

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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JUNE CIRCULATION. 52,662

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 June, 1914, was 52,662.

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

No telling what the X Y Z of the A B C mediation may be.

Two weeks more of vacation will make the kids hate school exactly two weeks less.

It is almost worth an "extra" in Washington nowadays when a reporter is able to count a quorum in the senate.

Perhaps when the cold weather sets in the parks will be opened to public meetings and the schools closed to them.

The suffs are throwing paper wads at the king and queen, but the youngsters did that to the teachers many years ago.

Senator J. Ham Lewis made the long speech at the Tammany Fourth of July celebration. Sure, if he made any speech at all.

With Dr. Jordan, the advance agent of the world peace movement, at the head of the National Educational association, all should be serene and quiet.

Talking about "hand-picked" delegates, what would you call that bunch commissioned to represent Douglas county in the bull moose state convention?

The federal government's experts estimate Nebraska's wheat crop for this season at 70,000,000 plus, that plus sign being the natural Nebraska trademark.

Curtailing the school year two weeks should help the school revenues catch up with the deficit, provided always that the school expenses are curtailed pro rata.

Two Omaha men are elected to national presidencies of their respective associations in one day. You just cannot keep a good man from a good city down.

Wonder what the good mothers and grandmothers of other days who objected to the tame, old-fashioned dances would say of the modern terpsichorean gyrations.

Henry Ford could, if he would, no doubt, give the president some very interesting psychological facts about the amazing development of the auto industry.

Another solid south state, Georgia, through its legislature has turned its back on votes for women, which helps to explain the attitude of President Wilson, who, by the way, once practiced law in Georgia.

"Before I resign half the people of Mexico will die with me," Huerta is said to have said. Which may be written down alongside of Villa's declaration about eating his Christmas dinner last year at the capital.

Speaking of the seven direct legislation measures to be voted on in Nebraska this year, our amiable democratic contemporary says they are "enough, heaven knows." But why? Don't we all want the people to rule? If the initiative and referendum is a good thing, how can we have too much of it?



Robert G. Ingersoll held forth at Boyd's with his lecture entitled "Orthodoxy." He was greeted by prolonged and continued applause, which was frequently repeated through the lecture.

The city council refused to accept the resignation of Chairman James Creighton from the Board of Public Works.

The final game of the series between the Union Pacific and the Chicago Reserves was won by the former with a score of 10 to 5. The home battery was Salisbury and Dugan.

A Citizens' league was organized at the Young Men's Christian association rooms with these officers: President, Dr. F. S. Lescavage; Dr. P. L. Perine and John F. Gault, vice presidents; Dr. P. Wilson, secretary, and William Fleming, treasurer.

It required five whole pages of the Paxton hotel register to record the names of arrivals. Among them were included forty members of a Raymond & Whitcomb excursion.

The sound of the fire bell at 7 in the morning, at 12 noon and 7 and 8 in the evening is no longer heard.

The Ancient Order of Heiberian land straggled George and Dave Dugan, who have been away on a visit, in their father's residence on North Twenty-third street.

Scope of the Party Platform. The efforts of the Lincoln property owners' and boardinghouse keepers' committee to inject their project for buying more land around the downtown university campus into party politics raises the question to what extent the issues involved in the several initiative and referendum measures now before the voters are to be taken up by the coming platform conventions of the different parties. While these direct legislation measures are not all of the same interest and importance, they occupy the same position in this respect, that if the platform-makers are to express themselves on one, they are under equal obligation to advise the voters on all.

In his Columbus Telegram, Edgar Howard undertakes to assert in answer to a request to use his influence for a vote-for-women plank in the democratic state platform that "the law forbids a convention taking any action for or against any candidate for office or for or against any proposed initiative legislation." In this Judge Howard is mistaken, unless we read into the letter of the law what we take to be the spirit of it. The language of the statute is: "No action shall be taken by said state conventions either for or against any person who is, or may be, a candidate for any office that is to be voted on at the next general election."

Nothing whatever is said about direct legislation measures, and the history of this part of the primary law must be recalled for light on the subject. At one time the convention was specifically empowered to approve, or disapprove, pending constitutional amendments, such action being effective to put the party label, "republican" or "democrat," upon the proposition, so that all straight party ballots be counted "Yes" or "No," as the case might be. When these amendments were later added to the primary ballot the approval or disapproval of the party was to be stamped upon them by direct vote at the primary, and when the convention was moved up in point of time ahead of the nominations it was likewise prohibited from taking action favoring any candidate, or set of candidates, which would be tantamount to forestalling selection in the primary.

It is only by analogy that the platform conventions would be barred from attempting to commit the respective parties for or against any measure upon which the voters as a whole are called to express themselves. But in view of the sharp division within the parties upon all of these questions, it may well be argued that the part of wisdom, whether the law forbids or permits, is to keep these subjects out of the platform rather than to make party lines about them.

A Problem in Economics. As indicating the desperate conditions in coal mining regions of Illinois, it is reported that of the 90,000 miners 40,000 are idle for the reason that "too many mines are being opened." The supply is overrunning the demand and the market glutted. Mipers advocate governmental restriction of the number of mines that may be operated in a district, such as obtains in Germany.

This is indeed a deplorable situation, but it presents an amazing problem in economics. Accepting as correct the facts as reported, what prevents such a condition from lowering the price of coal to the consumer? Or, to put it another way, what mystical power is able to thwart the law of supply and demand and maintain the price of coal with nearly half the miners of a state out of employment?

Perhaps the question can be answered by some of those expert economists in our Department of Justice at Washington. We are approaching the season when it is customary to announce the usual increase in the price of coal, owing to "a shortage in the mine output." Before this conventional announcement is made, let us have a few tries at this economic paradox.

The Pork Barrel. Public sentiment will sooner or later close in on so-called pork barrel legislation, the grab-bag method by which members of congress secure appropriations for rivers, harbors and public buildings in their district. This system Congressman Frear of Wisconsin has euphemistically described as "golden gags distributed through the land." And when public sentiment does close in on it, it will go. In the meantime, let public sentiment, which is another name for "the people" in politics, realize that but for public indifference this pernicious system would never have been possible.

It may answer the purpose of personal opposition or honest antagonism to the pork barrel to charge it all up to representatives and senators anxious to maintain their seats in congress, but a broader view is necessary to comprehend the real situation. It puts a very plausible face on the fight a certain national weekly is making on a certain western senator to point out how this senator has obtained money for \$75,000 buildings in hamlets of 381 population, but to rest there neither wins the case nor convicts the accused on the evidence. This senator is typical of others in both houses of congress, who feel the pressure from the people at home for an appropriation. What if he opposed it or refused to promote it? Undoubtedly he would make way for another senator or representative.

Taking the case as it is, regarding both the congressman and his constituents as fallible human beings, who is chiefly at fault after all for this pork barrel system, which, as Collier's perhaps rightly says, "is to blame for most of the evils in connection with government projects?" The system is deep-laid, of long standing and will require a mighty effort to overcome it. For one thing, it will require unselfishness and forbearance on the part of the people as well as their representatives in congress.

An exchange colloquizes with more or less speculation on the "Decline of the prize ring," from the days of the invincible John L. Sullivan to the present. But returning for the moment to the notorious Fourth of July event at Reno and coming down to that affair in Paris the other day ought to settle all doubts as to one good reason for the lagging popular interest in the once so-called "manly sport."

Forty years ago, July 4, the great Eads bridge at St. Louis was opened and dedicated, and it now seems possible that within forty years more the free bridge across the Mississippi at St. Louis will be completed and ready for traffic.

The Bee's Letter Box

Brief contributions on timely topics invited. The Bee assumes no responsibility for opinions of correspondents. All letters subject to condensation by editor.

Meaning of Present Day Populism.

LINCOLN, Neb., July 8.—To the Editor of The Bee: With some degree of philosophic surprise I read the report from your Lincoln correspondent that I was registered as a republican elector in precinct C of the Sixth ward, this city, where I reside. The surprise was occasioned by the fact, well known to myself and a few others, that for the last sixteen years I have uniformly registered as a "people's independent" elector in Lincoln and have voted only at the primary election in the people's independent primary during that time. An examination of the original registration books in my home precinct made this day discloses that on the last registration day, April 19, 1912, one of the registration clerks entered my party affiliation as "people's independent." The other one (through error) as "republican," and the index made from these two contradictory documents classified me as "republican."

No blame therefore attaches to your correspondent for his statement and the matter is perhaps of no great importance to anyone except myself. I may be permitted, however, to give a few reasons why some of us who took part in the formation of the populist party in this state and in these wonderful campaigns which I denominate "The social and political revolution in Nebraska," covering the period of 1890 to 1897, still refuse to be classified in either the republican or democratic category and are still in heart populists.

The last actual test of the populist voters in this state was at the general election of 1912, when 5,319, when J. H. Morrill received 606 votes and J. H. Morrill received 2,067 votes for attorney general against 101,973 for Grant G. Martin, republican. At the primaries on August 16, 1910, A. C. Shallenberger received 2,148 votes in the people's independent primary for governor. At the primary on April 15, 1912, E. L. Metcalfe received 606 votes and J. H. Morrill received 2,067 votes in the people's independent primary. About one-third of the democratic vote at the general election was cast in the primary and upon this ratio there were 3,000 to 4,000 people's independent voters at least in Nebraska in April, 1912.

Nothing more illustrates the vitality of spirit of the populist party than that, after all these years of effort to trade and swap the people's independent vote, disrupt its organization and turn it over to democratic or republican machines, there is this showing of votes whenever opportunity has been given. So much for the figures. There are in Nebraska at the present time between 10,000 and 25,000 voters, perhaps more, formally affiliated with the populist party who, like myself, have no permanent attachment for either the democratic or republican organization. These voters constitute the core of the great body of independent voters in this state, voting mixed tickets, both state and local, with the serene enjoyment of men trying to do a good job for their country. The existence of these men in Nebraska politics is today the best guarantee of good government in this state. The election returns for the last ten years demonstrate the existence of these thousands of voters who split their ticket as coolly as they split a watermelon. An old friend of mine, familiar with the conditions in our county, told me a short time ago there were over 1,000 voters in that county who "voted as they pleased," explaining thereby in frontier phrase the high degree of political independence enjoyed by them.

At present, party lines are nearly rubbed out. Most of the political warfare these days is inside the democratic and republican organizations. Every student of social and political changes knows that reorganization and realignment of party lines is one of the sure events of the future. These are some of the reasons why many thousands of populists in Nebraska have chosen the role of independent voters and would just as soon be called by the old populist name while the readjustment is going on. A. E. SHELDON.

Editorial Snapshots

Washington Herald: And now a correspondent complains that women have gone to wearing men's socks. Well, that is all right, as far as we can see.

Chicago News: That old saying about going farther and faring worse deters nobody from seeking a vacation in a distant place.

Washington Star: Enthusiastic comments by English editorialists on the repeal of tolls exemption are unquestionably sincere, but they are not precisely tactful.

Boston Transcript: These smart political economists at Washington didn't suppose, did they, that Uncle Sam could dance a foreign tariff tune without paying the fiddler?

Washington Star: No matter what party is in power, Uncle Joe Cannon is found enjoying himself and philosophically allowing the will of the majority to take its course.

Pittsburgh Press: The hysterical efforts of the Washington administration to get more revenue can be easily explained. It is spending more money than any other administration in the history of the country, and ought to be getting anxious about it.

Chasing Demon Rum

Baltimore American: John Barleycorn cannot even enjoy the common comfort of telling his troubles to the marines.

New York World: An advertising sign 25 feet long and thirty feet high across the Ohio river from "dry" Wheeling, W. Va., tells where the thirsty may get mal and relief. It is that that prohibition prohibits.

New York Sun: Nobody will think that the New Jersey law which compels courts to send drunken operators of automobiles to jail is unfair or excessive. A drunken automobilist has about as many rights as a mad dog.

Mississippi Journal: The Mississippi supreme court has decided that one gallon at a time is the limit of interstate shipments, but even one gallon is quite a load for anybody but a railroad or an express company.

The Associated Press

General Manager Melville E. Stone Explains in His Letter to Collier's.

Glut of the Criticisms.

"I have read with interest the editorial upon the Associated Press which appeared in your issue of June 4. While I recognize an evident purpose to be just, it seems clear to me that your suggestion that 'the information sent over the Associated Press wires is likely to have a slight official bias,' lacks force. The dispatches of the association are very widely published. If there is the sort of bias you intimate, it should be easy to furnish some illustration. Such evidence would certainly be convincing. In truth there is no bias for the idea, as can be demonstrated, I am confident, in any specific case that may be presented.

"In respect of your other contention, 'that the Associated Press ought to be required to give its service, under proper restrictions and conditions, to any newspaper which asks for it,' there are several things to say. First, your attempt to find analogy between this business and that of a railroad must fall utterly. The railroad is, in the very nature of the case, a common carrier. Not only does it fall under the proper legal rule which applies to the coach, the cab and the ferry, long before the railroad existed, but it enjoys certain peculiar privileges, such as the right of eminent domain, etc., which gives the public a distinct claim upon it. On the other hand, the Associated Press enjoys no exceptional right of any sort. It is simply a voluntary union of a number of gentlemen for the employment of a certain staff of news reporters to serve them jointly. For its work it derives no advantage from the government, from any state or municipality, from any corporation, or from any person. Its service is a purely personal one, and never, except under the long since abolished slave laws, has any government sought to compel personal service, save in cases of voluntarily assumed contracts, or of adjudgments for crime. The output of the Associated Press is not the news; it is its own story of the news. There can be no monopoly in news. At the point of origin, Havana, the destruction of the Maine was known by every man, woman and child. Any one could have written a story of it. The Associated Press man did. It was their own story. Who will say that they, or those who employed them, were not entitled to its exclusive use? And is this not equally true, whether the employer be one man, or ten men, or nine hundred men acting in co-operation?

Origin and Growth of the Association.

"The existing Associated Press began business on September 29, 1900, with 62 members publishing daily newspapers in 206 cities and towns. In the thirteen years and nine months which have elapsed since that date, 627 new members, publishing daily newspapers in 424 cities and towns, have been admitted. As you will observe, this means an average of about one new member elected each week. Meanwhile members have resigned, newspapers have failed or ceased publication, so that the 627 elected do not represent an increase of that number on the membership roll. The present membership is 881.

No Such Thing as Exclusive Rights.

"As to the exclusive right, my answer is that there is no exclusive right. There is what is called a 'right of protest,' which is simply the right of a member to say that the board of directors cannot elect a new member in his field, but must leave the question of election to the membership at large. And even this 'right of protest' is held by less than one-fourth of the members. No such right has been granted to any member in over thirteen years, and, since it requires a vote of seven-eighths of the total membership of the association to grant it, none is likely to be granted within your lifetime or mine, to say the least. "Anyone may withdraw from the Associated Press. What holds it together? The confidence of the members and of the public in its integrity. The only property it has is its good will. Is this a thing in which an applicant may claim a legal right to share?

"In the case of the New York Sun, it should be said that the proprietors of that paper have never sought admission to membership in the association. On February 19, 1907, when the paper was under the control of Charles A. Dana and William M. Laffan, there appeared in Italics at the top of its editorial columns an announcement that the paper would not join the Associated Press, but would collect the news for itself. This policy was pursued until the death of both of the men named. And thereafter the present manager declined to make application for membership, but instead presented a petition to the attorney general of the United States asking that he institute proceedings against the Associated Press as an unlawful organization. This was not an appeal for aid; it was an effort to destroy a competitor. For it must be borne in mind that the New York Sun has a news collecting and distributing agency of its own, and has had such an agency for over twenty years.

Character of News Transmitted.

"Does the Associated Press receive or distribute to its members all of the news of the day? By no means. Nor is it intended that it shall. There are newsfields which, however important, it is forbidden to enter. These are the fields which by the proprietors are left for exploration to the enterprise of the individual newspaper. What may it do and what may it not do? It may and should report the consequential events fairly, or as nearly as is possible for human beings to do so. It may not go further. And herein lies in large measure the misunderstanding of the well-intentioned public.

"As an illustration: If a 'pogrom' occurs in a Russian town, the Associated Press should tell dispassionately the story of the event. But it is not permitted to even say whether the thing is right or wrong. If President Wilson goes to the capital and urges a repeal of the statute exempting American coastwise vessels from the payment of the Panama canal tolls, and if Senator O'Gorman or Republican House Leader Mann, or Democratic House Leader Underwood takes issue with President Wilson, the Associated Press calmly reports both sides and must give no hint that either side is right or wrong.

Co-operative News Gathering Methods.

"Let us see what any other method of dealing with the news of the day must mean. If a news agency is to present somebody's view of the right or wrong of the world's happenings, whose view is it to be? And what assurance are we to have that this somebody's view is the right view? And if it is the wrong view, what then?

"It was out of all this that there grew a co-operative Associated Press. The business of news gathering in a dominant way was in the hands of three men. They were responsible to no one. They could send out to the newspapers anything they chose and no one could call them to account. A large number of newspaper proprietors revolted. They felt that, far beyond their own interests, there was a great public question involved. There was a development of a plan which should insure an honest, truthful and impartial reporting of events. After deliberation, they concluded that the safest way was to organize a co-operative association of newspaper proprietors, representing diverse interests and thus put the institution under pledge to report the truth, and, to guarantee impartiality, the news service was to be subjected to the scrutiny and the censorship of the varied views of its membership."

The Miner's Bath.

Mrs. Rose Pastor Phelps Stokes said at a recent sociological convention in New York: "The economies that some of the rich would force upon the poor! Why, they'd have the poor as impossibly economical as the miner's wife in Trinidad. "This woman said to a missionary: "Talk about economy! Well, sir, every night when my Bill comes home I shove him in the bathtub, clothes and all, and after he gets out I sieve the water and make briquets of it for the fire."

WITH THE WITS.

He—Is your uncle good at golf? She—Mercy, no! He's very profane—Boston Globe

"Don't it aggravate you that I ask you for twenty-five cents? "No, that does not aggravate me; it is the giving of it to you."—Paris Pages

Hubbard—Come along! Keeping me standing here like a fool! Wife—Do be reasonable, dear. Can I really help the way you stand?—London Mail

He—Men, as a class, deserve better wives than they get. She—They would have them, too, if their wives only had better husbands.—Judge

Pat—I think most people have dual personalities. But some of these globe wan pair from th' clothes line!—Chicago News

Imp—Where will your majesty summer? Satan—I think I'll stay in town; I notice a lot of people are coming from the country.—New York Sun

"Where do you get the green wigs which recently became in fashion?" "Oh, madam, they came from the Cafe New York, where the young poets have their hair cut."—Budapest Borszem Janko

"I think William, I'll ask those new people next door to take dinner with us tonight." "What for?" "Well, the butcher, by mistake, left their meat order here, and it seems only fair."—Life

Miss Bute—Jack Timmid had asked me if he might call tonight. I think he would tell me he loves me. Her Friend—Oh, that goes without saying.

Miss Bute—Yes, and I'm afraid he will, too.—Boston Transcript

"What do you think of this idea of taxing jewelry?" "It may do some good. I know a man

THE ROAD OF LIFE.

There are beautiful things on the road of life. Awaiting our seeing eyes. The thickest blight that nature bestows. The fleeciest cloud on the skies; An innocent child and a gray old age. And the long glad days between. But when the end of the road is reached. Can we say that we have seen?

There are wonderful paths on the road of life. Awaiting our restless feet. They lead o'er mountain and valley and plain; They lead through the busy street. And all of them hold such marvelous things. A path for us each alone. And when the end of the road is reached, Can we say we have found our own?

There are beautiful sounds on the road of life. Awaiting our listening ear. The ripple of brook and the ocean's roar; A laugh and a word of cheer; A whisper of love, a message of hope. Or a simple song of a bird. But when the end of the road is reached, Can we say that we have heard?

There are noble deeds on the road of life. Awaiting our helpful hand. A hopeless brother, a wayward son; A sister too weak to stand; A discouraged man or a weeping child. Are near as our course we run. And when the end of the road is reached, Can we say the deeds are done?

There are sorrows and tears on the road of life. Awaiting the voice of love. The moan of the sick; the cry of the lone. Are with us wherever we rove, And should some sorrow remain un-soothed. And some tears be un-dried; All will be well when the end is reached, If we can say, "We have tried." DAVID.



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