations of the Nile, Sir William said, turned a great depression in the desert into a lake. The ancient Egyptians built an enormous dike from the lake to the Nile, which made the entire country fertile, but the dike became the cause of constant strife between the kings of upper and lower Egypt.

Joseph, who had been imprisoned by one of the Pharaohs of lower Egypt, was more intelligent than his captors and realized that eventually a fleet from the upper Nile would come down and cut the dike. The water would all flow into the great depression and a long famine would result. Joseph figured that the upper kings couldn't get their fleets ready for the successful attack for seven years, and upon his urgent advice his captors began storing up grain against the evil day when the famine would come.

His words were prophetic and when the dike was captured and cut, and the famine came the people of lower Egypt were ready for St. Joseph was then raised to an exalted position, and he later retook the dike and held it for forty years.

Sir William said that one of the great mistakes of the ancient historians was to have Moses leading the children of Israel across the Red Sea. If Moses had gone to the Red Sea in the time he is credited with taking he would have had to lead his flock, in which were many children, across forty-four miles of desert in twenty-four hours.

"Those people who still insist that the Israelites crossed the Red Sea admit that if they did so the Red Sea must have come up about thirty-one miles further than it does today," said the speaker. "Why should it be made to come up thirty-one miles just to please those people who have made a mistake in translation?"

Moses actually crossed the River Nile, Sir William said, and the way he led his followers across on dry land was to build a dike. When the Israelites had crossed Moses cut the dike and the Egyptian army following them was drowned.

"While restoring an old branch of the Nile I did very much what Moses did in the matter of constructing a dike," said Sir William. Twice Told Tales. A Vigilant Servant. A certain kind of blunder is supposed to be characteristically Hibernian, yet this story is told of a Frenchman: Prince Talleyrand was suddenly awakened one night by the discharge of a pistol. Seeing his valet in the apartment, he asked what the trouble was. "Your highness," replied the man, "there was a mouse in the room, and fearing it might disturb your slumber, I shot it."

The Possum's Tail. Captain Brinton B. Davis has returned from his annual outing with the Juniper Hunting club on Lake George Fla., with a batch of anecdotes. Several of them relate to Jim Rogers, an ancient negro, who survived "de days befo' de war," who still holds forth on the Juniper hunting preserve and plots the Louisiana Indians, who otherwise might end up heaven knows where.

Jim was out with Hugh Nevin one day. The two found a peculiar track. Following the line of what were plainly footprints was a small continuous furrow.

"What kind of a track is that, Jim?" asked the puzzled Mr. Nevin.

"Dat's a possum track, sph," explained the old negro.

"But how does he make that furrow?" "He makes dat furrer wid his tail."

"With his tail?" "Yes, sah. He lets his tail drag."

"Why do you suppose he lets it drag?" "Ah doan' know, boss. I jest 'reckin' he doan' pay no tention to dat tail. S'pose he thinks it'll come along, anyhow."—Louisville Times.

People and Events. After years of controversy the Massachusetts general assembly has authorized a \$5,000 statue of Major General Benjamin F. Butler, to be placed in the state house grounds.

History is repeated in the discovery of the crew of the wrecked French bark, La Tour de Vergerne, safe on a desert island and unwilling to leave their dusky wives. For a lady man there were worse things than being shipwrecked on a tropical island where the bananas and the coconut flourish.

Tax assessors are very disagreeable people. A bunch of them in Chicago insist on knowing what became of all the money Charles W. Murphy got for the Chicago National league base ball club. Mr. Murphy's shoeing led to a million, but he only returned a shoe string for taxation, and didn't swear to it.

In order to visit her husband, who was ninety miles away, Mrs. Albert Baker, of Eugene, Ore., recently rode on horseback 180 miles in four days, part of the time riding through a drizzling rain. On the way she had to cross the Coast Range mountain, over heavy, muddy roads, and rarely found houses closer than five miles apart.

Nebraska Editors

The Republican Valley Editorial association will have a meeting at Franklin June 12. George T. Edson is the new editor of the Burchard Times.

Editor Mark W. Murray of the Pender Times has purchased an automobile. He has notified his delinquent subscribers that he needs the money to buy gasoline.