

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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OCTOBER CIRCULATION. 55,104

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 October, 1914, was 55,104.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 5th day of November, 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.

Speaking of long and short hauls, why not cut the ballot in two.

Omaha is just now the home plate of the world's base ball diamond.

What new excuse will be contrived this time to explain the high cost of turkeys

When a woman promptly admits the age you suggest, mark it down she is older than that.

While standing pat for peace, Mr. Carnegie tells the other fellow to "get rid of your kings."

The present per capita circulation of money in the United States is \$37.31. Most of us have the 31 cents.

It must be hard for Sulzer to remain the "same old Bill" while running on so many different tickets.

While other potentates have been increasing their debts, King Ak-Sar-Ben has been reducing his.

Ye gods and Rivers of Doubt, what if Governor-elect Whitman should get into the presidential game?

The "Wall street wolf" has been caught at last, but he gave the bulls and bears a good run for their money.

If this Indian summer continues much longer, the down-trodden coal baron may spring a buy-a-ton-of-coal deal on us.

"We who are strong should bear the infirmities of the weak," said Paul. And that is a challenge to every man to be strong.

The expense accounts of the candidates are coming in to meet the requirements of the campaign publicity law. It is to laugh.

Visiting base ball magnates will kindly observe that no "thugs," "thieves" or "gunners" are in evidence on the streets of Omaha.

Great Britain has set aside the first Sunday in January as a day of prayer for the allies. The good book says, "Pray for your enemies."

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and no place more so than in keeping the cattle free from foot and mouth disease.

It is all right for Russia to change the name of its capital, but what the opposing armies are fighting for is to change the map of Europe.

There are still many women of note who wouldn't give a cent to vote—Washington Herald.

And also many not of note who seem to feel the same way about it.

Having beaten university removal, the Lincolnties are urging removal of Regents Coupan and Haller. Some folks are awfully hard to please.

Looks as if the batteries of the reactionary World-Herald were unlimbering to oppose the short ballot reform. Well, the expected usually happens.

Nevertheless and notwithstanding, nearly 1,700 fearless voters living right in Lincoln and Lancaster county put themselves on record as favoring campus removal.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

A surprise party found its victim in Lillie Wood at her residence on Sherman avenue last evening.

Among those present were Masters Will Matthews, Tommie Golden, Johnnie Walsh, Johnnie Golden and Johnnie Harding, and the Misses Mamie Golden, Hattie Whitney, Nancy Tuttle and Mamie Hender.

Henry L. Lator, formerly of Omaha, but for several years past in business in Chihuahua, Mexico, is back on a visit to old-time friends.

A reorganization of the Board of Trade is in progress, new incorporation papers having been signed up by N. B. Falconer, C. F. Goodman, John Evans, G. W. Ames, John A. Wakefield, C. F. Bristol and W. W. Bingham.

Mrs. Julius C. Her and her daughter have returned from Helena, Mont.

O. N. Ramsey, secretary and treasurer, and M. M. Marshall, president, of the Omaha Barb Wire company went east on business.

Mrs. W. C. Hullett and daughter of Adrian, Mich., are in Omaha visiting their son, C. C. Hullett, of the Millard hotel.

Frank McCrary will act as clerk of the United States circuit court while Ivan Frank takes a rest.

No Partial Peace Possible.

Whatever else may, or may not, have been accomplished by the three months' of active fighting, one result will probably be generally conceded—the welding together of all the nations engaged on each side of the great conflict, so that detachment for separate negotiations or settlement has become impossible.

At the outset, Great Britain thought it the part of wisdom to engage France and Russia in a new pledge that none were to accept terms not satisfactory to all, and it was taken for granted that Germany's alliance with Austria was such that neither would entertain any proposal distasteful to the other. Turkey is the only power that has seemingly entered the war after its commencement as a free agent, and yet this freedom of action is more apparent than real. It is possible, though not probable, that the allies could, if they would offer special inducements, detach Turkey from the support of Germany and Austria, but plainly the Turk's participation in the war is not regarded by either side as the decisive factor.

Three months of fighting therefore must merely strengthen the conviction that the end of the war will not come piecemeal, nor by any peace pact that disregards the issues as to any of the belligerent countries. When one of the big powers lay down arms, they will all cease warring, and, indeed, a partial peace would be no peace at all.

While Still Fresh in Mind.

Before we get away from the late election, The Bee wants to call attention to two rulings by the election commissioner construing the election law as applied in this county differently from its application in other parts of the state, and, we believe, wrongly.

In the first place, a primary filing to put a candidate in the running for both the republican and democratic nominations was refused, while a similar double filing for republican and progressive party nominations was accepted. In other words, candidates were permitted to double up as republicans and progressives, or as democrats and populists, but not as republicans and democrats. This discrimination strikes us as purely arbitrary, for if the law permits multiple nominations by more than one party, the door must be open to the fusion of any two parties for which the required filings must be made.

Secondly, the election commissioner has held that the closing of the registration books ten days before election to be absolute and unconditional, and to prevent the swearing in of a vote under any circumstances. In Lincoln, where registration is also required, a citizen with a good and sufficient reason for not having registered, may swear in his vote. Conceding that continuous registration makes good and sufficient reasons scarce, there are still cases where an unregistered voter may not have been at fault. Our constitution in its bill of rights declares that all elections "shall be free," and without "hindrance or impediment to the right of a qualified voter to exercise the election franchise," but an election is not free and unimpeded when a voter otherwise qualified, and who would be permitted to vote if he lived in Lincoln, is disfranchised because he happens to live in Omaha.

American Business Stability.

While business stability all over the world has been subjected to a severe test in withstanding the disturbance caused by the European war, American business is showing recuperative powers in various ways, and in none more strikingly than in taking on the new war taxes apparently without a ripple. The law imposing a great variety of new internal revenue duties was rushed through congress in a very short time, part of these additional taxes becoming effective at once, with the approval of the law by the president as of date October 22. Another big block of special taxes became operative November 1, and the remainder of the new taxes will be effective on December 1.

It is assumed for the most part that these taxes will be shifted by those who pay them in the first instance to the ultimate consumer, but this assumption is not wholly warranted. At any rate, it will take some time to distribute the tax burden, if it is to be distributed at all, and in the interval the business, or occupation on which it first falls must carry the load. That tax machinery designed to raise \$90,000,000 of revenue from domestic sources could be set in motion without a hitch and almost without attracting attention, speaks volumes for the soundness of the American industrial and business fabric.

Pooping and Fooling.

Our amiable local contemporaries are making themselves ridiculous by pointing out instances in the recent election in which the successful candidates have won by pluralities, and not majorities, as examples of fooling the people. They tell us, for example, that if all who did not vote for Penrose in Pennsylvania had pooled their votes on one candidate, they would have beaten him, and likewise that a local candidate for county commissioner, who, though compelled to run in a field of four, came through with a plurality of 1,000, would have lost had all the votes cast for his opponents been centered on one man. But this is true, generally speaking in all of our elections. If all the people who did not vote for Woodrow Wilson two years ago had pooled their votes, Wilson would not today be president. The democrats have apparently saved two or three state offices in addition to governor out of our Nebraska election, but not one of them would have landed had all the votes which they did not get been pooled for one candidate. Going back to the preceding primary, mighty few of the candidates' names would have gone on the ballot if all the votes against them had been pooled.

From several quarters the next legislature is being adjured to make retrenchment and economy the watchword, and not to appropriate a single dollar of public money for anything that is not really necessary. A legislature that would give relief for the taxpayers its prime consideration, would be as welcome as it would be unusual.

But for a California woman to tell Nebraska women that they failed to get suffrage because they are not ready for it, is a little like rubbing it in, especially if it carries with it the inference that the women of Nevada and Montana are more ready.

The Bee's Letter Box

Small Town Municipal Utilities. OMAHA, Nov. 8.—To the Editor of The Bee: Municipal utility plants for small towns are becoming very popular, but what about their efficiency, their merit and their satisfaction? Do the advantages warrant the cost?

No town can develop very far or amount to much without water supply and electric light systems, and these, and sewerage, public parks and pavements must follow in natural sequence to complete the chain. The traveling public and the prospective investor all expect or are favorably influenced by these now commonplace improvements, for once experienced they become a practical necessity. They are no longer luxuries, because it is now appreciated that the public health, comfort and general welfare require them.

How can they be obtained? That is the next question. Some years back there was sufficient inducement for private interests to obtain a franchise and install water works and electric light, or artificial gas plants, but conditions have changed wonderfully, so that today it is ordinarily necessary for the town to vote a sufficient amount of bonds to pay for the desired improvement, and these have plans made and let the contract for the construction of same. After that they must arrange to operate their plant and fix upon the rates to charge, so that the income will be sufficient to prevent a deficit, and yet not be prohibitive.

These are all indeed intricate problems for such inexperienced people to solve. The private companies had the advantage of experienced management, hence much greater efficiency. It was their business to do business, and their success depended upon it, so naturally they made much greater progress than the municipal management could hope to do. After the town became larger, and the consumers became used to and appreciated the utility, these concerns usually made more profits than ordinary interest on the investment. But it is only those which could have induced them to make the original venture, and it may have been warranted by the financial hazard, and the anxieties and sacrifices involved. Now, it is only at this stage of the game that the municipality can take hold of the project and serve the public at lower rates than the private concern has charged.

However, as it is now usually necessary for the towns to operate their own utilities from the beginning, how may they best do it? And if they have an opportunity to "let George do it," how will they know whether to give him the contract or franchise at his terms or not? Neither the doctor nor the lawyer can assist at this crisis, and the best business man will well be undecided, for here is a place where wise "angels fear to tread."

Their only salvation lies in the engineering profession, and here there are many pitfalls. Here experience counts, as in everything else, and unless they are very careful in their investigations and "shopping," they will call in a "horse doctor" instead of a physician, and then the undertaker, or they might choose a Christian Scientist, whose "absent treatment" would fail to keep the contractor in line.

These experiences are not imaginary, as nearly every Nebraska town can testify; hence the experience referred to above as desirable does not mean with other towns, but rather with successful private plants, where efficiency and results are demanded and produced.

Town officials need reliable information, guidance and advice. They need to know how much a suitable plant will cost, what the cost to operate will be and then what rate the public should pay at first to meet these costs. The engineer can't tell them off hand; he must make some investigations, and after he has accumulated the essential data, his experience enables him to make reasonably close estimates. Next, he can tell them how best to go about voting the bonds, and the requirements of the bonds for their sale. Then the plans and specifications must be prepared and the contractor's bids taken on same, but sometimes the conditions are such that money may be saved by the town buying the materials and having the labor performed by day's work under the superintendence of the engineer.

But the engineer's work is not yet completed; he should supply competent workmen to operate the equipment and from time to time he should be called upon to make a general inspection of the plant, and to check up the operating results, to see that there are no leaks of any kind.

Sometimes the town officials feel that they can attend to many of these features, because they have visited the plant in some adjacent town and know how they do, and besides they are satisfied that they know more about it than the engineer any way. This has often, unfortunately, been true, and when it is true the town is paying both the engineer's fee and for his lack of experience, too. The mistake is expensive, but all their own. Ofttimes they have bonded themselves to the limit and can't raise the money to remedy the blunders.

Look back on any municipal plant power house after a few years and see the junk pile of discarded machinery, all in comparatively good condition, but useless for local requirements. Many times there will be two or three sets of equipment in this pile—the first to suit incompetent plans, and the rest represents the efforts of the committee to remedy the short-comings of the first lot; they bought what the salesman wanted to sell them, and maybe a succeeding committee repeated the effort with equal success. All this is the actual history of many a plant and shows very well the possibilities for inefficiency and even failure, unless there is a continuous supply of public funds to meet the demands and deficits.

One other vital defect, which often accompanies water supply plants should not be overlooked. That is the construction of a complete system from pipe lines to water tower and pump house without first determining upon or discovering a sufficient water supply to meet the expanding requirements. There are several towns enjoying (I think) the most right now, and they are blindly groping around for springs or other additional sources of supply.

Thus, in conclusion, public utilities are a most powerful and essential agent for the development of any town; but their ownership, planning and operation are such serious problems that only experts should be permitted to advise and direct in all decisions pertaining to them, and the money so expended will result in the saving of not hundreds—but thousands of dollars in expense and be also the determining factor between success and comparative failure. A. C. AREND.

Aimed at Omaha

Bloomfield Journal: The Christmas Ship idea, fostered in Nebraska by The Omaha Bee, was a magnificent success, and it is certain that in spite of the devastations of the war thousands of European children will not be forgotten by St. Nick.

Grand Island Independent: We admit our failure to understand it all! Both political parties are absolutely assuring the public of Omaha again and yet that they will clean up Omaha morally and hence politically. And still Billy Sunday is making arrangements to spend about a month there next spring? Is the lucky marble really under Billy's shell?

Nebraska City Press: Omaha elected a nonpartisan board of school directors, as the result of an alleged "stink" that grew out of the discharge of several teachers. The men elected to the board are like school boards that represent the people on the Nebraska City board, men of undisputed ability and high moral character. School boards should be nonpartisan and they should be composed of men of property and high ideals.

Wayne Herald: Omaha entertained the Nebraska teachers last week, and the metropolis knows how to do it, as all who have ever experienced its cordiality would testify.

Kearney Hub: Billy Sunday says of Nebraska's chief city, "Omaha has no more of the devil than any other city." Billy has an engagement to "cast out devils" in that city about May 1 next. Watch him.

Plattsmouth Journal: Late reports make the legislature strongly democratic. The democrats don't want to make any fool break in the selection of a speaker. Get a good, clean man, and the way to get him is from out in the state, and not from Omaha.

Hastings Tribune: It is said that Omaha is after the joy riders and speed maniacs. Let us hope that we have not been misinformed.

Beatrice Express: The school teachers at Omaha have gone on record as favoring the abolishment of the office of state superintendent. They would have instead a state board of education with authority to appoint a commissioner of education. It would seem that Nebraska has enough boards now, and for a long time the people and press of the state have been advocating the elimination of the many useless and expensive boards that have been appointed or authorized by law in later years. If every organization is to have its board, the state would be bankrupt in a short time. Instead of providing for extra expense, would it not be wise to chop off a number of boards that are now drawing salaries for simply holding office, without having very much to do but draw their checks from the state?

Twice Told Tales

A Hungarian statesman used to rid himself of tiresome visitors in much the same way by relating the following story:

Once, when in Paris, Napoleon paid a visit to a hospital for old soldiers. Among the inmates was an old man who had lost an arm. The emperor asked him:

"Where did you lose your arm?"

"At Marengo, sir."

"Then, no doubt, you curse the emperor and your country for your fate?"

"On the contrary," said the veteran, "for the emperor and my country I would sacrifice my other arm."

"I can hardly believe it," said Napoleon.

The soldier immediately drew a saber from its sheath and lopped off the other arm. At this point the Hungarian would pause and look at the visitor, demanding: "What is your opinion of such an action?"

"A most sublime act of self-sacrifice," would be the enthusiastic response.

"With, however, one flaw," would come the withering comment. "Pray, how could a one-armed man continue to cut off his only remaining arm?"

The story never failed to produce the desired effect.—New York Times.

Two East Siders were making their first trip to Europe. On the first night out the sea grew rough and the liner pitched like a chip in the big waves.

One of the travelers coming to his stateroom to retire found his friend just getting into bed and was astonished to note that the second man wore a woman's frilly nightgown and had a lace-and-ribbon-trimmed bonnet cap tied upon his head.

"For heavens' sake, man," he gasped, "what's the idea?"

"Well," said his friend, "you know the rule: In case of disaster, women and children first."—Saturday Evening Post.

Kindly Warning.

A suffrage leader stopped a small boy in the street. "Child," she said, "what are you doing on the streets?"

"Oh, jus' runnin' 'round," answered the lad.

"Did you ever have any moral instruction?"

"Any what?"

"Any moral instruction?"

"Don't know what that is."

The suffrage leader was appalled.

"Little boy," she said, "go home and tell your mother that Mrs. Jones will speak at the Settlement House this evening on the subject, 'Where Does a Mother's Duty to Her Children Begin?'"

"Aw, cut it out, maw," exclaimed the small boy, "don't you know yer own kid?"—Louisville Times.

People and Events

Rather than go to the judicial mat with Jurymen who refused to sign a verdict ordered by the court, St. Louis judge simply dismissed the jury. Foxy boy!

W. H. Holmes of Ruby, Nev., deftly adjusted action to the surroundings in celebrating Nevada's apple day by taking unto himself a wife whose name was Apple.

A quick-witted man in Atlantic City put out a fire which threatened his home by pouring 2,000 gallons of wine upon it. The importance of having an adequate supply of fire extinguisher in one's cellar is again demonstrated.

Atlantic City, N. J., compiled a "rag list" of chronic boozers and sent it to saloonkeepers with a caution to "cut 'em out." Any Atlantic Cityan who cannot tread a chalk line on the Boardwalk with both feet is an object of suspicion nowadays.

The Simplified Spelling board, in its September Bulletin, passes by the greatest opportunity that ever knocked at its door. Not a line or a helpful hint is offered to the multitude struggling with the names of places in the war zone.

St. Pierre, Martinique, which was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Pelee in 1902, has never been rebuilt, a correspondent reports, but the ruins are yet being searched for valuables. Two or three streets have been excavated. A relic from this St. Pierre remains a "city of the dead."

Mayor William J. Hindley of Spokane wears a sympathetic heart in the right place. Duties of ordinary routine do not cause an extra perturbation, but when distant maids appeal to him for husbands and homes, then his palpitation strikes a century gait. Mayor Hindley has a record of 30 lonely maids made happy, and is now hustling to place a batch of Boston blondes where they will do the most good.

A flippant weather shary in Missouri scoffs at the claim that rainfalls usually follow great artillery duels in wartime. That belief is one of the latest fancies ever a-bloom in the memory of soldiers of our civil war. Yet the Missourian attempts to pluck the root as well as the blossom by showing that last summer's efforts to shoot a hole in Missouri's drought didn't bring a sprinkle from Jupiter's tank. Two months later his grandfather crossed and rain came. As a rainmaker, therefore, a sassa is more effective than gunpowder.

With the Women

Mrs. Agnes Riddle, candidate for secretary of state in Colorado, is said to have the support of a great many women, irrespective of party. For the first time parties both refused to nominate women for the legislature this year.

There is said to be a movement on foot to have the General Federation of Women's clubs take the same action that the Daughters of the American Revolution have taken in regard to the wearing of cotton goods. The League of American Housewives and other women's organizations will also be asked to wear cotton.

JOLLIES FROM JUDGE.

Kind Lady—is something hurting your little brother and making him cry? Little Girl—No'm, it's just a habit with him. I ain't never seen nobody look on the dark side o' life like he does.

Harry—Gettrude's parents are very particular about her moral education. Harry—in what way? Harry—in every way. In school last week they wanted the teacher to excuse her from improper fractions.

Some folks I know will stretch the truth; But, then, perhaps they've found There's little of it in the world, And they want that to go round.

A city girl was taking a coffee in an agricultural college. After a lecture on "How to Increase the Milk Flow," she arose for a question. "How long," she blushingly inquired, "must one beat a cow before she will give whipped cream?"

"Ah, Marie," said the ardent young bilonaire, "I love you more than tongue can tell." "Good work!" replied the demure little chorus girl. "Put it in writing, Sydney. I'd rather have it down in black and white, anyhow."

"Was he a good man?" "Oh, yes! Why, he lived so that his obituary was almost true!"

Nell—Jack, dear, did you call on papa today? Jack—Sure I did, but he didn't appear to enthuse very much over my visit.

Nell—What did he say? Jack—Why, when I asked him for permission to press my suit, he simply answered: "Why don't you send it to a tailor?"—Judge.

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