

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR. The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor. BEE BUILDING, FARNAM AND SEVENTEENTH. Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: By mail per month, 50c; by carrier, 60c. Daily and Sunday, 4.00; Daily without Sunday, 3.00; Evening and Sunday, 4.00; Evening without Sunday, 3.00; Sunday only, 2.00. Send notice of change of address or complaints of irregularity in delivery to Omaha Bee, Circulation Department.

REMITTANCE: Remit by draft, express or postal order. Only two-cent stamps received in payment of small accounts. Personal checks, except on Omaha and eastern exchange, not accepted.

OFFICES: Omaha—The Bee Building, 313 N. 17th street. Council Bluffs—14 North Main street. Lincoln—25 Little Building. Chicago—90 West Building. New York—Room 150, 236 Fifth avenue. St. Louis—500 New Bank of Commerce. Washington—75 Fourteenth St., N. W.

CORRESPONDENCE: Address communications relating to news and editorial matter to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

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 14 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.

Marked those Ak-Sar-Ben dates on your calendar? Oh yes, Rheims! That's where the champagne comes from!

Nebraska's good old Indian summer time is good enough for the most exacting. Two weeks yet to prepare for the officially designated day for prayers for peace.

The superiority of The Bee's war news service becomes even more striking as the war proceeds. Colonel Maher wants it distinctly understood that his typewriter battery is not yet out of commission.

Never mind! Next year's chautaukers will tell all about it, and leave nothing shrouded in mystery or unexplained.

When it comes to "atrocities," neither side in a fiercely waged war is likely to prove a monopoly on the enemy.

Sir Ernest Shackleton is off again on another expedition to the Antarctic polar region. Dr. Cook please take notice!

The Bee's Public School Roll of Honor is with us again to stimulate the children to do their best in their lessons.

Now that Chauncey Depew is back on free American soil, the real unvarnished truth should be quickly forthcoming.

It must make those naval officers and tars chafe to sit idly by while the landlubbers do all the fighting and win all the glory.

"Twas ever thus." The farmer who held his wheat is not sure but that he should have sold, and the farmer who sold wishes he had held on a little longer.

Judging from the photographs, the track of the tornado in Omaha affords the best comparison we know of for the track of the invading armies through Belgium and France.

The stamp tax section of the new war revenue law is to be greatly restricted by limiting the requirements of stamps on checks, notes, etc. That means that the business of stamping will not be as brisk as expected.

This community has plenty of good men, and women too for that matter, eminently qualified to serve on the school board to fill all impending vacancies ten times over. As a rule, however, they are not the sort who go scrambling for the places.

Which reminds us again, that a distinguished statesman once went up and down the land proclaiming that farmers would never see dollar wheat again until the brutal single gold standard of value was overthrown, and the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the sacred ratio of 16 to 1 was substituted for it.

But if both the old parties are as bad as the epilogue is painting them, how does it come that he offered to unite with the republicans in New York on a candidate for United States senator, and how comes it now that his progressives have actually fused with the democrats in Pennsylvania on governor?

What is known as the Liberal League assembled at St. George's hall, the topic of discussion being the tariff. Those who participated in the debate included Mr. Potter, General O'Brien, J. J. Points and Messrs. Emery, Quinn and Bartlett.

The German Theater company put on "Die Kohlen Schuren" with old Mr. Grossman in the title role. H. D. Jones and wife left for Minneapolis on a week's visit to friends.

J. P. F. Brewster, a prominent banker of Boston, is the guest of D. G. Hull.

The order of priesthood will be conferred on the deacons of the Episcopal church here by Right Rev. Doherty of St. Louis next Wednesday.

About 200 people assembled at the ball park for a game with the Union Pacific and a local nine, witnessed nothing but a scrub game, the players failing to show up.

Councilman Reim is trying to father an ordinance for one assessor for the city instead of six as now. W. J. Welshans offers for sale corner of Eighth and Farnam, now occupied by the City mills.

School Men in Line for Short Ballot.

By recommending that the elective office of state superintendent be abolished and an appointive commission of education be given the work that now devolves on the former, the state commission engaged in drafting a revision of our Nebraska school laws puts itself in line for the short ballot. While their recommendation does not go beyond the one office of state superintendent, the schoolmen can be consistent only by supporting the whole demand for the conversion of purely administrative offices into appointive rather than elective positions. Hammered down to bed rock, every argument made for taking the superintendency of our schools out of the list of elective political offices will apply with almost equal force to eliminating from the ballot such offices as attorney general, land commissioner, auditor, secretary of state, and treasurer, and likewise to the county superintendency and various county administrative offices.

For the proposed abolition of the state superintendent as an elective officer, which must be accomplished by amendment to the constitution, it will take not less than two years, and if the machinery is to be set in motion it may as well be comprehensive for the same section of the constitution that provides for the election of a state superintendent of schools provides for the election of all the other executive state officers. Pulling for the short ballot will bring about what the schoolmen want and will bring it about more quickly and more surely because it will enlist a lot of help for the pull.

War News Here and Abroad.

While on the subject of complaint about alleged inadequate or inaccurate war news sent over the cables to America, that part of the official statement given out in Berlin the other day by Ambassador Gerard should not escape notice. We refer to the part in which he feels called upon to deny a report current there "that the United States is preparing to join the allies."

It goes without saying that our ambassador would not deem it incumbent upon him to enter denial unless the report had become fairly widespread, and was being disseminated in a way to impress people that it came from authoritative sources. To us over here the very idea that the Germans in Berlin should be worked up over the possibility of the United States mixing in with their adversaries is so preposterous that no intelligent person would seriously entertain it, for it is unthinkable that the United States will become involved in this war unless dragged in.

The incident, however, should serve as a reminder that the American newspaper readers, more favored than those in any other country, alone have all the war news available from all sources, and no censor keeping out what is displeasing or suppressing publications that give the other side.

On the Wrong Tack.

Postmaster General Burleson has in mind some little economies by which he thinks he can save \$20,000,000 without impairing the service to the public. The postmaster general's plan, as we gather it, is to discontinue rural free delivery as now provided, and to have the work done by contract in some fashion more or less similar to the old star route system.

The postmaster general is taking the wrong tack. The people of this country who foot the bills would like very much to save \$20,000,000 a year out of the postoffice budget, but they will hardly approve any backward step in the conduct of the postal business. We have gotten away as far as possible from star route methods that were so replete with fraud and scandal, and have proceeded on the theory that the safest and surest way to handle the mails expeditiously is for Uncle Sam to do it himself. If we were to go back to the contract system there would be no good reason for stopping with the rural free delivery when perhaps as much, or more, money might be saved by handing the city free delivery over to contractors. Our just inaugurated parcels post might also be sublet back to the express companies.

No, Mr. Postmaster General, the people will welcome economies effected through stopping leaks or improved efficiency, but they will not stand for the upsetting of the rural free delivery service.

The Reaction Toward Business.

No wide-awake observer can have failed to see a noticeable reaction of public opinion in this country toward business and industry as voiced by the demand for restrictive legislation and punitive prosecutions. Only a little while ago the atmosphere was surcharged with denunciations of trusts and combines, and arraignment of unfair or illegal repression of competitors. The increment to this state of public mind moreover came from real evils and abuses, the most flagrant of recent instances being uncovered in the New Haven mess.

Yet to date, we have had no important new legislation aimed at big business unless the reserve bank bill be taken as a blow at the money trust, but the acute complaints are plainly subsiding, and the disposition seems to be to give both big and little business a chance without much more interference unless fresh abuses develop. Even the railroads have had a partial concession to their request for rate increase, although by no means freed from accountability and regulation by the various state and interstate commissions. Our business ailments or backwardness right now are ascribed to other causes rather than fear of hostile legislation, and when these troubles clear up, the way should be opened for renewed industrial and commercial activity at once aggressive and progressive, and as vigorous in expansive powers as ever.

A versatile gentleman has been unearthed who writes letters for publication with great care to make them suit the newspaper which he addresses. He writes one letter to the Lincoln Journal damning Hitchcock and Hitchcockism, and another letter to the World-Herald praising Senator Hitchcock and telling him how proud he is of him. We regret to say that the fake letter-writer is one of the banes of the editorial existence, and it takes real discrimination to identify the bogus. That is why The Bee tries hard to safeguard its letter box, although the impostor is bound occasionally to circumvent the strictest watchfulness.



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

Take "Maud" Away.

OMAHA, Sept. 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: I read with much interest your editorial on today's Bee on the lack of taste shown in placing "Maud" in front of our handsome court house. We all enjoy Ak-Sar-Ben and appreciate the arduous work of its promoters, but I think the majority of us do not care to see the handsome court house desecrated.

Did Lincoln Say It?

SOUTH OMAHA, Sept. 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: In the "Arguments in Favor of Woman Suffrage Amendment" issued by the Nebraska Woman Suffrage association a statement is made that Abraham Lincoln made a speech in which he practically advocated giving the right of suffrage to all, including women. I do not believe Abraham Lincoln ever made such a statement at all. A well known man of considerable prominence who has a great many of the speeches, letters, papers and notes of Lincoln in his possession wrote me that in a careful search he fails to find that Lincoln ever made any statement that could possibly be twisted into the form quoted.

Woman suffrage was only thought of as a joke during the times of Lincoln, for far more momentous questions faced the American people in the conflict that involved the life of our nation. If anybody can show from some strictly authentic source that Abraham Lincoln ever made the statement attributed to him, I will believe it, but we do not want quotations from cyclopedias gotten up forty years after the death of Lincoln, nor from other sources not strictly reliable.

The only reliable source I know of would be the works of John Hay, one of Lincoln's private secretaries, who edited the "Life of Lincoln." I would like to see someone prove by the writings of John Hay that Abraham Lincoln ever made the statement I have mentioned. The quotation sounds too much like the "Seven Financial Conspiracies" that we heard so much of during the times of populism.

F. A. AGNEW.

Watchful Waiting.

YORK, Neb., Sept. 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: I see our soldier boys have been called home (where they belong) from Vera Cruz. Much praise is given the watchful waiting policy of the administration for keeping us out of war with Mexico. Right here is the place to say that such profession and the performance in this case do not fit at all. For we quit the waiting and began the fighting when we fired on and took Vera Cruz, from where the war would have spread over the country until we today would be at war with Mexico but for the offers of the South American nations to try and settle it for us. I am more than glad to say I give the president full credit for his willingness to let them do it if they can. For we were in bad in that mess. And I believe the president since then he says he is for peace. But there is just about as much harm done by blunders as by malice. And I think it was a bad blunder that Mr. Fletcher made when he took Vera Cruz, and also a worse one when Mr. Wilson gave his full endorsement of the act. F. POPE.

Divine Right and Civilization.

OMAHA, Sept. 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: Mr. Meyer is determined to keep "England" in its proper place, but he charges it with too much. It and the allies, he says, want to crush Germany because, among other things, "it can justify its pride of a superior civilization." Why waste space telling us of German civilization? We all know that country has done splendidly in many ways, but owing to the "divine right" theory, humbly accepted by all Germans except the socialists, it is two centuries behind the United Kingdom which in its turn is lagging behind France and Switzerland. We have a theory here that a high civilization and the divine right claim cannot exist together. As to the blame for the horrible war, it all appears to be a case of the pot calling the kettle black.

And why do German-Americans so far forget themselves as always to bring up 1787? They are supposed to be well read. As the present war may last for a time, it may be as well to save them future references of this kind by setting down here a few facts. There is a document in the British museum signed in 1215. It is the Great Charter forced by Stephen de Langton and the barons from King John, who screamed, "By God's teeth I will not grant them liberties that will make me a slave." But he had to do it. One of the provisions of this charter was that no money should be levied by way of tax on the commons of England without their consent previously expressed by their own representatives. That doctrine stood in the time of George III and stands today.

King George, honest and bull-headed, attempted to set the doctrine aside, and we know what happened. The colonists were simply standing upon a right guaranteed more than five centuries before they were born. They did not want to separate from England; but fortunately they did so—and when the Germans of today separate from their kaiser instead of "hooning" for him they will be nearer civilization.

English people had smashed divine right further in 1801 and elected a man to the throne who by the usual hereditary course was not entitled to it, but the lesson was lost on George. He and his aristocrats determined to reverse the decision of 1215 and 1801; and why Mr. Meyer or the German-American alliance should blame the people for what was done by a few is hard to see, especially when we remember that in 1914 the German and Russian millions of soldiers are moved at the will of two men. The kaiser is the grandson of George's niece, and seems to be a chip of the old block. Bismarck and he and their aristocrats have divine right on the brain.

Acres of print are now run through the press about this war. It all must come to disarming or hell on earth in a few years again. This for the European nations, for our own, and for Japan and China. Thousands of splendid young fellows of all countries are being mowed down to keep up the damnable lie that the best way to have peace is to prepare for war. WILLIAM ARTHUR.

Down on Our Sex. Miss Gusher (at the summer resort)—Isn't it just heaven? Miss Groat—Yes, the proportion of men here and down here, inasmuch as it is just about the same.—Boston Transcript.

"Silent" Johnnie French

His full name and title is Field Marshal Sir John Pinguet French, commander-in-chief of the British expeditionary forces in France. But the British army from Tommy Atkins up knows him simply as "Silent Johnny French." The Boers in South Africa gave him a still shorter name; they called him "Devil" and they had good reason. The Germans before the war used to call him England's greatest tactician and Europe's greatest cavalry leader. What number of men he is a very reader of The Bee who read the other day his report of the "glorious stand of the British troops" between August 23 and August 26 can judge.

Sir John French is the personification of English coolness and courage. The dispatches from the front have painted little vignettes of him in the field walking among his men quietly smoking. That is characteristic of the man. It is said of the man that he was through some of the hardest fighting of the Boer war, without once raising his voice or hastening his step. Out there the Tommies used to say of him: "Old French don't bark much, but Lord, don't he bloom in well bite." It was his bite that made the Boers call him "Devil."

French was ubiquitous on the field. And he never got frightened or rattled. The tighter the place the found himself in the cooler was French. Once when dining with General Ian Hamilton during the progress of one of his famous raids the Boers stopped and shelled the camp. They got the range of headquarters down to an inch and an orderly rushed into the tent where French and Ian Hamilton were dining to announce that shells were falling all about it. "Silent" French said, "Thank you," and ordered another chop.

There is the man of England has sent into the field to command its armies. What might have happened to the British forces between Mons and Compiègne if "Silent" French had not been in control of the situation makes grim speculation. He is really a most extraordinary man. That he is in the army at all is an accident. His family's ambition was to make him a clergyman, but that was never realized, and he drifted into the navy. He spent four years in the English navy and ever since the English navy has taunted the English army with the claim that the best soldier it has is a sailor.

Like so many other good soldiers, Field Marshal French is an Irishman, though he was born in the English county of Kent, sixty-two years ago. His people were not rich nor influential; that is why young French was designed for the ministry. Doy manner, for economy of speech and for the coldly persistent and cautious way he went about things. He left the English navy because it was a dull life and he got into the cavalry branch of the army because he liked horses. But though he has been a cavalryman now for forty years he has never learned to ride a horse with distinction.

When he was 22 he was gazetted to the Eighth Hussars, and a few weeks later to the Nineteenth. It was in 1864 that he first saw service when the Nile expedition was sent to rescue Gordon. In December of that year 1,000 of the flower of the British army, French among them, led by Sir Herbert Stewart, commenced their march across the Bagoda desert, and at Abu Klea fought the most savage and bloody battle England ever engaged in. In Egypt after this battle French, impeded with stores and wounded, marched twenty-seven miles across the desert. To mention the Nile, French was famous upon the Nile fighting in that forlorn dash across the desert. When the machine gun jammed in the fierce fight at Abu Klea, and the British square was rushed by howling dervishes, the killing included the hero of the "Hide to Khiva." Colonel Burnaby, who was struck down at French's side by a poisonous javelin.

It was during this campaign that French made that impression on General Buller which resulted later in his South African experiences. After his work in Egypt French spent some years on the staff of the inspector general of cavalry in India. It was here that he made the study of cavalry which has made him the greatest leader of cavalry alive. From India he was transferred to Aldershot in England, where he attempted to put some of his own original ideas about cavalry in operation. Every new cavalry tactic he displayed, however, was frowned upon by the superior officers considered the young enthusiast a little bit demented on the subject of cavalry and finally he was recommended for retirement. That meant dismissal from the service, and at that time England came perilously near losing forever the man who saved its army from annihilation the other day.

It was General Buller who saved French. When Buller was sent out to Africa to take charge of the campaign he invited young French to join his staff. That was the first great opportunity that had come to French and he made it make him. General Buller gave him command of the cavalry division in Natal with the rank of major general. His first blow to the Boers was the victory of Elandslaagte, which desperate fight the Tommies dubbed "Bill and Slaughter." French was in Kimberley when the Boers first invested the town. Sir George White, who knew how valuable French would be in the field, sent him away from Kimberley on the last train that got out. A shell passed through the carriage in which French was traveling, but when it did he was lying under a seat smoking a cigar.

When Lord Roberts arrived on the scene he called on French to help him in the relief of Kimberley. With 5,000 men French commenced a wild ride to assist the beleaguered town. He crossed two rivers, over parched, waterless veldt, and then had the crowning joy of a straight, uninterrupted run into Kimberley and knowing it was saved. Immediately on arrival, however, came the news of Cronje's flight. Every man who was fit to ride was again in the saddle, and they set off on a long night gallop to close one unprotected rift and head off the Boer command. The result was the surrender at Paardeberg, which covered French with glory. But there was more of it in store for him, for he commanded the cavalry division at the capture of Bloemfontein and Pretoria, as well winning many other brilliant actions during the remainder of the war. He was mentioned in dispatches many times and received the K.C.B. and K.C.M.G.

On returning to England he was given command at Aldershot, becoming in turn lieutenant general in 1902 and full general at the age of 56. In 1911 he became chief of the imperial staff and first military member of the army council, being made a field marshal in 1913.

In March of last year when the Ulster trouble became acute, General French resigned from the staff rather than be involved in any conflict with his own countrymen. And Tommy Atkins, who idolized French, stood with the man who has led them out of so many tight places.

Twice Told Tales

Sure Sign of Recovery. An Alaska pioneer was telling how crowded a certain ship was during the gold rush. One day a man came up to the captain and said: "You will just have to give me some place to sleep."

"Where have you been sleeping?" "Well, the passenger replied, "I have been sleeping on a sick man, but he's getting better now, and he won't stand it."—Exchange.

Limousine or Gasoline? "Bob" Burman, record-holder in motor car racing, tells the following story:

Recently I was talking with a woman whose husband had acquired considerable wealth suddenly, and who was quite new to the social world and its customs. She was particularly anxious to appear as if accustomed to all the luxuries of life.

She began a conversation with me on motoring. "Have you purchased your new car this season?" I asked.

"No, Mr. Burman, not yet," she said. "I can't make up my mind just which make of car to buy. Maybe you will help me."

"What is it that you can not decide about them?" I asked.

"Why, I can't decide whether I should get a gasoline car or a limousine car. Tell me, does limousine smell as bad as gasoline?"—Everybody's.

SUNNY SMILES. "Did the doctor limit you to any particular diet?" "No, but his bill did."—Birmingham Age-Herald. "Are you working for the uplift?" "Well, I'd like to, but everybody I try to uplift tells me to mind my own business."—Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The Vice—For shame, my lad! What have those poor little fish done to be imprisoned upon the day of rest? Tommy—That's that's what they get for chasing worms on a Sunday—John Bull. Lady—Yes, they are very nice gooseberries, but aren't they dirty? Street Vender—Dirty? Think I can wash 'em and part their 'air dahn the center for tuppence a pound in these ere war times?—London Opinion. "How many people are there here, Pat?" queried the Englishman of an Irishman in Montreal. "Oh, about a hundred thousand." "Why, I thought there were over half a million!" "Well, said Pat, "there is—if you count the French."—Canadian Courier. "Strange," said the first tramp, meditatively, "how few of our youthful dreams ever come true!" "Oh, I dunno," said his companion. "I remember when I used to dream about wearin' long pants, and now I guess I wear 'em longer than anyone else in the country."—Ladies' Home Journal.

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Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha. What is known as the Liberal League assembled at St. George's hall, the topic of discussion being the tariff. Those who participated in the debate included Mr. Potter, General O'Brien, J. J. Points and Messrs. Emery, Quinn and Bartlett. The German Theater company put on "Die Kohlen Schuren" with old Mr. Grossman in the title role. H. D. Jones and wife left for Minneapolis on a week's visit to friends. J. P. F. Brewster, a prominent banker of Boston, is the guest of D. G. Hull. The order of priesthood will be conferred on the deacons of the Episcopal church here by Right Rev. Doherty of St. Louis next Wednesday. About 200 people assembled at the ball park for a game with the Union Pacific and a local nine, witnessed nothing but a scrub game, the players failing to show up. Councilman Reim is trying to father an ordinance for one assessor for the city instead of six as now. W. J. Welshans offers for sale corner of Eighth and Farnam, now occupied by the City mills.