

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.

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AUGUST CIRCULATION. 56,554

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 August, 1914, was 56,554.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 24 day of September, 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.

More mine accidents at sea these days than on land.

And your industrious Uncle Sam still has a lot of good wood to saw.

Remember, King Ak-Sar-Ben expects every one of his countless subjects to do his duty.

The weather man must have mistaken the Labor day celebration for a grocers' and butchers' picnic.

The parks in spring time are no more beautiful than the parks in autumn. Take a look and convince yourself.

It is doubtful whether men wearing so many different kinds of uniforms were ever before fighting at the same time.

This is the day the future presidents and "firaz ladies of the land" make bashful acquaintance of their new teachers.

Though the Iowa State fair was almost drowned out, the Nebraska State fair deserves better treatment from the heavens.

The British fleet will manage to find its way through the fog of war, even though the Pathfinder has gone to the bottom of the sea.

Gradually the dispatches seem to belie some of the things we have been hearing about those impenetrable French frontier fortifications.

All the warring nations doubtless will be overjoyed at the belated tidings that Liberia has resolved to preserve an uncompromising neutrality.

Those official war information bureaus are apparently just beginning to realize the important part they are to play in bombarding the enemy.

Despite the fact that its capture was proclaimed by our yellow journals more than a week ago, Roenigberg still perversely refuses to surrender.

It is gratifying to know that the popular European tourist, Miss American Millions, has promised her Uncle Sam to do more staying at home for a while.

Let the children of free, peaceful and prosperous Nebraska do their part to give the fatherless little ones of war-enthralled Europe that merry Christmas.

Roumania says it will do what Italy does and Italy says it will go to war when Turkey does—against the Turk, of course. Evidently the high tide has not been reached.

President Wilson will not make a campaign tour. But it's a safe guess he will put nothing in the way of Secretary Bryan and the other oratorical big guns of the administration swinging round the circle.

Thirtieth Years Ago This Day in Omaha

Compiled from Bee files

The state fair opened with "attendance large enough to satisfy the managers." It was children's day and the youngsters overran the place.

The Bee quotes from a speech delivered by Carroll E. Montgomery before the Cleveland and Hendricks club telling how money was distributed to secure the passage of bills at Lincoln last winter: "During the pendency of the bill appropriating the money to complete the canal, the opposition was so strong that it was necessary to buy off some of the members of the house. A fund was raised by the merchants of Lincoln, and the amount divided and placed in blank envelopes and taken to a room adjoining the state treasurer's office by two men (names mentioned) and the names of the members for whom they were intended written on the envelopes and left on the table where the bribed lawmakers were to find them."

Dr. Armstrong, oculist and oculist, has removed to 215 Farnam.

The Sabbath school concert at the First Methodist Episcopal church called out a crowded house. The recitations by Miss Gerrie Clark and Miss Fitch were well given, as were also the solos by Miss Stevens.

Farnam street business men have signed a petition to the council asking not to be compelled to put down stone sidewalks, this fall because their trade was ruined by interruption of the paving.

Oh, No! No Claim of Originality.

The Omaha Bee is advocating a short ballot, and is claiming it as an original idea. This reform has been advocated for years and is constantly gaining new advocates. It is one of the chances which will make our primary law much more popular.—Albin News.

Oh, no! There is a mistake somewhere, for, in advocating the short ballot, The Bee has put forth no claim to it as an original idea. Quite the contrary, this is not the first time The Bee has endorsed the principle of the short ballot, nor the first time it has favored putting it into practice, although, we believe, it is the first time a definite plan has been proposed to apply it to our state government here in Nebraska. The Bee has urged the consolidation of various county offices, successfully in two or three cases, for, right now here in Omaha and Douglas county, we have one treasurer for city, county and school district, and but one tax commissioner, where we formerly had two. The short ballot principle is also the essence of the commission plan of city government. Here in Omaha we have but seven elective offices to fill in our municipal elections, as against almost three times that number formerly. But the adoption of the biennial election scheme has doubled up the choice of state and county officers, accentuating the evils of the long ballot and making it more imperative than ever to reduce the number of elective officers to the lowest limit of safety.

The Kaiser's Reserves.

In American base ball parlance there is a saying that a team is as strong as its utility force, in other words, its substitutes. In a military sense, perhaps, a nation may be considered as strong as its reserves, or its power of reinforcement.

Therein evidently lies the secret of the amazing power thus far exhibited by the German army, whose quantity and quality of utility men seems sufficient to enable the army to keep up incessant fighting. The Kaiser is said to have 2,000,000 men now on French soil, yet in reply to reports of exhaustion from the rapid marching and heavy fighting, his officers declare that no regiment is sent into actual fighting oftener than once a week.

If true, or even approximately true, then it is suggestive of the tremendous force required to repel the invaders, a force not as yet exhibited by the allies. In addition to these ponderous numbers with reserves equal to all demands for reinforcements and relief, the German army evidently has the advantage also of acting under a single command, as against the many-headed organizations of the opposing forces. This has usually proved an advantage to the Germans up to date in the present conflict, however later events may develop.

School and Trashy Books.

With the resumption of school recurs the thought of the immense amount of money annually required to maintain our great system of popular education. Likewise it is interesting to note the constantly increased effort at the most scientific instruction and administration. We are aiming always at the highest efficiency and economy. Generous to a fault, Americans are nevertheless averse to wasting money even in so good a cause as the public schools.

But after all, how well do we live up to the ideal? Our schools are stressing more and more the importance of clean literature and it is well. On the other hand, the same mass of Americans so scrupulous in the running of their schools, are yearly grinding out from their book mills scavenger literature of the worst sort, whose streams flow off into the lives of these same children with polluting effect.

By this sort of business we are maintaining our schools at enormous, though justifiable expense, and encouraging the output of vile books at the same time, the latter to do its utmost at undoing the work of the other. Our schools conducted on a more comprehensive basis than ever, attempt to instill moral precepts as well as intellectual culture; they teach the rudiments of health through sanitation and physical exercise and are probably doing their part to turn the child's mind away from bad and toward good reading. But on the outside grievous mistakes are being made in the toleration of trash that goes by the name of literature and finds its way into the hands of the boys and girls. It will take a lot of schooling to educate them safely to good reading and good reading only, but the task is not an impossible one. It can be performed in time by a proper co-operation of all such forces as the home and school, press and pupil.

An American Minister's Victory.

Brand Whitlock, the former mayor of Toledo, who proved to be more or less of a political novelty in his way, has turned his hand to pseudo diplomacy with no mean effect. As minister to Belgium at such a time as the present, Americans would expect to hear of some activity on the part of the irrepressible Whitlock, and he has not disappointed them. He has rather busily issued his protests against the indiscriminate dropping of bombs from aeroplanes and other untoward conduct on the part of the invading powers and, better than all, has managed to do so without giving offense to the Germans. But Minister Whitlock achieved something of real and far-reaching value in helping stay the forces of destruction from the old and beautiful city of Brussels.

When the Belgian capital was beset by the Germans and all hope of successful resistance gone, Minister Whitlock advised the native commandant to accede to the Germans' demands for surrender. The commandant held out. He would at least refuse until so ordered by the king. Evidently our minister went over the head of the local authority, for soon word came from above to surrender and with the order a personal salutation to Minister Whitlock, conveying King Albert's gratitude for helping to avert a useless waste of life and property.

It will go down as a worthy victory for the simple American and may also suggest the wisdom of having on the ground at these foreign capitals, now besieged, clear heads on neutral shoulders.

"When women vote there will be no wars," so we are assured. This can be construed two ways—either that votes for women will not come until universal peace envelopes mankind, or that world peace will be attained only through women's votes.

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.

The Military Peril.

SOUTH OMAHA, Sept. 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: For a number of years we have read in the papers of the "yellow peril," but it seems to me the peril to the world today is the military peril. When a great nation like Germany will work for many years to prepare for war and spend immense sums of money earned by the people, when an effort is made to prepare more dangerous weapons of war continually, when improvements are made in air machines to make them more dangerous engines of war, when men are drilled by the millions in the art of war by compulsion as is done in Germany, it looks to me as if the peril to all the nations of the earth is that coming from a nation that constantly prepares for war, and prepares so well, that there is not a single nation that can defeat the German army in war. The Germans are a great people and rank foremost in the world in all lines of art, and for that reason they are the more dangerous to every nation of the earth.

It is a calamity to the whole world that the millions of German soldiers have not been taught how to advance the peaceful work of the nations of the earth and how to better the conditions of mankind, rather than to be taught how best to kill men, how to destroy property and cities and monuments that have stood for hundreds of years. It looks to me as if the republican institutions of the earth are at stake in the mighty war now on in Europe. The German army was started for France as soon as war was declared and as that is the greatest republic on earth next to our own, it looks as if the emperor of Germany does not want any great republic next door to his realm.

It is not the defeat of Germany that people should want, but the defeat of militarism and the only way to end militarism is to defeat the army that is now sweeping all before it in the republic of France. I have heard German citizens say in the last few weeks that they would rather live under an emperor than a president, and when we have such people among us, we may well tremble for the safety of republics. Germany ought to end the war at once, as she could do, and try to rebuild the destruction she has wrought already on so many helpless people.

F. A. AGNEW.

Crowned Heads Must Go.

OMAHA, Sept. 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: Mr. Meyer and the German-American alliance are within their rights in asking a suspension of judgment as to the European situation, although in their published address they put forward false statements as to the part "England" played in the civil war, and gave 20 per cent of pauperism there instead of 3, as the New York World Almanac does. Suspense was not asked for England. According to a newspaper dispatch published in this city two years ago there are 600,000 people living in houses of one room in Berlin. The late Price Collier in his book, friendly to Germany all through, stated that Berlin is the most licentious city in Europe. There would be no trouble filling a page of the Bee with paper and other charges, but it would all do no good. The horror has to be fought out some other way.

But with fundamental principles it is another story, and here we come to that part of Mr. Meyer's letter dealing with democracy. Before Liege fell the papers were inclined to be a little easy on the Germans who met a greater resistance than was expected; but now when they are the conquerors, the conquerors and their countrymen have need not be sensitive, and we can set forth a few truths that must not be forgotten. The Review of Reviews is right in saying that we need a new baptism of American principles. These principles remain true whether the German army is crushed or William Rex gives the law to Europe.

The German empire is fundamentally opposed to democracy. Prince Blamarok, who did not make it, knew what it stood for. He knew even better than the German-American alliance. "He held to the doctrine that the sovereign and his advisers knew far better what was good for the nation than either legislators or people." Lincoln stood for a government of, by, and for the people. Blamarok for a government of kaiser and aristocrats for the people. For thousands of years the people have pitched their lives, and they will fight until the German one bites the dust. This dreadful war has come and will go, but the old fight will last till there is not a crowned head on earth.

The situation is very serious. The Germans have done splendidly in many ways. For one thing, they have the best laid out and governed cities on earth. It would take a catalogue to tell of the wonderful advances that have been made in spite of the divine right incubus. Moving down upon them is Russia, and we know what that country stands for, or rather, the czar and his aristocrats. What is to be gained if our people succeed? No matter how the war ends, it seems to spell disaster for civilization. It must come to lines of buffer states between the large nations, or worse hell than ever in a few years more. Disarmament or destruction.

Bad as it is, there is an occasional grin possible. I attended the Irish meeting the other night, for, being Scotch, I like to keep tab on Patrick, and a third of the crowd were Irishmen who came from the Rhine, the Elbe and other rivers that flow into the lakes of Killarney. A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind at times. WILLIAM ARTHUR.

The Disgrace of a Socialist.

OMAHA, Sept. 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: It is with disgust that I read some of the communications from your several correspondents on the responsibility of the great wholesale murder now taking place in Europe. It would seem that the above referred to correspondents are still subjects of the several countries they are trying to defend. If not, then they ought to be ashamed of themselves for trying to defend kings, emperors and czars in their insane and wanton sacrifice of human life and property for an imaginary affront to their so-called honor. Let some of these false, so-called citizens of this country either cease in their defense of institutions that are relics of the dark ages or let them surrender their American citizenship papers and go back where they came from. If I had my way not one of the reserves that were in this country and who responded to the call of their masters to come back and fight should ever enter this country again. JESSE T. BRILLHART.

The Cost of Kings

William Randolph Hearst in New York Journal.

(Reprinted by Request.) The war in horridly progress in Europe is really that most dreadful of all wars—a civil war. It is a war between states which should be living in peace and amity, in co-operative effort, in intellectual and material progress, and even in governmental accord, as "the United States of Europe."

It is a war between a large proportion of the civilized nations of the world, in which human progress will be halted and civilization itself threatened. It is a war in which the proportion of civilized human beings on the planet will be greatly reduced, and the contribution to human progress of those innumerable units irrevocably lost.

It is a war in which the accumulated treasures of centuries are being destroyed, treasures not merely of money, but of art and architecture which can never be replaced, and whose refining and elevating and civilizing influence will forever be ended in the world.

The disaster of this war, therefore, is not merely a local disaster. It is a world-wide disaster. It is a disaster to the civilization of which we Americans are a part. It is a destruction of the heritage of civilization of which we Americans are part possessors.

It means a diminution of the number and a weakening of the power in the world of the white nations, of the Occidental nations, of which we are one. It means an assault upon the standards, the ideals, the conditions of life which have been the contribution of those Occidental nations to the civilization of the world—which, indeed, have constituted the civilization of the modern world.

It means a corresponding strengthening of Oriental aims, ideals and ambitions. It tends to make possible an eventual triumph of ideals and conditions wholly foreign and offensive to our own.

One nation allied with Orientals is actually importing Orientals on to the scene of this conflict to show them how they may meet and possibly defeat Occidentals in modern warfare—a lesson which will be readily learned and ever remembered.

Another nation is as recklessly destroying priceless heirlooms of art and architecture to penalize a prostrate foe without consideration of the incalculable loss it is inflicting upon the whole civilized community, of which its own people are a notable part.

No one nation is to be blamed more than another for these illimitable dangers and disasters, but all are to be condemned for having invited and instituted so cruel and fearful a conflict. In the judgment of posterity surely all will be held responsible for the infinite injury of this war, recklessly and unreasonably inflicted upon humanity and upon human progress.

But while the nations engaged in this internecine struggle will be and must justly be held responsible for the endless and needless disaster incurred, the people themselves of the several nations can hardly be held unaccountable.

The war is indeed convincing and distressing proof that the veneer of civilization lies but thinly upon all so called civilized beings; that civilization herself sits but insecurely upon her throne, liable at any time to rude displacement by original savagery.

Yet the people themselves, under strictly modern forms of government, would probably never have become involved in this war.

The war is attributable to the survival in Europe of mediæval institutions long outgrown by modern society, to the prosecution of imperial policies in the selfish interest of greedy hereditary dynasties.

It is a war of the Middle Ages, caused by those conditions of the Middle Ages, monarchic and aristocratic, which still persists in Europe, and which, as long as they persist, will repress popular development and dominate popular sentiment.

This is a war of kings, brought on by the assassination of a king's nephew, who was of no more actual importance to modern society than the nephew of any other individual, citizen or subject, in all Europe.

Both of mediæval misconception of the importance of royalty, this war has speedily become a war of inherited mediæval traditions, of imperial greed and glory.

But the glory of war is fading fast. The people of the world are no longer children who delight in destruction and exult in destroyers.

In the histories of more enlightened ages the rulers responsible for this war will not be described as heroes, but as homicidal maniacs, as traitors to the sacred trust solemnly imposed upon them to promote the happiness and protect the lives of their people. There is no glory in robbery, and war is but organized, authorized piracy and manslaughter.

No country points with pride to a citizen who shoots down another in the heat of hatred or in the passion of jealousy.

No country exalts as a hero a man who holds up another at the muzzle of a gun and takes his watch and pocketbook from him as "indemnity."

No country applauds and approves the man who hides in the night and, from mean motives or revenge, destroys a tenement with a bomb, killing and maiming innocent women and children.

In modern society men such as these are regarded as criminals and punished for their crimes by imprisonment or execution.

A crime is not modified by its magnitude. If a man who shoots another is a murderer, the rulers who cause the shooting of a million men are a million times more guilty murderers. If a man who robs another of a few dollars by force of arms is a thief, the rulers who rob cities and nations of millions in money by force of arms are exactly that much greater thieves.

Editorial Snapshots

Springfield Republican: Washington business will have the job of their lives this winter in keeping the diplomats sorted.

Philadelphia Inquirer: Sugar may be a good heart tonic as a medico says, but the prices of it of late has taken all the heart out of the average citizen.

Indianapolis News: Meat prices, says the market page, are lower. You might mention this to your butcher if you have lots of time and noting else to talk about.

St. Paul Dispatch: Before you men begin facetious remarks about the fall behavior of the women, have a look at the bizarre shapes of the new men's soft and stiff hats.

Chicago Herald: Canada's versatility is shown by the fact that she is busily engaged in getting ready for war and for the celebration of the hundred years of peace at the same time.

Detroit Free Press: A daring speculator down east ran \$200 up to \$6,500 and then went broke. We don't believe in watching the clock, but a man ought to know when it's quitting time.

New York World: The long-expected activity in the western milk market as a result of war is at last in evidence. Prices are up sharply, and the nation that gets the most miles will dictate peace.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: A parcel post rate of \$1.20 on an eleven-pound package from New York to San Francisco and of 51 cents from Germany to the same destination seems a careful discrimination in favor of the foreign shopper.

Louisville Courier-Journal: New York has at last an ordinance under which street cars stop at street intersections before crossing the street. It is an excellent plan, as Louisville and other progressive cities know by experience.

Advice to Correspondents. Boston Transcript: If the American war correspondents who have rushed to Europe wish to keep right up with the news, they should have their home papers sent to them regularly.

TART TRIFLES.

"Women are the spice of life." "That's the time you said something." "And life without spice would be—"

"Spice? I thought you said spices!" replied the man whose wife had found a poker chip in his pocket.—Houston Post.

"Yes," said Casey, "the simple idiot set me." "Is Cassidy related to yet?" he asked.

"Did he say that?" interrupted Cassidy. "He did, an' I set to him. If I tought Cassidy had wan drop o' my blood in his veins I'd cut it out of him."—TIT-BITS.

"Some of your hymns are very poor poetry," said the critical theologian. "That doesn't signify anything," replied the clergyman. "We all know of some very fine poetry that would make exceedingly poor hymns."—Washington Star.

"Why do they call that game of cards bridge?" "Well, it is principally a game of come across."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"I guess it is nothing more than an idle rumor." "Idle? I guess not. It is the busiest of rumors that ever happened."—Brooklyn Life.

Mr. K.—"I'm certain your butcher gives you short weight for your money." Mrs. K.—"But consider, my dear, the long wait you give him for his.—Stray Stories.

"I see now, according to a famous doctor, that the human family is likely to become a one-toed race," said the pessimist. "Well, that means fewer corns," replied the optimist.

A ROSEBUSH GREW.

William Struthers in Boston Transcript. A rosebush grew, untended, many a day in a closed yard pig where the town-tide flows. Hidden from city's comedy of shows, Open to wind and rain and sunshine rays, Yet no rosebush in rosetime came its way.

Never its leaf trembling felt the throes Of birth, the mother's joy-commingled woe. When summer piper 'mid the air would play, One by September, look! a blushing flower.

One only! Say, is it for one lone heart, A youth, Toll'd slave through every sunlit quest; To pluck and take on daytime fancy-quest; To climb at night when, from his sleeping breast, Free-winded soul-dreams on far journeys start?



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